

M E M O R I A L

DANIEL JOSEPH COLEMAN
(1876 – 1927)

RAMSEY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

April 7, 1928

**To the Honorable Judges of the District Court
of Ramsey County, Minnesota:**

Daniel Joseph Coleman was born on a farm in Fillmore County, Minnesota, December 6th, 1876, a son of Thomas Coleman and Caroline Souther Coleman. His early years and up to the time of his majority were spent on his father's farm under the benign influence of happy home surroundings.

He was educated in the common schools of his neighborhood, and later attended the State Normal School at Winona.

His aim in life was however to become a lawyer. He commenced his preparatory studies in the office of Webber & Lees of Winona, and was fortunate in the very beginning of his legal education to come under influence and guidance of the late Judge Edward Lees. The principles of legal ethics and high ideals which characterized this eminent jurist made a lasting impression on the young law student, and which were exemplified in his own life, and a guidance for his entire professional career.

In order to complete his legal education he came to St. Paul and entered the St. Paul College of Law, from which institution he graduated in 1902, a member of the first class graduated from this school.

He was admitted to the bar in the same year, and entered upon the general practice of law at St. Paul, which was continued without interruption to the time of his death. He died after an illness of three days on November 2nd, 1927.

He was married in 1904 to Miss Elizabeth Thue, who with six children survives him.

Mr. Coleman was a successful lawyer and built up an extensive practice. He had a keen sense of justice, and almost intuitive ability to grasp fundamental principles, but no liking for mere technicalities. The law meant to him the means of bringing about substantial justice. He had an analytical mind, was diligent in research, and a forceful and effective trial lawyer. He always guarded zealously the interests of his clients and matters intrusted to him were in safe hands. Above all things he was conscientious and what his conscience dictated was his rule and guide of action not only professionally, but in his entire life. The maxims of legal ethics were never violated by him, and unprofessional conduct received his condemnation wherever it appeared. He was strictly honest with the court and had the absolute confidence of the Judges before whom he practiced. He was unusually prompt in attending to legal business intrusted to him and would not tolerate any dilatory tactics or unnecessary delay. While zealously guarding the interests of his clients, fighting to the utmost of his ability, he was kind and courteous to opposing counsel, and never indulged in personalities.

There was not much in the exterior of this man to attract attention. He did not proclaim his own virtues, but did his work on the time demanded, strongly and well. He was plain and unassuming, modest and unpretentious, and cared but little for the amenities of social life. He was not what is commonly called a "good mixer", but was always courteous and considerate of others. Upon closer acquaintance one found him a charming and genial personality.

He was a loving and considerate husband, kind and gentle. His homelife was happy. To his children he was a companion and a friend.

He had high ideals of the duties and privileges of citizenship. The same principles of conscientious devotion to what he believed to be right, which characterized him as a lawyer were also his rule of action in civic life. Patriotism, obedience to law and the establishing of civic righteousness was his political creed.

He was a plain man, a solid citizen, a good lawyer, upright and conscientious, one who did his duty modestly and effectively. His life offers little to fascinate but much to respect and emulate. It is but a fitting and deserving tribute to his memory to say, that in his death the State has lost a citizen of the highest type, and the bar a member whose entire professional life has been a factor in the elevation of the standards of the legal profession. His was a useful and well spent life.

April 7, 1928

Respectfully submitted

/s/ Alvin B. Christofferson
/s/ John P. Kennedy
/s/ Clifton T. Parks
/s/ H. A. Loughran
/s/ Frank J. O'Neill
/s/ Eugene O'Neill
/s/ Clinton W. Redlund
/s/ Conrad Olson
/s/ James M-----
/s/ Joseph A. Jackson
Chairman



Posted MLHP: June 2, 2010.