

DAVID MANEY KEEBLE

Resolutions Adopted by the Nashville Bar Association  
on November 26, 1974

David M. Keeble, a former President of this Association and a distinguished leader at this Bar for many years, died October 16, 1974, at the age of 67. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Katherine Walker Keeble, two daughters, Mrs. Katherine Keeble Scott and Mrs. George W. Crook, a sister, Miss Emmie Keeble, a brother, Edwin A. Keeble, and one grandchild, Katherine Keeble Crook, all of Nashville.

After receiving his preparatory education at Peabody, Mr. Keeble attended Vanderbilt University from which he received both his academic and law degrees after compiling an outstanding record of scholastic attainment. Among other honors, he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa honorary scholastic society, president of Phi Delta Phi legal fraternity, and a member of the Order of the Coif. Upon completion of his law school studies, he was admitted to the Tennessee Bar in 1931. However, he elected initially to practice law in New York City, and, accordingly, in 1932 he was admitted to the New York Bar where he practiced for approximately five years with Hughes, Sherman & Dwight, a prominent firm formerly headed by Mr. Charles Evans Hughes, who became Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

It was appropriate, however, as he originally planned, that he return to Nashville to practice permanently. The Keeble family stems deep into the civic, cultural and professional life of this community. His late father, Mr. John Bell Keeble, was a former Dean of the Vanderbilt School of Law and widely regarded as one of the outstanding lawyers of his generation. In addition to his brother, Edwin A. Keeble, a prominent Nashville architect, Mr. Keeble had two other brothers who predeceased him, both of whom were prominent and successful members of this Bar, the late John Bell Keeble, Jr. and Sydney F. Keeble.

After his five years in New York, which were eventful and successful ones, Mr. Keeble returned to Nashville where he formed a partnership with his two brothers. Subsequently that firm was dissolved, with Sydney F. Keeble becoming General Counsel of Life & Casualty Insurance Company, and Mr. David Keeble joining the firm of Walker & Hooker, headed at that time by the late Seth Walker, one of Nashville's most noted advocates, a firm in which the late John J. Hooker was a distinguished partner. At the time of his death, Mr. Keeble was the senior member of Hooker, Keeble, Dodson & Harris, the successor to the firm just mentioned.

From the inception of his career, Mr. Keeble's professional achievements were notable and impressive and he was early recognized as a preeminent member of his profession. He engaged in a wide variety of litigated matters, many of which involved issues of great public interest including, in more recent years, the merger of the N. C. & St. L. and L. & N. Railroads; as well as the railroad tax cases, the latter being landmark decisions which ultimately led to far reaching Tennessee constitutional change. To every cause he brought a keen analytical mind and a measure of resourcefulness, talent and judgment which made him not only a forceful advocate but an effective negotiator and counsellor.

David Keeble was a Christian gentleman, a man of stature, a highly gifted man. Possessed of upright character and integrity, and a remarkable intellectual capacity -- these things he combined with humor, a gentleness of spirit and a rare perception and understanding of human problems, to achieve and maintain a position at

the pinnacle of this bar over a period of many years. Always affable and companionable, he generated respect and admiration from all of those who knew him; and deep devotion from those of us who knew him best.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Nashville Bar Association that in the death of David M. Keeble it has lost an able and distinguished member, to whose memory we adopt and dedicate these resolutions as a token of our respect and esteem;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these resolutions be spread upon the records of the Association and a copy be furnished to members of his family.

J. O. Bass

Charles C. Trabue, Jr.

Harlan Dodson

Lawrence Dortch

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

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