

RAMSEY COUNTY  BAR ASSOCIATION

# Memorials

**Friday, April 11, 2014**

Hamline University Sundin Music Hall  
1531 Hewitt Avenue, St. Paul

Two o'clock

*"Not life, but good life, is to be chiefly valued."*

*-Socrates*

The traditional opening remarks  
and introduction of dignitaries  
of the Chief Judge of the District Court  
were omitted from the booklet of the  
Memorial Proceedings of the  
Ramsey County Bar Association  
for the year 2014.

## **IN MEMORY OF**

Robert C. Bell

Eugene P. Bradt

Roger A. Christianson

Daniel T. Cody

Darrell J. Davis

Hon. Michael F. Fetsch

Paul Holm Gooding

Manuel P. Guerrero

Greg G. Heacox

William J. Joanis

Robert W. Johnson

Hon. Phyllis Gene Jones

Ken Kohnstamm

Hon. Eugene Kubes

Robert J. Monson, Sr.

Mary Jo Murray

William Orme

James E. Speckmann

Kenneth E. Tilsen

Hon. Rosalie Erwin Wahl

## **Robert C. Bell**

August 16, 1926 - February 10, 2014

"Thanks a million you're great!"

Anyone who worked with Bob Bell, or knew him heard him joyously say that phrase a thousand times.

My uncle is Bob Bell. Bob grew up in the Como Park neighborhood of St. Paul, attended Murray High School and attended the University of Minnesota Law School after his Army service in Japan. He was admitted to the Minnesota Bar in 1950. He was a terrific husband to Carmen, his wife of 59 years, and great father to daughters Caroline (my law partner) and Allison. He was also a particularly proud grandfather of Emma, Julia, John and Sam.

I had the privilege to practice law with Bob from January 1981 until his death this February. Bob came into the office daily and as recently as late 2013, I needed his help in reviewing litigation documents and a statutory scheme. Bob helped me enthusiastically, telling me daily the new documents we had to obtain. Bob was Lincolnesque in stature, knowledgeable, interested and smart to the end. That is no understatement.

His accomplishments in life were many. He was not only a fine lawyer but a great trial lawyer receiving the largest injury verdict in Ramsey County in the mid 1970's. He was a true gentleman who always stood when introduced to someone. Many will remember Bob as a four term Minnesota Representative from Roseville or his 36 years as Roseville City Attorney.

Importantly Bob had a well known fun-loving streak and would rise above most quarrels or harsh words. As a partner he encouraged risk taking by young lawyers like me. I well recall one file he gave me to try he told me to "...to sock 'em in the nose". Bob had this easy manner and joyous smile. He was a rugged outdoors man who made sure everyone in his family cross country skied even on the coldest of days. All of Bob's family spent many a fall day hunting, tromping around the woods and swamps with him in search of ducks, geese and deer.

I was a lucky boy and hunted with Bob and my dad, as they were good friends. After my dad died, Bob became a father figure to me and that continued on until the day he died.

But most of all, in my thirty-plus years practicing law with Bob, we talked almost every day about business, our families and the times our families spent together. Our law firm is now three generations deep with Bells: Bob, one of the founding partners in Peterson Bell and Converse; Caroline Beckman



...**ROBERT C. BELL** cont'd

and me; and my son Jimmy. I know Bob was proud of the firm he formed; but more so by its family tradition and longevity.

Bob had a profound impact on me, became a father figure to me and was a cherished friend. Without question he made me a better man and father, and he did so without lecturing or correcting. I am proud to say I have tried to follow his example. We celebrated our victories, talked about our losses, usually with Bob summarizing that "nothing is perfect."

Anyone who played golf with Bob will remember his passion for the game and his unique golf phrases...anything over a double bogey was referred to as "snappy" such as a "snappy eight." A ball out of bounds was called, "not your best effort" and advice on a long putt was "the ball has to go somewhere, why not put it in the cup?"

What I remember the most was his generous spirit and happy smile. I saw both daily for thirty plus years working together and for over 60 years of his life. He was an inclusive man, believed in including rather than excluding others. Whenever the question of my family joining his came up, his response to my sons and me was always, "of course you are coming."

Our favorite topic was the Civil War and his knowledge of Lincoln and the war was extensive. One of our last discussions was about the Friday, April 14, 1865 assassination of President Lincoln and my error in thinking it was on the 13th of April. Without disagreeing with me he raised an eyebrow and kindly suggested I "...better check my facts." Bob had so many qualities I admire and my best thought is to summarize them as "it is sometimes better to be decent than be right".

Bob let tons of errors go by, without a harsh word or even correction, but not in trial. Bob was enthusiastic about life and comfortable in his own skin. To anyone who helped him with anything they were always told "thanks a million you're great!" Right until the end Bob, in his own quiet and non judgmental way, took care of all of us; his family, his law partners and employees and all those who shared his zest for life and reassuring kindness. We thank you and will miss your generous spirit and easy smile.

Uncle Bob, a proud and loving family man, great law partner and non-critical mentor; "thanks a million you're great!"

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Erickson, Sr.

## **Gene Bradt**

June 7, 1937 – August 29, 2013

Good afternoon. My name is Bill Bradt, and I'd like to share with you a few memories of my big brother, my partner and mentor, and my best friend, Eugene Paul Bradt.

Gene was born in Hastings, Minnesota on June 7, 1937, the fifth of 7 children of Robert and Lucille Bradt. When he was 12 we moved to Duluth, where he graduated from Denfeld High School in 1955. After completing his undergraduate work at Marquette and UMD, he attended William Mitchell College of Law, graduating cum laude in 1963.

Gene married his high school sweetheart, Darlene Hansen, in 1958, and they have 3 children, Kellie, Kevin and Eric. We lost Darlene in 2001, and Gene was eventually reunited with another childhood friend from Duluth, Dona Macaulay. They married in 2003, and Gene now had 2 families, both of which he treasured.

After graduating from William Mitchell Gene joined his classmate and good friend Tim Dordell in the practice of law, along with Horace Hansen and Larry Hazen. He practiced with that firm, that ultimately became Hansen, Dordell, Bradt Odlaug and Bradt, for the next 35 years until his semi-retirement in 2005.

Gene really had two great careers in law. The first half of his career was spent trying civil lawsuits. He tried hundreds of cases, and he was very, very good at it. As a trial lawyer he received every award, every honor, every accolade his profession had to offer. He was elected to membership in the American College of Trial Lawyers, and the American Bar Foundation. He was listed annually in Best Lawyers In America, and was a perennial selection by Law and Politics Magazine as a Superlawyer.

While still trying cases Gene, along with a handful of other lawyers, pioneered the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution in Minnesota. This was his second legal career, and he was very, very good at that. As a result of the success of these early pioneers, ADR came to be required in almost all civil cases. Eventually, ADR became a full time occupation for Gene, and later, after he retired from HDBOB, he continued to be a very active neutral. As of a few years ago he estimated that he had mediated or arbitrated over 3000 cases. He continued to mediate cases until just days before he was diagnosed with a brain tumor, in February of last year.

He lost that difficult battle with cancer on August 29, 2013.

