

## LEON RUBEN

Leon Ruben was a Nashville native, who graduated from Howard High School, Vanderbilt University and the Nashville School of Law. Preceded in death by his first wife, Myra Lou Ruben, Judge Ruben is survived by his wife, Sandi (Gordon) Ruben, daughters, Susan Evans, Renee Geltzer, and Melinda Bimstein, his son, Herman Ruben, and three stepsons: Samuel, Michael, and Robin Gordon along with eleven grandchildren.

Judge Ruben dedicated much of his personal and professional life to public service. First as an Assistant Public Defender, then as a member of the Metro Council representing his beloved Bellevue, where he was honored by the Chamber of Commerce as Citizen of the Year in 1981. Leon was the consummate Ambassador for the Bellevue community.

Often, when greeting a friend or acquaintance on the street or at a social function, Judge Ruben would shout "Welcome to Bellevue!" Although this salutation became standard procedure for Leon; it may have been a little confusing to strangers since Leon used this greeting from Antioch to Madison to Green Hills and all parts in between. When asked about it, Judge Ruben proudly said "Bellevue is everywhere!"

His professional efforts ultimately resulted in his selection as Judge of Division VIII for the General Sessions Courts of Davidson County, where he was overwhelmingly elected by the voters on four separate occasions and served for more than 30 years until his untimely passing on October 7, 2011.

Leon Ruben served as Presiding Judge of the General Sessions Courts on seven separate occasions from 1984 through 2001 and as an officer in the Tennessee General Sessions Conference for more than 16 years initially serving as Secretary-Treasurer, and finally as that organization's President in 1993-94.

Leon was a member of the Nashville Bar Association, Tennessee Bar Association, Lawyer's Association for Women, and the American Judges Association, on whose Board of Governors, Ruben served for more than 15 years.

Judge Ruben was the first (and for many years the only) Jew to serve as a Judge in Nashville. He and his family have been active members of West End Synagogue for many years. Every Christmas Day he volunteered to sit on the Bench so that his colleagues could spend Christmas with their families.

His dedication to humanity did not stop there. Leon Ruben was a member of the Bellevue Exchange Club, the Murfreesboro Optimist Club, the Alumni Board of Leadership Nashville and the Board of the American Red Cross. He was even a charter member of the Loyal Royal Secret Order of Hooligans. For his many civic achievements, the Sertomá Club honored Judge Ruben with its Service to Mankind Award in 1991.

As councilman Ruben, he once said in response to delays in the construction of the Criminal Justice Center "Let's quit Mickey Mousing around and get something done!" His words broke the impasse allowing the massive CJC project to be completed.

At the next council meeting, a small Mickey Mouse figure appeared on his desk and Leon would soon be immortalized as Mickey Mouse in a newspaper editorial cartoon. Over the next three decades, Judge Ruben became Nashville's largest known collector of Mickey Mouse memorabilia. His collection of more than 690 items was generously donated to the Tennessee State Museum in 2006 where it remains today.

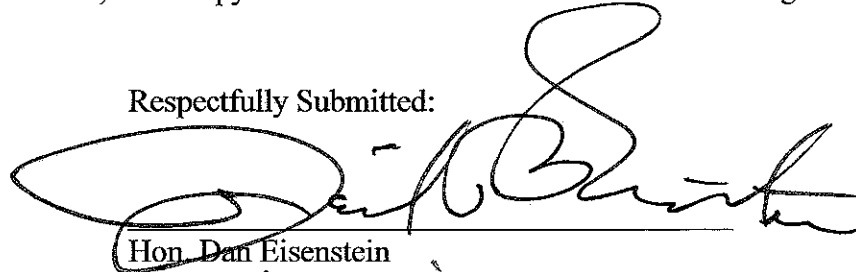
His longtime colleague Judge Bill Higgins noted that while some may have thought him a parsimonious character; he will remember Leon as "a good steward of the taxpayer's money." One day Ruben approached Higgins while in recess all red faced and a bit angry. Leon said "Bill, I want you to know I just had to approve a

\$500 fee for a Russian interpreter who drove all the way from Memphis when I had at least five old men over at the synagogue who speak fluent Russian and would gladly have served for free!"

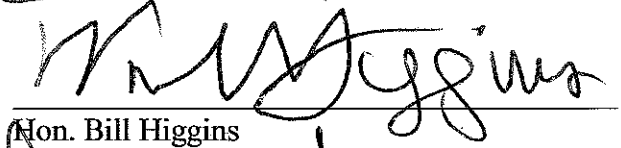
Judge Leon Ruben was a man of extraordinary character and integrity who did not hesitate to offer patient wisdom to his fellow judges and to the thousands of lawyers and litigants who appeared before him. He approached every task with a balance of passion and humility. Despite the onset of a terminal illness, Judge Ruben so loved the law and our system of justice that he chose to continue to work until just a few days before his passing.

**WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that this Memorial Resolution honoring the life and accomplishments of Judge Leon Ruben be accepted and approved by the Chancery Court for Davidson County, Tennessee and that it be inscribed in the Minute Book of the Clerk and Master, and a copy of said resolution be furnished to the loving members of his family.

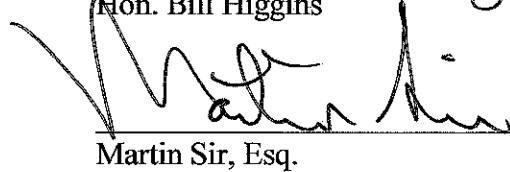
Respectfully Submitted:



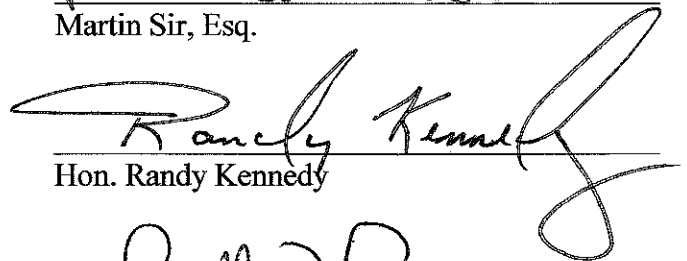
Hon. Dan Eisenstein




Hon. Bill Higgins



Martin Sir, Esq.



Hon. Randy Kennedy



Russell J. Per  
chancellor