

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION  
FOR  
JAMES CUMMINGS MCBROOM**

Born November 17, 1942, James Cummings McBroom practiced law in Nashville and the surrounding counties for thirty-nine years. Everyone knew him as “Jim” or “Boom Boom” and he told humorous stories and anecdotes about nearly every trial lawyer in Nashville.

Jim was born at the St. Thomas Hospital when it was located on Church Street, and he was named for his uncle Mr. James Cummings. “Uncle Jim” was a very influential politician, serving Tennessee as a State Representative, Senator, Speaker of the House and Secretary of State. “Uncle Jim” always had time for his nephew, and Jim McBroom was very proud of his family. Jim’s father, Mr. Giles H. McBroom, II, was a young man when he passed; Jim was only nine years old. His strong willed and hard working mother, the late Mrs. Hester Pewitt McBroom, raised Jim and his two older siblings, Mr. Giles H. McBroom, III and the late Ms. Martha Patricia McBroom Kamish.

Jim grew up in Historic Inglewood where he graduated from Litton High School in 1961. The McBrooms were very active and prominent in the Inglewood Baptist Church. Jim joined the Boy Scout troop sponsored by his church, and when he was sixteen years old, he earned the rank of Eagle Scout and was also awarded the “God and Country” distinction of honor. After high school, Jim attended Middle Tennessee State University where he earned a scholarship and worked his way through school employed by the Metro-Nashville Police Department as a booking clerk. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1967.

In 1967 Jim had his sights set on a teaching career and he took a job at East Junior High School. Jim coached the basketball team for two years and had a record of 37 and 1 and two city wide championships. That was not enough for Jim, and he was encouraged to use his talents and become a lawyer. In 1971 Jim McBroom graduated from the YMCA Night School of Law, passed the Tennessee Bar Examination and the State of Tennessee issued him a license to practice law. One of the best things our government ever did.

Jim immediately made a name for himself as a young aggressive lawyer. He worked for some of the most brilliant and colorful members of the bar during the 60's and 70's. He began his legal career as an associate of Mr. Claude Callicot and Mr. Robert Murphy; gentlemen and colorful legal scholars on their own. He also worked with Mr. Daniel Finch, a remarkable trial lawyer and Vanderbilt University basketball hero.

In 1977, Jim and Mr. Finch formed The Law Offices of Finch & McBroom,

set up shop in Printer's Alley, and for the next thirty-three years Jim maintained that business. Finch & McBroom was primarily an insurance defense firm representing clients such as Allstate, Royal Insurance, and Grange Insurance. However, Jim was of the people, and he did not turn away the less fortunate. Jim was proud to represent clients facing hard times, often without charging a fee. In 2004, Jim moved Finch & McBroom to Main Street in Gallatin, Tennessee. His pro bono efforts should be an example to the members of this generous bar. Many trial lawyers began their career working for Jim McBroom. Most got their start as one of his students.

Jim was fortunate to combine his desire to teach with his passion for the law. He taught classes at the YMCA Night Law School, where he is most remembered for teaching the first year classes of Agency and Personal Property. His answer to nearly any question was "maybe yes, maybe no." If you understood that answer, you were a trial lawyer in the making. During his tenure, the school changed its name to the Nashville School of Law and moved to Armory Drive. The success of that school and its graduates are attributable to the sacrifices of its faculty. At the Annual Nashville School of Law Recognition Dinner, Jim's sacrifice was honored when he was awarded the Distinguished Faculty Award for 2005.

In addition to his commitment to his profession and his students, Jim was also a member of the Jere Baxter Lodge #742 of the Free & Accepted Masons where he was raised to the degree of Master Mason. Jim was a member of the Al Menah Shrine Temple, and proudly served on its Director's Staff. He was inducted into the Scottish & York Right where he was raised to the 32nd degree, honored in the Knight Commandery Court of Honor, a designation reserved for the elite and most honorable brothers of the Shrine. This was an accomplishment worthy of Jim McBroom's determination, professionalism and compassion.

Jim surrounded himself with great friends such as Mr. John Finch, Mr. Skip Dean and Mr. Brance Batey. He traveled to Vanderbilt football games and golf adventures across the country with his friends. In turn these fine men supported Jim and his family during the worst of his illness. Jim loved, respected and appreciated his closest friends.

Last but not least, and most important to him, Jim McBroom had a remarkable family of his own. On October 31, 1995 Jim married the stunningly beautiful Rita. At the time Rita was on the staff of Judge Walter Kurtz, and Jim was the good hearted envy of the bar. Their daughter Carrie Jo, fortunately, has her mother's looks and style. Carrie Jo married Mr. David Stark, and they have a wonderful little girl, Miss Ella Grace Stark. The Starks reside in North Carolina. Mrs. Rita McBroom currently lives in Gallatin, Tennessee in the home she and Jim

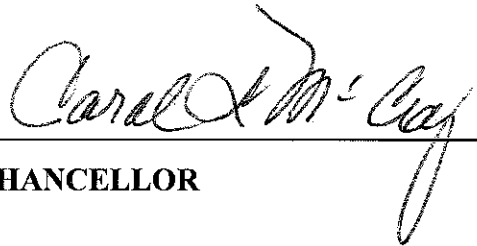
made for their family.

At the age of sixty-seven, James Cummings McBroom died April 30, 2010, the day before Nashville's Great Flood. Jim McBroom was a fine gentleman, respected by his colleagues and students. He would be humbled and proud of this ceremony honoring him and the other fine lawyers who passed away in the year 2010.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Nashville Bar Association that we honor the life and work of **JAMES CUMMINGS MCBROOM** and mourn in his passing the loss of a brilliant legal mind, a compassionate professor of the law, and a loving husband and father.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this memorial resolution be placed in the permanent records of the association and entered in the "In Memoriam" minute book of the Chancery Court of Davidson County, Tennessee, and that copies thereof be furnished to members of his family, his wife Mrs. Rita McBroom, his daughter Mrs. Carrie Jo Stark and his brother Mr. Giles H. McBroom, III.

**ENTER** this 18<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2010.




---

**CHANCELLOR**

**APPROVED FOR ENTRY:**

**Sobel, Poss & Moore**

by: 

---

**A. Michelle Poss BPR#19547**