**...GENE BRADT** cont'd

Gene enjoyed life fully. In addition to the time spent with his families, he especially loved to be around other lawyers, and most of his close friends and golfing buddies were colleagues. He loved to cook, especially on the grill, for as many people as would come. I am assured by others that he enjoyed the symphony and opera, but have never been fully able to accept that and am only reluctantly including that in this memorial. I do know, though, that he enjoyed traveling the world, his time at the family's cottage on Sand Lake, and a dry, Bombay Sapphire martini. His profession misses him.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Bradt



## **Roger Christianson**

May 29, 1942 – December 6, 2013

Roger Christianson was born on May 29, 1942 in Albert Lea. He was raised in Albert Lea and was a 1961 graduate of Albert Lea High School. His mother, Bonnie, owned and operated the Skyline Supper Club in Albert Lea. Seeing her work as a single mother throughout her life imbued Roger with a deep regard for women's rights and for what it takes to get established as a working woman. This appreciation and respect served him very well later in his life, not only as an attorney, but also when he found himself raising daughters as a single dad.

Throughout high school, Roger was on the wrestling team. He also became quite proficient at the trumpet. He received a B.A. in Political Science in 1965 from the University of Minnesota. During his time at the U, Roger was a member of the Theta Chi fraternity and was a member of the 1962 marching band that performed at the Rose Bowl.

Roger completed his law degree from William Mitchell in 1970 after which he went in to private practice in Saint Paul. He devoted his law practice, and his life, to helping the little guy. Many times, he would charge well below standard rates so that his client could get good representation without going broke. His home on Summit Avenue was a safe haven for people temporarily down on their luck and needing a helping hand. Roger was known throughout Saint Paul as a person of humility and generosity, a straight-shooter who you could always count on for a fair shake.

Roger was very civic-minded. He was a member of the Saint Paul Optimist Club through the 70's and 80's. In the 70's, Roger served as Chairman of the 4th District DFL. He was a mentor to many political candidates at all levels, introducing them to a wider constituency and providing them with invaluable insights on public service. On one particularly memorable evening, Roger hosted a DFL fundraising party at his home. The party was large and spilled out to the backyard. An irate neighbor called the police who, upon arriving at Roger's, found themselves in the company of Governor Wendell Anderson, Attorney General Warren Spannaus, and Mayor Larry Cohen. No arrests were made.

Roger's friendships were legion – from politicians to musicians to everyday-Joes. He enjoyed bowling on Monday nights, monthly dinners with the "Old Guy's Group", golf and fishing, tormenting his children with endless practical jokes, taking his mom to the casino, and living in the city that he loved. He worked right up to the end of his life, managing a full portfolio of clients, many of whom regarded him as their closest ally.

**...ROGER CHRISTIANSON** cont'd

Roger died peacefully at home on December 6, 2013 at the age of 70. Roger was preceded in death by his father Howard, his sister Carol and his brother-in-law Jimmy. Roger is survived by his mother Bonnie, his five children Vicki, Tim and his wife Helena, Tonya and her husband Marcel, Paul, and Anna, his six grandchildren Jaxon, Miles, Max, Ryan, Luca and Devin, his niece Beth, nephews Danny and Nathan, and his special friend Jane Henderson.

Upon his death, one of his friends commented that it wasn't a surprise that Roger died of a heart attack because that was the part of him that he used and shared the most.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Brinegar

**Daniel T. Cody**

April 19, 1922 – March 30, 2013

Dan Cody was born in Seneca, Wisconsin of one six children.

His father was a tobacco farmer and Dan worked on the farm until attending Loris College in Iowa.

With his mother's encouragement, Dan attended night school classes at the St. Paul College of Law and thereafter graduated in 1951.

For the next 62 years he practiced law in the fields of personal injury and Worker's Compensation. As a solo practitioner, he exclusively represented plaintiffs in regard to their injuries.

He tried over 300 cases to a conclusion.

Dan's two sons and two grandsons have followed his footsteps in the practice of personal injury and Worker's Compensation.

Dan was an avid hunter and took great pride in his numerous hunting dogs. He was preceded in death by his parents Edward and Delia. He is survived by his wife Deb; children Bridget, Brendan, Timothy, and David. He is also survived by his sister Teresa.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brendan J Cody



## **Darrell J. Davis**

July 7, 1955 – July 6, 2013

It was a great morning on July 7, 1955 when Darrell J. Davis was born to the late Charles and Julia Davis in Greenville, North Carolina. As a young child, Darrell joined York Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church in Greenville where he actively served in various youth and young adult ministries until graduating from high school. He's remembered as pioneering desegregation in his own gregarious, uplifting way as the only black in his class at Elmhurst Elementary School during the turbulent '60s. That trailblazing continued into high school where the religious teen befriended everyone, his buddies say.

Darrell matriculated in the Greenville City School System and graduated with honors from J.H. Rose High School in 1973. One of Darrell's most memorable high school events was when he was chosen as student community ambassador and spent six weeks in Finland with a selected family. Darrell furthered his studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and graduated in 1977 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science. Darrell's intellect, inquisitive and "persuasive" nature led him to law school where he received a Juris Doctorate from the University of Minnesota Law School.

Darrell's professional career took many paths with his first assignment being that of special assistant attorney general for the state of Minnesota. Other assignments included senior attorney at Honeywell, Inc., corporate attorney director at Graco, and adjunct professor at William Mitchell School of Law. Darrell's last and most cherished position was that of Assistant Dean for Students and Multicultural Affairs at Hamline University School of Law.

Darrell's Graco co-workers counted on him as the one they often turned to for an understanding ear and wise counsel. A former colleague stated "he was the person to go to for sincere, transparent conversation if you were having a rough day. You could just go sit in his office. He had comfort about him. And he just always made everything OK. This same compassion was carried on in his most recent position at Hamline Law School as the Assistant Dean for Students and Multi-Cultural Affairs where he had a great impact on stressed out law students who needed reassurance that they could succeed. He not only kept his office a safe place for students but promoted diversity efforts. Darrell was so happy with his job at the law school that he would jokingly say "Will someone pinch me? I want to make sure this isn't a dream."

Darrell was an active member of St. Peter's A.M.E. Church for over twenty five years where he served on the trustee and steward board and ministered through song by being a member of the Cantino's. Darrell's community and professional involvement include associations of the Minnesota Chapter of



...**DARRELL J. DAVIS** cont'd

the Corporate Council, Minnesota Black Lawyers, Minnesota State Bar, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated.

In addition to his many other talents and qualities, Darrell was an excellent lawyer who made countless valuable contributions to his employers over many years. His most enduring legacy will be carried by the many students he touched at Hamline Law School.

After confessing, "It is well with my soul," Darrell peacefully went home to be with God and his parents, Charles and Julia Davis, who preceded him in death. Darrell's legacy and love will live through his sister Jacquelyn D. Thomas and brother-in-law, Alonzo C. Thomas of Raleigh, North Carolina. He also leaves to cherish a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, and close friends who he loved dearly. Darrell's closing statement can best be summarized by his gift of faith, love of people, laughter, travel, and good food .

Respectfully submitted,  
Donald L. Lewis

## **The Honorable Michael F. Fetsch**

October 27, 1939 – September 12, 2013

Minnesota Second Judicial District Judge Michael F. Fetsch died Sept 12, 2013 at age 73. He was born on October 27, 1939 to James and Jeanne Fetsch the first of seven children. He attended St. Luke's grade school—a proud "Luker," Nazareth Hall Preparatory Seminary and the St. Paul Seminary. Mike spent the year following his college graduation working as a brick-layers assistant, that experience influenced his decision to attend law school. He graduated from William Mitchell College of Law in 1966. From 1964 to 1968 he worked for West Publishing Co.

In 1968 he went to work for Legal Assistance of Ramsey County as a staff attorney. In 1973 Mike became the first executive direction of the Neighborhood Justice Center of St. Paul. He left the Justice Center in 1975 and went into private practice while still doing part-time public defender work in state and federal court.

