

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
FOR
ALFRED H. KNIGHT**

In his monumental work, The Common Law, Oliver Wendell Holmes observed that, "The life of the law has not been logic, it has been experience... "Al Knight embraced this principle. He studied its origins, he wrote about it, and he lived it. In his professional life, Al never dealt with simple "matters", deals, or even lawsuits; he dealt with cases. Where had the experience of the law brought him and his client, and how would the current circumstance add to that experience? With his passing on October 11 of last year at the age of 74, the members of the Bar lost a valued friend, mentor and colleague. The citizens of Nashville and the state of Tennessee lost a forceful advocate for their interests and those of the community.

Al was born in Buffalo, New York, but following several moves he and his family found its way to Nashville. After obtaining his undergraduate degree from Cornell University in 1958, he graduated from Vanderbilt Law School in 1961 where he was a member of the Law Review and the Order of the Coif. Upon graduation, and with the assistance of a former nemesis and later mentor, Professor Edward Morgan, Al was selected to be a teaching fellow at Harvard Law School. At heart he was always a teacher, whether the students were budding lawyers, jurors or judges. Reflective of this quality was his service as a visiting professor at Vanderbilt Law School from 1965 to 1980.

Upon his return from Harvard in 1962, Al joined the firm of Hooker & Hooker, soon to be Hooker, Hooker & Willis. From 1966 to the middle of 1969, he served as an Assistant United States attorney. During this period he prosecuted bank robbers and murderers, but also saw to it that more benign, (and colorful) bootleggers and similar miscreants received an appropriate measure of justice. In 1969 he returned to private practice with the new firm of Willis Knight Chambers & Barr, which ultimately, and for over 35 years, became known as Willis & Knight. The constraints of time and setting prevent any detailed account of this powerful partnership.

Shortly after returning to Nashville, Al became involved in a significant libel case against the Tennessean newspaper that marked the beginning of his identification as a leading First Amendment lawyer. Over the years he represented the Tennessean in over forty libel cases. Only one, this first one, went to trial. It was the legal analysis of Al Knight, the first year associate, that enabled his more senior colleagues to claim victory. During his subsequent career many other publications experienced similar benefits from Al's endeavors on their behalf. A vigorous and questioning press was simply one manifestation of his dedication to an open government. He was the principal draftsman of legislation opening the meetings of

public bodies, the opening of public records, and the prohibition of secret ballots by public bodies. In partial recognition of his defense of the First Amendment and the public's right to know about the activities of its government, Al received the prestigious First Amendment Award from the Society of Professional Journalists in 1984.

In the 1990's Al began a parallel career as an author of books that focused on legal history and the practice of law. His first book, The Life of the Law, is comprised of brief, but fully substantive, chapters that discuss "the people and cases that have shaped our society, from King Alfred to Rodney King." This initial effort won the American Bar Association Silver Gavel Award in 1997. The award recognizes "outstanding work that fosters the American public's understanding of law and the legal system." The book is now part of the curriculum for new students at the Vanderbilt Law School. The Life of the Law was followed by Utter Justice: Verbal Glimpses into Fifteen Hundred Years of Legal History; The Wizards of Washington: Triumphs and Travesties of the United States Supreme Court, and Tribulations and Trials: The Education of a Young Lawyer. (that would be Al!) Each of these books is well researched, beautifully crafted, humorous and thoroughly enjoyable. At the time of his death, Al had three manuscripts awaiting publication. He remarked to someone that he had covered about all he had to say, but perhaps he had simply exhausted his supply of real 11" x 14 1/2" yellow legal pads, or broken the point on the last wooden pencil he used to write all of his books.

While Al was an intellectual and a serious thinker, he was not simply a theoretician. To him the trial of cases was where the law came alive, and trying them to completion provided the meaning to his professional life. He practiced law in its most commonly viewed manifestation; that is, he tried and argued cases; a lot of cases, all kinds of cases. In doing so he was an active participant in the life of the law, and contributed greatly to shaping its experience. In recognition of Al's skills as an advocate, he was inducted as a fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers in 1989.

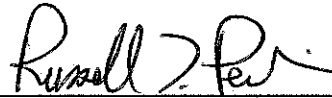
Al's love of the law was exceeded only by his love for his two sons, Stephen and Eric, of whom he was justifiably and exceedingly proud. In addition to his sons, he is survived by his sister, Sally Adams, his devoted first wife, Lois Knight, two step daughters, Haley Sweet and Shari Sweet Smith, daughter in law Kay Knight and two grandchildren, Sarah and Sam Knight. Beloved is not a sufficient description of Al's feelings for Ruth Sweet, his second wife who preceded him in death in 1998.

A truly remarkable life has come to an end, yet, the mark of that life upon us, and the qualities it represented will enrich our memories and endure in the years to come.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Nashville Bar Association, solemnly express our profound appreciation and gratitude for the life and work of Alfred Henderson Knight. We recognize and honor his contributions to his family, his friends, his state, and his nation. And, we mourn his death.

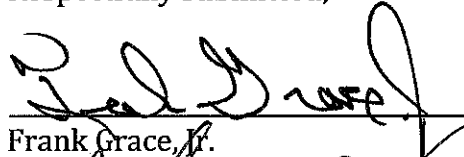
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this memorial resolution be placed in the permanent records of the Nashville Bar Association and entered in the "In Memoriam" minute book of the Chancery Court for Davidson County, and that copies of this resolution be furnished to members of Al Knight's family.

This 24 day of May 2012.

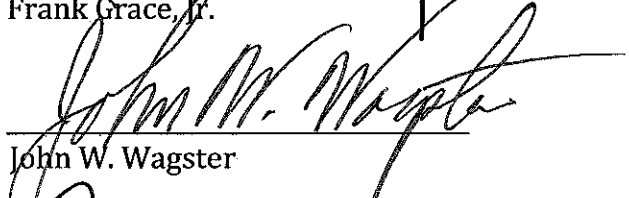


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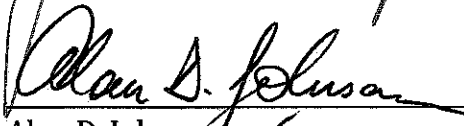
Respectfully submitted,



Frank Grace, Jr.



John W. Wagster



Alan D. Johnson



Hal Hardin