

In Memoriam

Lindahl O. Johnson

(March 7, 1889 – November 11, 1952)

**Hennepin County Bar Association
Hennepin County District Court
Minneapolis, Minnesota**

1953

LINDAHL O. JOHNSON

Lindahl O. Johnson was born on March 7, 1889, in Cashton, Wisconsin, and as a little child he moved with his parents to Hamilton, Montana, where he grew up to manhood. His father worked as a cabinet maker in Hamilton until his death in 1929. His mother died in Hamilton in 1944.

Lindahl O. Johnson was married to Myrtle Florence Olson at Hamilton, Montana, in June 1912, and established his home in said city and was engaged in the practice of his profession in that city until some time in 1917. His wife was a graduate from the University of Minnesota, with a degree of Bachelor of Science cum laude. She taught in the public schools of Minneapolis for many years, and to a short time previous to her death in 1943.

Mr. Johnson left one child, namely, Lindahl O. Johnson Jr., who is now a sophomore in the Minneapolis Minnesota College of Law, and is married and resides at Minnetonka Mills, Minnesota.

Mr. Johnson attended the Wesleyan University in Montana and graduated from that institution in 1908 with a degree of Bachelor of Arts, and then entered the University of Minnesota in 1908, graduating from the College of Law of that institution in 1911, with a degree of LLB, and was admitted, to practice in Minnesota that same year (sic).

At the age of 23 Mr. Johnson was elected as a State Senator of Montana and served one term in that office. He was then appointed as Assistant Attorney General of Montana and served in that capacity until in 1919 when he moved to the State of California where he applied for entry into the United States military forces during the First World War, and while waiting for action on his said application he applied for admission to the Bar in that state and was admitted to practice law in California.

Mr. Johnson was admitted to practice law in the States of Minnesota, Illinois, California and Montana, and in the United States District Court.

Mr. Johnson left two brothers and one sister surviving him. One brother, Carl Johnson, and a sister, Elsie M. Wayne, residing in Hamilton, Montana, and one brother, Frithoff Johnson, residing in Spokane, Washington.

Mr. Johnson moved from the State of Montana to Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1927 and shortly thereafter entered into partnership with W. H. Hursch in the practice of law, under the name of Hursch and Johnson, which partnership continued until 1935 at which time Mr. Johnson entered service with the Social Welfare Department of the State of Minnesota, and served as itinerant Judge in that service, hearing appeals of claims under the Old Age Assistance law throughout the entire State. He continued in that service until 1938.

Mr. Johnson was the principal author of Old Age Assistance Law of the State of Minnesota, which was in effect during his term in that service, and that law became a pattern for such laws adopted by many other States.

Mr. Johnson returned to private practice of law in Minneapolis in 1938 and continued therein until the time of his death on November 11, 1952. He was laid to rest beside his late wife at Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis.

Mr. Johnson had a wide and varied practice and also had a large clientele, as well as many close friends. He was generous to a fault, for whether or not a client could pay for his services, Mr. Johnson never failed or refused to do his best in protecting the rights of those who came to him.

**Respectfully submitted,
Edward O. Serstock**

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MLHP: According to the Roll of Attorneys of the Minnesota Supreme Court, Lindahl O. Johnson was admitted on June 15, 1926. As a member of the University of Minnesota Law

School class of 1911, he was eligible to be admitted to the bar without examination—in other words automatically. The law provided: “A graduate from the college of law of the state university shall be so admitted, without fee or examination, upon production of his diploma within two years from the date thereof, and upon proof that he is an adult citizen and resident of the state, of good moral character.” Stat. ch. 35, §2279, at 452 (1905). But he did not take that minimal step after graduating, probably because he was heading back to Montana to practice and get married. In 1926, when he decided to join William L. Hursch in Minneapolis, he acquired his Minnesota license.

His son, Lindahl Otto Johnson, Jr., of Hopkins, was admitted on September 28, 1954. •

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