In 1994, he was appointed as a referee in the Ramsey County District Court, and in 1996 was appointed a Ramsey County district judge by then- Gov. Arne Carlson. He retired in 2009 when he reached mandatory retirement age.

Mike served as director of multiple community service and improvement initiatives as well as professional boards. In retirement he was an active volunteer at the Minnesota Veterans Hospital working in the exercise and weight room. He loved talking to the Vets and was humbled by their experiences.

Mike's interest were many and varied. He loved the game of hockey; playing, watching and talking about hockey to anyone who would listen. He was an avid opera fan—just ask his law clerks who had to endure listening to Arias non stop from his chambers. Mike is survived by his wife of 50 years Marilyn, and three children; Anne (Jim Horner) of Fairfax, Va.; John (Nancy) of Chicago, Ill.; Tim (Louise) of Alexandria, Va. and six grandchildren; Margaret and Mary Horner, Jack and Vince Fetsch and 4 month old twin boys Michael and James Fetsch.

Respectfully submitted,  
Roseanne Nathanson

## **Paul H. Gooding**

December 7, 1940 - April 25, 2013

Paul H. Gooding was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on December 7, 1940. He graduated from St. Louis Park High School in 1959. He graduated from St. Olaf College in 1963 and the University of Minnesota Law School in 1966.

Upon the completion of Law School he joined The Minnesota Mutual Life Insurance Company (Securian Financial Group, Inc.) in St. Paul. He worked his entire career at Minnesota Mutual retiring in 1998 after 31 years of service. He began as an attorney in the Investment Department. As the Company grew Paul was given more and more responsibility. He had increasing involvement and responsibilities in all aspects of the investment operations including legal, administration and investments. He retired as Chief Investment Officer and Vice President. Along with his duties with Minnesota Mutual Paul was actively involved with Advantus Capital Management Inc. a wholly-owned subsidiary of Securian. Advantus is an institutional asset manager specializing in public and private fixed income, real estate securities and other income-oriented equity strategies. He was Vice President of Advantus from 1984-1991 and President from 1991-1998.

In 1965, Paul married Nancy Aanes who is also a St Olaf College graduate. When Paul's business travel included May 1, Nancy would often arrange for delivery of a box of candy to Paul in recognition of Law Day. Paul's traveling companions came to look forward to Law Day and these deliveries, which he happily shared. Paul and Nancy retired to Bay Lake, MN, and Sun Lakes, AZ. He was a master gardener in Phoenix, and a volunteer for the Desert Botanical Gardens. He also was a volunteer Math tutor at Gila Reservation School for many years. He served on the Advisory Boards for the St. Paul Salvation Army ARC, Mesa Arizona Salvation Army, and the Phoenix Arizona Salvation Army. For a number of years he was a member of Easter Lutheran Church in Eagan, Minnesota. He also was a member of Risen Savior Lutheran Church in Sun Lakes, Arizona, where he served as Chairman of the Mission Committee.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents Ove and Verna Gooding, son Michael; father-in-law Bjarne "Bud" Aanes and mother-in-law Bonnie Clusiau. He is survived by his wife Nancy, and son Matthew of Sun Lakes, Arizona. Survived also by sister, Jane (Michael) Gregory; sister-in-law, Ann Aanes Tellor (David L. Anderson); aunt Ruth (Roy) Tegeder; step mother-in-law Betty Aanes; and many cousins, nieces and a nephew.

Paul, you left us too soon. May you rest in peace.

Respectively submitted,  
Ronald A. Sandquist & Guy M. de Lambert



## **Manuel Paul Guerrero**

May 31, 1935 – January 7, 2014

My father, Manuel Guerrero, died of a heart attack on January 7, 2014, the day before he was to go in for open heart surgery. He was 78, and not ready to leave this world. He practiced law for over fifty years, up until the very end. A lot can be said for his legal and academic career: he was the third-oldest of nine children from a poor but happy and close family of Mexican heritage, and the first in his family to go to college. He attended the University of Notre Dame on a baseball scholarship, and graduated from Franklin College, and then the University of Indiana School of Law. He was hired out of law school by one of the preeminent lawyers in Marion, Indiana, and after two or three years of practice, he ran for, and was elected as a circuit court judge in Grant County at age 29. He served with distinction for six years before leaving the bench to make an unsuccessful run for Congress.

He moved his family to St. Paul in 1973 to take a position as Chair of the Chicano Studies Department at the University of Minnesota, where he also taught criminal law and juvenile justice. He was awarded a Bush Foundation Leadership Fellowship and attended Georgetown University where he earned a Masters in Law. He left Minnesota for a while to practice law in Indiana and Arizona with his brothers, returning in 1990 to become Director of the Chicano Latino Resource Center at the U of M. In 1991, he helped found the Minnesota Hispanic Bar Association, becoming its first president. There aren't many current Hispanic lawyers and judges in Minnesota who haven't benefitted from his mentoring or his influence over the years. Since his retirement from the U of M in 2000, his law practice comprised mostly of helping low income Hispanic clients in central and western Minnesota, logging many miles back and forth to the jails and courthouses of rural Minnesota.

In spite of his accomplishments, nothing mattered more than his family – his wife, his ex-wife, his six children, his stepson, his ten grandchildren and his two great grandkids. When he accepted the MHBA Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012, my dad said: "Our greatest achievements are our children." So, I thought it appropriate at this memorial we hear from his children to give you a sense of him:

Dan: He was a man of quiet fortitude, family oriented; a person who loved life and was always willing to contribute to the common good and who led a life of service to others. He aspired that his children live in peace and that they be happy and healthy. He always thought we were lucky to have each other.

Mike: His soft, gentle words were chosen carefully but they came with a guarantee that he was a man of his word.

Ann: My dad's favorite thing in the world was spending time with his family

**...MANUEL P. GUERRERO cont'd**

and dear friends. He cherished his grandchildren with all his might. He was so proud of everything they did and regarded each feat brought to his attention as unique and successful. The thing I will miss the most is being able to share my love for my children with someone I know loved them as much as I. He was what I would call, "an Advanced Human Being."

Todd: He liked home-made tortillas, jalapenos, and cold Coronas – and he passed that on.

Chad: He was always there when you needed him. He liked to collect fine art, and he knew a fine piece of art when he saw it.

Clare: He was one of the sharpest dressers we knew. He loved cleanliness, a love that derived more from never wanting to be idle than a fastidiousness. He was an extremely hard worker, instilled in him from childhood when he worked with his family in the vegetable fields. I always said that when Elaine married my father, she married an ex-wife and six kids as well because family was most important to him and he would not allow any animosity. He never said an ill word about my mother in front of us, nor she of him.

Elaine: Manuel is the love and light of my life. He had amazing grace and style. My heart always skipped a beat when I saw him wearing his signature beret or bow tie. I loved that he was always willing to dance with me, no matter where or when. In his quiet way, he always acknowledged who you were, and encouraged you to be a better person.

My father loved us all very much, and we loved him. He led a full and purposeful life, and we miss him immensely. While we may not live up to his legacy, we are very proud to be a part of it.

Respectfully submitted,  
Daniel Guerrero



## **Gregory Gerald Heacox**

September 2, 1950 – May 15, 2013

Gregory Gerald Heacox was born in Willmar, MN on September 2, 1950 to Gerald and Gloria Heacox. The family, including Greg and his sister, Diane, lived in Renville, MN until moving to Bloomington, MN in 1956 when Greg was in third grade.

Greg was preceded in death by his father, Gerald.

Greg attended Bloomington Lincoln High School from 1964-1968, where he was a three sport athlete in football, basketball and baseball. He was captain of his basketball team his senior year.

