

MEMORIAL IN HONOR

OF

**RALPH W. McGRATH**

( 1892 - 1957 )

DISTRICT COURT  
NINETEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

WASHINGTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

October 7, 1957

STATE OF MINNESOTA

DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF WASHINGTON

NINETEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF THE DEATH OF  
RALPH W. MCGRATH, A MEMBER OF THE  
WASHINGTON COUNTY BAR

WHEREAS, Ralph W. McGrath, a member of the Washington County Bar, passed away on May 13, 1957, and

WHEREAS, suitable exercises should be held in his memory, and a committee should be appointed to prepare resolutions pertinent to such exercises,

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, that William T. Johnson, John E. Harrington and James L. Douville, members of the Washington County Bar, be and they hereby are appointed to prepare suitable resolutions to be submitted to the Court in connection with exercises to be held in memory of said decedent at the opening of the General Term of this Court on the first Monday in October, 1957.

Dated at Chambers, Stillwater, Minnesota,  
this 17th day of May, 1957.

/s/ Rollin G. Johnson  
ROLLIN G. JOHNSON  
Judge of the District Court

STATE OF MINNESOTA

DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF WASHINGTON

NINETEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

In the matter of Memorial Services  
for the Late Ralph W. McGrath of the  
Washington County Bar

GENERAL TERM—October 7, 1957

TO THE ABOVE NAMED COURT:

Pursuant to the order of the Court made and entered on May 17, 1957, we submit the following Memorial in honor of the late Ralph W. McGrath of the Washington County Bar.

Ralph W. McGrath was born in Stillwater on September 27, 1892, the son of James L. and Emma Jane McGrath. His father was a pioneer logger and lumberman. Ralph McGrath attended the public schools in Stillwater graduating from the Stillwater High School in 1910. The next year he attended the University of Minnesota, but stayed only for one year, going to the University of Pennsylvania during the year 1912. He then came back to the University of Minnesota from which he graduated in 1915. Ralph then attended the St. Paul College of Law, graduating in 1918. He did not immediately commence the practice of law but went into the lumber business with his father in Stillwater. In 1928 Ralph McGrath opened a law office in the Mower Building in Stillwater where he kept the same law office until his death.

On September 18, 1923 he married Josephine G. O'Brien. She and three daughters, Sarah Ann Pettier, Jean Simonet and Ruth McGrath, survive him.

Ralph McGrath was appointed City Attorney for City of Stillwater in 1931 and retained that office until terminated by his death.

Ralph McGrath was a Charter member of the Knights of Columbus of Stillwater and at the time of his death was the oldest living Past Grand Knight of that Council. He was a member of the University Club of St. Paul and the Stillwater Rotary Club.

Ralph McGrath was highly respected by his brother attorneys and all those who had any contact with or who knew him. He was a quiet, sincere, conscientious, even tempered and able lawyer, never boastful nor loud, but always soft spoken, considerate and polite to others. His 26 years of continuous service as City attorney evidences the high regard and respect of many city councils. His word was never questioned. He had the attributes of an ideal attorney.

Sadly enough, one of the members of this committee, John E. Harrington, passed away himself on September 20, 1957, before he could join in preparing this memorial. He was proud and glad to be appointed a member of this committee and with his close knowledge of Ralph McGrath, would have added much to what has already been said herein.

With the passing of Ralph McGrath on May 13, 1957, the Washington County Bar and the people of Stillwater in particular together with the former Nineteenth (now Third) Judicial District, have lost an esteemed brother Lawyer and a worthy citizen. We recommend and urge that the Washington County Bar either alone or with the Third Judicial District provide an "In Memoriam" for the Minnesota State Bar Foundation permanent Memorial Book in his honor and memory.

We move that this Memorial be filed as a permanent record of this Court; that a certified copy of the same be sent to Mrs. McGrath and that a copy be given to the public press.

/s/ James L. Douville  
/s/ Wm. T. Johnson



Posted MLHP: December 10, 2011.