Greg attended St. Olaf College in Northfield from 1968 to 1972, graduating cum laude. He was a member of the basketball team for four years.

Greg attended William Mitchell College of Law from 1972 to 1977, graduating cum laude. During college and law school he worked construction in the summer months to pay his way through school.

Greg was admitted to practice and joined Jardine, Logan and O'Brian as an associate attorney in 1977, becoming a partner in 1983, where he practiced in insurance defense and workers compensation until 1996.

On October 17, 1987 Greg married Debbie Thompson, to whom he was married nearly twenty-five years at the time of his death. Greg and Debbie have three children, Zachary, age 23, Sam, age 21 and Hannah, age 19.

In May, 1996 Greg left Jardine and became a founding shareholder of the law firm of Heacox, Hartman, Koshmrl, Cosgriff and Johnson, P.A., where he continued to practice in workers' compensation defense until the time of his death in May, 2013.

Greg received many awards and recognitions over his years of practice. From 1995 to his death in 2013 he was selected annually as a Super Lawyer by Minnesota Law and Politics. He was selected Minnesota Workers Compensation Lawyer of the Year – 2012 and to Best Lawyers in America -1995- 2013 (Naifeh and Smith) He served as an Adjunct Professor at William Mitchell College of Law

He is survived by his wife Debbie, sons, Zach and Sam and daughter Hannah, his mother Gloria, sister, Diane, brothers and sisters in law and family.

**...GREGORY G. HEACOX** cont'd

Greg was a loving father and husband who derived great pleasure and satisfaction following his children's' athletic careers. He was an exceptional lawyer, widely respected by both bench and bar, who practiced law with a tireless and passionate devotion to serving his clients. He embodied, by his courage, unstinting effort and professionalism, the very best in his profession, reflecting credit on himself and the law. He was a true lawyer and a gentleman.

Respectfully submitted,  
Roderick C. Cosgriff, Esq.



## **William John Joanis**

July 27, 1952 – January 9, 2013

William (Bill) Joanis was born in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, July 27, 1952. Bill received a Bachelor of Science Arts degree with honors in Communications and Public Address from the University of Wisconsin Madison in 1974. Bill attended Cornell Law School for one year, transferring to the University of Minnesota Law School to complete his Juris Doctorate cum laude in 1977.

Over the course of his career, Bill was a Shareholder and Head of the Bankruptcy Department at Briggs and Morgan, P.A.; Shareholder and Head of the Bankruptcy Department at Hart Bruner & O'Brien; and Shareholder and Head of the Bankruptcy Department at Hessian, McKasy & Soderberg prior to establishing Joanis Law Group in 1996. From 2003 through 2009, Bill served as General Counsel with Cyber Power Systems (USA). In 2010, Bill returned to solo practice at Joanis Law in Minneapolis, practice areas included Family Law, Domestic Partnerships, Business Law, and Bankruptcy. While practicing only in the State of Minnesota, he was admitted to practice in the Federal Courts, including Bankruptcy Courts, in U.S. District Court, Western District of Wisconsin; U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas; and U.S. District Court, District of Columbia.

Bill was a gifted and dedicated lawyer who inspired and touched many lives. He was named a Super Lawyer by Minnesota Law & Politics in 2000 and had the highest peer review rating available from Martindale-Hubbell, AV. He was a volunteer attorney for Volunteer Lawyers Network, member of the Maplewood Human Rights Commission, and volunteer teacher of English as a Second Language. He was a passionate fan of the Green Bay Packers and the University of Wisconsin Badgers.

William John Joanis passed away on January 9, 2013. He was preceded in death by his parents, John Weston and Marian Sinrud Joanis. He is survived by his loving wife, Nancy; children, Andrew Kress Joanis and Marie Kress Joanis Ruff (Gordon); siblings Susan Kay Joanis (Thomas Burton) and Mary Ellen Joanis; and extended family and friends.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Keyes and Nancy Joanis

## **Robert W. Johnson**

May 4, 1924 – March 20, 2013

Robert Warren Johnson, known to most as “Bob”, was born May 4, 1924. He was the only child of Axel and Evelyn Johnson and grew up on the East Side of Saint Paul. Bob graduated from Johnson High School, the University of Minnesota and the University of Minnesota Law School.

During WWII Bob served in the Navy in the South Pacific on the destroyer USS Walker.

In 1952, Bob married Emily Elizabeth Johnson, whom many knew as “Betty”. They had 6 children (Beth, Susan, MariLeigh, Edward, David and Rick) and 13 grandchildren.

Bob started his career as a corporate attorney at Honeywell. After several years, Bob chose to pursue private practice, first at Berryman, Fisher and Johnson and later at his own firm, Robert W. Johnson, P.A. Bob wanted to provide more personal service to clients. His practice focused on estate planning, tax planning and generally “helping out the little guy”.

Bob was also a lobbyist for the Minnesota Telephone Association, the Hotel/Motel/Restaurant Hospitality Association, and the Minnesota Sanitation Association.

Bob practiced law for more than 50 years and enjoyed being a lawyer. He looked forward to going to work every day. He respected the law and helped others learn and respect our legal system by mentoring numerous young associates and by making frequent presentations through Junior Achievement. Bob was well respected and admired by his colleagues and judges throughout the state.

Bob was also involved in politics and represented Highland Park in the Minnesota State legislature from 1963-1975. Joe O’Neil, a fellow legislator, said about Bob, “He was an accomplished leader, especially in the area of taxes”. Bob’s work in the legislature helped establish the first Minnesota State sales tax. Bob also helped to pass legislation which funded the Moos Tower at the U of M Medical School, adopted the taconite amendment, and established a state board on alcoholism, declaring alcoholism as a disease.

Bob was a conservative, but he worked cooperatively with legislative leaders with differing perspectives and different regional concerns to reach compromises. In the process, lifelong friendships were formed as evidenced by the many legislative friends that would greet Bob as he frequented the Lex,



...ROBERT W. JOHNSON cont'd

the Pool & Yacht and the Town & Country Club. Bob also ran for Governor in 1978, but lost in the Republican primary to Governor Al Quie.

Bob was an eloquent speaker, but it was how he lived his life that resonates more than his words. He was a man of faith. He was born and raised Lutheran but attended Lutheran and Catholic churches in Saint Paul, Pelican Rapids and Fountain Hills, Arizona. He made time to attend Bible studies and sat on church councils at both (his) Arlington Hills Lutheran Church and (Betty's) Saint Leo's Catholic Church.

Bob was a people person. He had the gift to make others feel at ease. Though Bob had an intimidating physique at 6'2" and 250 pounds, the feeling of intimidation never lasted long as he would give a big smile, a welcome with a warm embrace, and share some story that would get you to join in with his contagious laughter. Bob treated all people with dignity and respect and he was especially compassionate to the elderly and less fortunate.

Bob and Betty travelled the world together. Bob escorted Betty to her Wellesley College reunions in Massachusetts, to the Holy Land, and to gatherings of her Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher. Bob attended christenings of all 13 grandchildren whether it was in the Midwest, East Coast, West Coast or "down under" in Australia. Bob took many clients, associates, friends and family to his favorite fishing hole in Lac La Croix in Ontario, Canada. When the International People to People program asked him to go to China to share his business and tax knowledge with the Chinese people, he packed a jar of peanut butter just in case he didn't like the food, and departed.

But it was at "the farm" in Pelican Rapids where Bob was most content. He experienced a different life there, one with no meetings, no clocks, and for many years, no telephones. Bob was a "gentleman farmer" and he liked being a cattle farmer. One night, after purchasing a cow from a farmer in Wisconsin, he tied it up overnight in the backyard of his Bayard Avenue residence in St. Paul as it was en route to the Pelican Rapids farm. Bob let the neighbor kids come and see this spectacle so they could experience a bit of the farm in the city!

Though Bob was sometimes late for appointments, one of his clients said "No one ever worries when Bob is late, because once he arrives he is totally focused on the problem at hand and gives you his full attention for as long as it is needed. "

**...ROBERT W. JOHNSON** cont'd

Bob practiced law during a time when trust, honor and commitment had real meaning and made things less complicated. Bob made connections with clients that went beyond the attorney-client relationship. He made connections with colleagues that disarmed them from any possibility of an adversarial encounter. Bob's negotiations were often sealed with a handshake and without the need for endless drafts or revisions. Bob's income tax practice involved pencils and adding machines, not software and computers, though he often threatened to learn how to use the computer.

The way Bob did things, the way he said things, and his ability to find practical answers to often difficult questions, evidenced his sincere interest in, and appreciation of, others and their predicaments. These characteristics endeared him to his family, his employees, and his colleagues, but mostly to his clients many of whom still share fond memories of their appreciation of Bob.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael Kula and David Johnson

## **The Honorable Phyllis Gene Jones**

May 29, 1923 – September 8, 2013

Phyllis Gene (Bambusch) Jones was born May 29, 1923, in Fargo, North Dakota, to Rosina Belle (Pinkham) and Joseph C. Bambusch. Her father was the first child born to German speaking Hungarian immigrants after emigrating to North Dakota. Her mother, of Scottish and Yankee ancestry, taught school and instilled a love of reading in her daughter. Her parents imparted a sense of civic responsibility when they went to vote and left Phyllis, age six or so, in charge of her siblings.

Ms Bambusch graduated from Harding High School in 1940 and then put herself through Macalester College (BA, 1944). She met her husband, Dwight Bangs Jones, while working as an Associated Press wire photo operator from 1943-45. She was also a reporter for the St. Paul Pioneer Press from 1945-46. They married on May 29, 1945, and had three children: Stephanie, Jacqueline, and Kent.

Inspired by Hubert Humphrey, her professor at Macalester, Phyllis became active in DFL politics. Her husband supported her candidacy for St. Paul City Council in 1954. She survived the primary election but was not elected to the council. She oversaw the design and construction of the DFL party building at the Minnesota State Fair grounds, and served as DFL Ramsey County chairwoman in 1956. She entered William Mitchell College of Law that same year.

When her husband passed away suddenly in 1958, Phyllis took a full time job in the Ramsey County Clerk of Courts office. Pre-school child care was not readily available in those days, and children in St. Paul schools walked home for lunch, so being a working mother posed additional challenges.

She received her LL.B. from William Mitchell College of Law in 1960—one of only three women in her class--and was hired as the first woman prosecutor in the Ramsey County Attorney's office.

Having been denied the honor of being a delegate to the Democratic National Convention based on her sex and being bluntly told by hiring partners at local law firms that they were not interested in adding a woman to their firms, she nevertheless pursued her ambitions.

In 1971 Phyllis became general counsel for the Minnesota Urban County Attorneys Board and later was the director of the Minnesota County Attorneys Association. I first met her in 1974 when she was teaching at and presenting the course for brand new prosecutors in April, 1974. In 1975, she returned



**...HON. PHYLLIS GENE JONES cont'd**

to the Ramsey County Attorney's office as a special assistant to help facilitate the implementation of the "new" Rules of Criminal Procedure.

She entered private practice in St. Paul and Cottage Grove in 1975 and in 1984, was appointed as a district court judge for the 10th Judicial District, serving in Anoka County until retiring in 1993.

She married Dr. David D. Norman on Oct. 9, 1970, and they took up residence in Grey Cloud township, where she served as a supervisor on the Grey Cloud Town Board for several years. If you don't know anything about Grey Cloud Township, it is a bucolic place where wildlife abounds and nature is treasured and hopefully protected. It was also the place where the J.L. Shiely Company maintained a gravel mining operation. Politics in Grey Cloud Township was charitably described as the polluters versus the bunny huggers. Guess the side with which Phyllis Jones identified.

She was interested in the history of the township and was active in the Washington County Historical Association. She was a member of the Minnesota Women Lawyers Association, serving as president in 1977. And she served on the Alumni Board of Macalester College.

Judge Jones was an avid traveler and visited all seven continents. Several trips abroad were with legal colleagues and included tours and lectures on legal practices in the countries they visited.

Phyllis Jones was a powerful advocate for women; she advocated by setting an example for other, younger women as to what could be accomplished by kindness, graciousness and steely determination. She would not tolerate incivility or mean spiritedness, but behaved in such a manner that all who knew her aspired to achieve her degree of professionalism. She never complained (in fact rarely mentioned) any slights or discrimination she may have endured by being in the forefront. Judge Jones promoted the full participation of women in civic and professional affairs. She is regarded as setting a model for professionalism in the Minnesota legal community. She offered respect and dignity to all who appeared before her in court and those who worked with her in judicial administration.

After retiring from the bench, Judge Jones served several three-month appointments as a retired district court judge sitting on the Minnesota Court of Appeals. In addition, Judge Jones continued to travel. She was the first member of Unity Unitarian Church to visit the partner church in Homorodsz-entpeter, Romania, in 1993. She enjoyed her wooded property located on

**...HON. PHYLLIS GENE JONES** cont'd

Moore Lake in Grey Cloud township, worked to preserve woodland flowers, and explored the surrounding shoreline in a pontoon boat. Judge Jones died in St. Paul on September 8, 2013, and was buried in Grey Cloud cemetery.

In addition to her parents and husbands, Mrs. Jones was predeceased by her sisters Mary Rangier and Virginia Roed and step-daughter Eugenie Norman Johnson. She is survived by children Stephanie (Phillip) Martineau, Jacqueline (Harry) Ridge, and Kent Carroll Jones; grandchildren Amy Rose Zelezen, Meghan Martineau and Kelly Martineau; step-children Will (Julie) Norman, John (Rhonda) Norman, and Katherine Norman; several step-grandchildren; sisters Beverly Engell, Josephine Teare, Anita (Wesley) Miller, Sherry Osborne, and many nieces and nephews.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia O'Gorman and Stephanie Martineau



## **P. Kenneth Kohnstamm**

July 14, 1946 – April 4, 2013

Ken was born in 1946 in New York, where he grew up, attended college and taught high school. After college, he attended the University of Michigan Law School. Following graduation, he made what he thought would be a brief stop in the Twin Cities on his way to Oregon. Fortunately, he never left, staying with us for the rest of his distinguished career.

Ken was the quintessential public servant, representing the people of Minnesota for 39 years in the Office of the Attorney General. Over the years, he managed several divisions and handled some of the State's most complex litigation. He was most proud of his work on a case that led to the deinstitutionalization of persons with developmental disabilities. As evidence of the compassion that Ken brought to the law, his opposing counsel later observed that, throughout the litigation, it was evident that Ken cared about the patients as much as he himself did.

Ken was a passionate advocate for securing representation to underserved communities. In 2006, he was the first recipient of the Pro Bono Award of Excellence of the Public Law Section of the State Bar. The award recognized Ken's key role in creating the MSBA's nationally-recognized Pro Bono Policy, as well as his organizing annual benefits for Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services and personally representing those needing legal services. In 2013, in recognition of Ken's distinguished career in public service and his dedication to the principles of Pro Bono service, the Public Law Section renamed its award the "P. Kenneth Kohnstamm Pro Bono Award of Excellence."

More than the battles he fought; it was his character that made Ken so special. Ken was a great friend, teacher and mentor – especially to younger colleagues. He loved helping these attorneys work through cases and find new ways to see the law. He practiced law with honesty and integrity, humility and class. He cared about the quality of the work and the people he worked with, and, most of all, he cared about the people he served.

Ken's life passions included baseball, cycling, and friendships. He would wax poetic about the joys of a Spring day in Target Field. (Over the years, he turned in his Yankee pinstripes for Twins blue.) He played tennis for 30 years with former AG colleagues, as much for the camaraderie as for the sport. But most important to Ken was his family. Ken's life partnership with Naomi (also an outstanding member of the bar) was legendary. He was a loving role-model for his sons Adam and Alexander, and later, daughter-in-law Sarah. By his example, he taught them to believe in "doing good in the world and making a difference."

**...P. KENNETH KOHNSTAMM** cont'd

Ken met the challenge of cancer as he lived his life, with courage and grace. He taught us to enjoy the simple pleasures of life and to live life as it should be lived. We will miss him.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steven Liss

## **The Honorable Eugene L. Kubes**

October 22, 1926 – August 18, 2013

Gene Kubes was a Referee of Ramsey County Family Court from 1971 to 1993. During that time he had profound and lasting effect on the high standards and quality with which family law is practiced in Minnesota today.

He received his BBA degree in accounting from the University of Minnesota, followed by his J.D. from Stetson University at St. Petersburg, Florida. He was awarded the Perry Nichols Trial Practice Award while in law school. This was a mixed blessing for those attorneys who appeared before him, as his standards and his own measurement of any attorney's performance were extremely high. While in Florida, Gene served as a prosecutor, and later as an assistant public defender, which only honed his familiarity with the rules of evidence and trial practice, again giving practitioners a high standard to meet in appearances before him.

Along with Jimmy Rorris and Bill Haugh, Gene Kubes helped to get the Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers off the ground and recognized by the national organization.

To say that Referee Kubes was active as a legal educator is an understatement. Between 1971 and his retirement from active CLE presentations a few years ago, Gene lectured and provided course material for over 100 continuing legal and judicial education seminars. Gene was a principal of the Minnesota Continuing Legal Education's annual update of family law legislation and appellate court decisions, going back to 1979. Every year, Gene would synthesize the cases against any statutory changes. With the arrival of the Court of Appeals in 1983, Gene's case law presentation significantly expanded, becoming one of the largest draws into the Family Law Institute, as his synthesis of the cases and law provided lawyers and judges a ready frame of current reference, relevant to practice. His caselaw updates included attorney discipline cases, with fairly pithy warnings about the pitfalls of practice derived from actual cases; cases which, as we all know, always had a disproportionate number of attorneys practicing family law. Even after his retirement from the bench in 1993, Gene continued the annual caselaw presentation at the Family Law Institute. He was the first member to receive the distinguished member award of the Family Law Section, for his prodigious efforts in the caselaw update and public training, an award he treasured.

Think of the sheer volume of presentations attributable to the Family Law Institute alone. Then add the other presentations to attorneys and judges at judicial conferences. Gene also lectured at the local law schools.



**...HON. EUGENE L. KUBES cont'd**

In the days following his death many local family lawyers and judges shared memories of Gene. Judge Theresa Warner, Chief Judge of Ramsey County Court, reminisced with me about how her initial appearances before Gene Kubes were part of her early practice in the Ramsey County Attorney's Office. Referee Rick Beddow remembers arranging to have his practicing student attorneys appear before anyone other than Referee Kubes, as Gene could be so intimidating that Rick was afraid those students would flee the practice of law. Referee Beddow remarked on Gene's collegiality when he became one of the first replacements to the triumvirate of Ramsey County Family Court referees - Referee Gerald Alfveby, Referee Gerry Rutman and Referee Eugene Kubes, who ran family court with Clerk Mary Pat Kinney at the helm.

Gene expected of any person appearing before him, whether attorney, party or witness, to simply be in his courtroom on time. Many of us can remember Gene's often-expressed theory about how east-bound highway 94 had more traffic accidents, potholes and flat tires creating delays for attorneys tardy in arriving for a scheduled court appearance. Joanne Swanson told the story about her car breaking down on Highway 94, when she was racing from Minneapolis to Saint Paul. She offered her cell phone for the deputy who had stopped her, asking that the officer just call the court and advise of the traffic stop. This was in the days when a cell phone was a shoe-box sized fixture in a car. The officer not only made the call but, when told the appearance was before Referee Kubes, he gave her a ride to the courthouse so she got to the court on time for her appearance. One can only wonder how this officer had that type of insight into Referee Kubes' expectations of punctuality.

Gene also did not accept the proffered excuse for tardiness attributed to the elevator milkrun, stopping at every floor before arriving at the seventeenth floor of the courthouse, causing an attorney to arrive 5 or 10 minutes late. Attorneys who appeared before Referee Kubes knew that a late arrival meant walking into his courtroom with the hearing already underway, with a client either glaring, weeping or stunned by the lack of representation at the start of a hearing that always started on time.

There was also no point in coming in unprepared because Gene Kubes epitomized a hot bench: he read the pleadings; he annotated the pleadings; and an attorney had to be prepared to state the incomes of the parties and to respond to any questions about mortgages and debt. He had no problem quickly computing the grade of a seven year-old and his lip would curl when you turned to a client, questioning whether or not that child was in first or second grade. You did not name-drop a case as being on point in your arguments as he could question you about prior precedent or how to distinguish

...HON. EUGENE L. KUBES cont'd

one case from another, given his view that conflicting opinions frequently were issued by the Court Of Appeals.

In court, Gene did not countenance any familiarity. Ray Lazar posted on the Family Law Section listserve the story of when he appeared before Referee Kubes who had a cold. When Gene sneezed, Ray reflexively said, "God bless you," to which Referee Kubes responded, "Don't cozy up to me.

Gene admonished attorneys for disrespectful behaviors or even condescending tones directed towards opposing counsel or the other party. It might be pithy comments such as "Ms. Lauhead, do I need to scotch tape or gag you so you stop interrupting?" followed swiftly by a comment to opposing counsel to "Stop smirking." Outside of the courtroom, he was warm, approachable and gracious.

Gene had a sly sense of humor and, there is no question, it could be biting. He kept a placard in his chambers with a warning about not getting into a wrestling match with a pig in the mud, as the pig would always win and enjoy every minute of the tussle. My own memory of Referee Kubes' chambers is the shelves of Northwest Second volumes lined up with the statutes and yellow post-it notes taped on the spine of the volumes with the name of the cases of importance to family law.

Gene was the charter chair of the Minnesota Supreme Court's Advisory Committee for Statewide Rules of Family Court Procedure. He also was an early member on the Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on Family Law ADR. Our rules of general practice today had their genesis in many of the Ramsey County bench policies in which Gene was involved. The standard Ramsey Court Order for Temporary Relief is replicated today in many temporary orders generated across the state. Minn. R. Gen. Prac. 119 on awards of attorney fees had its genesis in a bench order drafted by the referees, as pointedly commented by Referee Kubes to get past the entitlement mentality of attorneys seeking an award of attorney fees with little if any justification established to the court.

Gene's last years were difficult, when following a fall and a hospitalization for pneumonia; he moved into transitional stays in rehab and assisted living situations. He fought the loss of his independence, making life difficult for the family that loved him and tried to protect him and attempted to meet demands that could be difficult to implement as his physical condition and balance deteriorated. Gene's blessings were his family — they might have dealt with him one at a time, as a little bit of Gene could go a long way, but they stood united in their care and concern for him.

**...HON. EUGENE L. KUBES cont'd**

Gene is survived by his children Joe Kubes, Andrea Peterson, Margaret Altermatt, Daniel Kubes, John Kubes and Stephen Kubes, along with seventeen grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife of many years, Mary. The practice of family law in Minnesota today is far more professional thanks to the efforts of Eugene L. Kubes.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Lauhead, Mike Black and Joe Kubes



## **Robert J. Monson**

June 10, 1924 – September 29, 2013

Our former president of the Ramsey County Bar in 1985-1986, Bob Monson, passed away in his sleep at age 89 on Sunday, September 29, 2013. Please join me for a few moments in remembering Bob's contributions to our profession and to our Association.

After serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps in Europe from 1943-45 as a waist gunner on a B-17, Bob attended the College of St. Thomas and the St. Paul College of Law, graduating with an LL.B. in 1952. He was the first person in his family to get a college degree and worked his way through while supporting his young family. He said he wanted to help people and help them protect their rights. After passing the bar examination, he joined the law firm of Clifford Gardner, whose offices were located on Minnesota Street in St. Paul. In 1956, Bob created his own general practice law firm in the Degree of Honor Building with Gene Murray, Harry Paulett, and Ron Smith. In 1985 he was elected as President of the Ramsey County Bar Association. He served both the State Bar Association and the State of Minnesota on various committees including several years on the governor's advisory committee on judicial appointments. In 1991-92, Bob was elected to the presidency of the Minnesota State Bar Association. Bob ended his law career as counsel to the law firm of Hanson, Dordell, Bradt, Odlaug & Bradt.

In his 50th year as an attorney, Bob was as committed to holding the practice of law to the highest ethical standards as when he entered the profession in 1953. Bob often remarked about the differences he saw in the roles of legal adviser and legal counsel. He firmly believed in the practice of law as one of the helping professions and that, when appropriate, a lawyer's advice, be it to a family, a small business or a large corporation, ought to be in the service of improving one's quality of life by resolving conflict in ways that might benefit all parties involved and, if possible, avoid litigation.

Bob was born into a family of seven children. His father worked in the glass plant at Ford Motor Company, his mother was a homemaker. He never forgot his roots and always respected others in all walks of life. He served his church, the Republican Party and Southview Country Club for many years. He was devoted to his bride Lorraine until her death in 2006 after almost 60 years of marriage. He was a great father, grandfather and great-grandpa. He taught his family to strive for our goals and accepted our decisions as adults. Bob was noted for his quick wit and sense of humor. He never lost that sense of humor and even while sick endeared himself to his caregivers and nurses.

I would invite us all to reflect on these values Bob Monson was so passionate about. Respect for others, for ourselves and for the legal profession.



**...ROBERT J. MONSON** cont'd

Respectfully submitted,  
Dan O'Connell, Michele Swanson-Kamholz (Bob's daughter) and his son Dr.  
Robert J Monson Jr.

## **Mary Jo Murray**

November 28, 1955 – March 1, 2013

Mary Jo Murray was born and grew up in Salt Ste. Marie, Michigan, graduating from Lake Superior State University with a bachelor's degree in Earth Science in 1977. Ms. Murray received her law degree from the University of Montana in Missoula, Montana, with an emphasis in natural resources law. Ms. Murray worked in Illinois as an Assistant Attorney General practicing in environmental, energy and mining law. She then moved to Minnesota, became an Assistant Attorney General in the Minnesota Attorney General's Office for approximately ten years, representing a variety of state agencies on energy, environmental and contractual matters. Ms. Murray was also a policy analyst for the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association, an unemployment judge at the Department of Employment and Economic Development, and also worked in the private sector.

Throughout her life, Ms. Murray volunteered to make the community a better place. She was active in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program, a volunteer Guardian Ad Litem for abused and neglected children of Ramsey County, and a sponsor with the Christian Children's Fund. She had a loving passion for animals, was active athlete in ice skating and women's hockey, and long active in citizens environmental groups. Finally, last but not least, she was a devout Bruce Springsteen fan, traveling across the country to see Springsteen perform.

She is survived by her cousin, Georgia Cameron of Pagosa Springs, Colo., friend, Roger Godin, St. Paul and many close friends and fellow Springsteen fans across the country.

Ms. Murray's extensive volunteer activities demonstrate her commitment and passion to help those less fortunate than she. She was compassionate for social justice. We miss her thoughtfulness, playfulness, sly and quick wit. Mary Jo, you left us too soon. May you rest in peace.

Respectfully submitted,  
Martha J. Casserly

## **William Orme**

December 26, 1930 – June 10, 2013

William Orme ("Bill") was born to Henry and Alice Orme on December 26, 1930. He was the fourth of six children. Bill lived in St. Paul his entire life. He attended parochial grade school and graduated from St. Thomas Military Academy in 1948. He went on to Yale University for his undergraduate degree and Harvard Law School, from which he received his law degree in 1955.

Upon his return to St. Paul, Bill began working for the law firm of Moore, Costello, and Hart, the firm he would stay with until he retired in 1990. While Bill might be considered a "generalist" in the practice, he did specialize in real estate law and handled most of the complicated issues which came to the firm in that area. Whenever a real estate question came to me I always looked to Bill for his expertise.

In 1958 Bill married Katie Alton. They had seven children, all of whom survive Bill along with 14 grandchildren. In Katie's words, Bill was a "perfect husband." He was also a wonderful father; playing with his children, acting as baseball and softball coach, homework helper, and always available when needed. Bill always spoke with such pride and understanding of all of his children and grandchildren.

Over the years Bill was involved in a number of different organizations, but besides his family, the most important part of his life was his faith. Bill was a very loyal and thoughtful Catholic. As an adult he was a member of St. Leo's, then St. Luke's parishes as he and Katie raised their family, contributing to parish life by being on the finance council and advising their school. He was also active in the AA community, helping to found a chapter of Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers, a support group for attorneys struggling with alcohol dependency, and being a mentor to many in their journey to sobriety. There was no time of day or night that Bill could not be called on to assist with someone who needed help. Bill also served as a member of the draft board during the Vietnam era – a thankless job.

Bill was a voracious reader, especially enjoying books on the American civil war, World War II and baseball. Bill was very knowledgeable about politics, and he and I spent much time discussing it. Even though we were from opposite poles in the political spectrum, our discussions always were respectful of each other and I believe opened each of our minds. We never succeeded in convincing the other of the efficacy of our positions but we always learned from each other. We also spent time talking about growing up in St. Paul, and our respective love of the City benefited from our discussions. Bill was a great storyteller and had a marvelous sense of humor. Our backgrounds were quite different, and during one of our discussions Bill said to me "if you

**...WILLIAM ORME** cont'd

teach me Yiddish I will teach you how to speak proper English.” He loved baseball and could quote statistics from almost the beginning of the game. The other game he enjoyed was golf, especially when he could golf with his family.

Bill was known for his intelligence, loyalty to family and friends, his willingness to help others, and his deep humility. We will miss him.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marvin J. Pertzik



## **James E. Speckmann**

February 14, 1946 – June 14, 2013

Jim Speckmann was born in St. Paul, Minnesota on February 14, 1946. He attended St. Thomas Academy and in his senior year, he was elected as the Commander of the Crack Drill Squad. Jim graduated from St. Thomas Academy in 1964 and went on to attend Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics in 1968 and was enrolled that fall at Creighton's law school. Due to an illness, Jim moved back to Minnesota in 1969 and during that time he was fortunate to meet his future wife, Maris. They were married in 1971 and together they moved back to Omaha so Jim could finish law school. He earned his law degree from Creighton University Law School in 1973.

After graduation, Jim returned to Minnesota and was hired by the law firm of Dudley and Smith in St. Paul. In 1977, he joined the firm of Dean Nyquist & Associates where he worked for four years. Jim then launched his career as a solo practitioner, spanning 32 years, in which he specialized in personal injury, workers' compensation and medical malpractice. While passionate about those areas, he branched out over the years to serve his client's needs in disputes involving corporate matters, construction issues, real estate transactions and estate and probate work.

Jim had a strong commitment and desire to work with, assist and serve so that he could become a better individual, a compassionate lawyer and contributing citizen. He truly believed in the process of the judicial system. Jim spent 31 years as a Ramsey County Conciliation Court Referee and 18 years as an arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association's No Fault panel.

His involvement in the Ramsey County Bar Association gave him the opportunity to volunteer on a variety of committees. Jim was a member of the Executive Council, a member and past Chair of the Bench & Bar Benefit committee; he served as an Ethics Committee member and was a Ramsey County delegate to the Minnesota State Bar Association.

Jim was also a devoted board member and officer of the St. Paul Optimist Club for over 25 years. He deeply believed in the development and encouragement of our youth and was the incorporator and past Chairman of the St. Paul Friend of Youth Foundation.

Jim's civic duties further led him to serve the City of Vadnais Heights for over 35 years. Those positions included being a member of the city council, Chairman of the Planning Commission and Chairman of the Vadnais Heights Community Foundation.

**...JAMES E. SPECKMANN cont'd**

Jim was a class act lawyer who loved a challenging battle. He had an exceptional temperament to go along with his endless patience and compassion that made him all the more loved by his family and well-respected by friends, colleagues and clients. He was always available to his fellow attorneys for guidance and counseling.

Over the years, Jim took great pleasure in traveling with family and friends. He particularly enjoyed the time he could spend with those individuals at his home on Gull Lake. In 2012, Jim and Maris moved to their lake home where he attempted to become semi-retired while maintaining a handful of clients and continuing his volunteer activities.

Jim is survived by Maris, his wife of 42 years; and their children along with their spouses, Charlie (Jill), Jackie (Tim) Morstad, and AJ (Alisa) and grandchildren, Carter, Claire, Grant and Sophia.

He was always a giver and never a taker. Your open mindedness, terrific sense of humor and voice of reason will be missed until we see you again, Jim.

Respectfully submitted,  
James Hurd Anderson

## **Kenneth Earl Tilsen**

November 4, 1927 – September 1, 2013

Kenneth Earl Tilsen was born in North Dakota on November 4, 1927. He died at his riverside home in Hudson, Wisconsin, on September 1, 2013, at the age of 85. He left a profound legacy to this community.

Ken grew up in St. Paul. He served 2 years in the Navy and returned to St. Paul in 1946, where he met his wife Rachel at an anti-racism demonstration. They married and had five children.

Ken's long St. Paul legal career is legendary. He practiced law at Robins, Davis & Lyons, now Robins Zelle, from 1950 to 1966, and served for 10 years as managing partner. In 1966, he opened his own law office, just downstairs from his friends at Robins. Ken's office became the legal center for Twin Cities progressive movements. Ken and Rachel worked tirelessly for innumerable progressive organizations and individuals in St. Paul and throughout the upper Midwest. Among the more well known examples are his representation of African-American student protestors at Morrill Hall at the University; his defense of countless persons challenging the US military draft and the War in Vietnam; his coordination of the nearly endless legal work surrounding the 1973 siege of Wounded Knee, South Dakota, and related events, including over 500 federal and state criminal cases; his leadership in the representation of hundreds of people protesting weapons production at Honeywell and protesting a proposed power line in central Minnesota. Other people and groups, too numerous to list here, benefited from Ken's legal work. Ken was not only consistent in his political commitment, but he was also a genius in his legal knowledge, creativity, and skill. He mentored a whole generation, maybe two generations, of younger lawyers. He was a rigorous and able teacher, who set an example to aim for, but rarely to match. He later taught in the legal clinic at Hamline Law School.

Ken was more than a lawyer. Most important to him was family, his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. The family often gathered at the long time family home in Mendota, fondly known as The Ponderosa, and later gathered at the St. Croix River home. There, Ken was a sailor. He sailed on the St. Croix and enjoyed many sailing trips to the Caribbean.

We live in a better community thanks to the work of Ken Tilsen. He set the example for all of us to follow: to consistently and courageously serve our community, especially the poor, the powerless, and those who work to improve our system of justice and our society. The more we follow Ken's example, the more we honor Ken's legacy.



**...KENNETH E. TILSEN** cont'd

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Gallant, Attorney, on behalf of the Tilsen family

## **The Honorable Rosalie Erwin Wahl**

August 27, 1924 – July 22, 2013

Rosalie Wahl was the 72nd justice and the first woman on the Minnesota Supreme Court. Her 549 opinions firmly establish her contribution to Minnesota law. But her legacy is even greater than the sum of her opinions. The Minneapolis Tribune recognized her as the “human bridge” between the Supreme Court and the people it served. In their words, “Few state Supreme Court justices have made a larger impact for good or command more respect.”

Born in hard economic times in Kansas, Rosalie was three years old when her mother died. Four years later her grandfather and her younger brother were killed at a railroad crossing where Rosalie had lifted the gate to let the horse-drawn wagon pass. The train, running late, neglected to blow its whistle as it came around the hillside. Despite the possibility of a personal-injury recovery, Rosalie and her grandmother in those hardscrabble times could not afford the \$100 retainer. They moved to the old stone house, and Rosalie attended Birch Creek’s one-room school and later moved into town for high school.

In the shadow of World War II, Rosalie began classes at Kansas University. During her first year, her fiancé an Air Force pilot, died in a training accident. Graduating in 1946, she married Roswell Wahl, after he returned from the European front. In 1949 they moved to Circle Pines, Minnesota, as part of a cooperative community. They later moved to Lake Elmo, and Rosalie began law school at William Mitchell in 1962. In 1972 burdened by Ross’s delayed combat trauma, their marriage ended.

The tragedies of her early life shaped Rosalie, but did not diminish her compassion, energy, or idealism. To Rosalie, Courts were a sacred place, where people brought their most troubling problems, and she believed deeply that as lawyers and judges we could not fail them. She worked tirelessly for equal access, gender fairness, elimination of racial bias, proper approaches to mental health issues, and for reform in legal education itself and institutions that provided it. Her work, leading the Gender Bias Task Force and the Racial Bias Task Force revolutionized the Minnesota judiciary.

The 1977 appointment of Rosalie as the first woman justice on the Minnesota Supreme Court was a monumental event. At that time there were no women who had served on the U.S. Supreme Court, only one woman on a federal appellate court, and only five women serving on state supreme courts. And it all of Minnesota, there were only four women judges. Her first election was one of the roughest high-court elections in Minnesota history, but Rosalie prevailed by a substantial margin.

**...HON. ROSALIE ERWIN WAHL cont'd**

Rosalie is survived by her children, Chris, Sara (Michael Davis), Tim (Carol), Mark, and Jenny Blaine (Patrick) and her beloved grandchildren and great grandchildren. Her children treasured the joyful spirit with which Rosalie approached life- always hopeful of a better world, and always with a song in her heart.

A Quaker, Rosalie saw good in all people. A poet, she deployed language as justice's saber. A singer, she raised her voice in chorus with others to reveal not only the beauty, but also the strength in our common humanity. She saw that none of us lives apart but all are members of one larger community.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sara Wahl