

ORDER FILED & ENTERED

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MINUTE BOOK

PAGE

WILLIAM CHESTER BOWEN

1898-1991

William Chester Bowen was born December 19, 1898 in Tatumville, Dyer County, Tennessee, the youngest of five children of William Allen Bowen and Mary Etta Featherstone Bowen. He died on September 26, 1991 at McKendree Village in Nashville.

William Chester Bowen and Edith Underwood were married on June 6, 1928. Three children were born to them, namely, Edith Bierman of Nashville, William C. Bowen, Jr., of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and John B. Bowen of Alexandria, Virginia. Also surviving him are six grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Mrs. Bowen predeceased him on June 8, 1990.

Mr. Bowen was a graduate of Berea College, Berea, Kentucky. He attended Vanderbilt Law School in 1924. However, he did not complete his law study at Vanderbilt, but graduated from Cumberland University Law School in 1931 and the same year took and passed the State of Tennessee bar examination and commenced the general practice of law in Nashville with offices in the Nashville Trust Building. He practiced in both state and federal courts, but as was true of all young lawyers in that year, paying clients were scarce.

In 1933, Mr. Bowen was retained as general counsel of the Nashville Legal Aid Bureau. In this position, he advised indigents, represented them in court, and supervised the operation of the legal aid clinic in which students from the Vanderbilt Law School were permitted to gain practical

experience. From 1934 until 1947, he served as counsel for the Springfield Production Credit Association, a corporation operated by the Farm Credit Administration.

While in private practice, Mr. Bowen served on many occasions as Special Judge in the trial courts of Davidson County. He was a member of the Nashville Bar Association, the Tennessee Bar Association, and the American Bar Association. He served on the Board of Directors of the Nashville Bar Association in the years 1940 through 1942. He was elected Vice President of the Association in 1942. He served as a delegate from the Tennessee Bar Association to the American Bar Association in 1948, 1949 and 1950.

At various times during his private practice, Mr. Bowen was associated with Judge Harry Luck, Charles Campbell Brown, Weldon White, who subsequently served as Associate Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court, E. L. McNeilly, Carmack Cochran, Hulan Walker, James Crutcher, Wilson West, James C. Havron and James Tuck.

Bill, as he was affectionately known, took an active part in politics, being a loyal member of the Democratic party. He served as campaign manager for Congressman Percy Priest in several successful campaigns.

In 1956, Mr. Bowen was appointed trial attorney and examiner for the Interstate Commerce Commission. After resignation from that office, he was appointed hearing examiner under the Administrative Procedure Act and assigned to Social

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Security appeal cases for the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare, where he served until retirement in November, 1969.

Mr. Bowen was a member of the Belmont United Methodist Church where he served on the Board of Trustees and was elected a lifetime honorary member of the administrative board. He was a long time member of the Shriver Sunday School class of that church and served two terms as its President. He and his wife, Edith, were hosts of the annual picnics of the Shriver class for many years.

Bill Bowen was a very friendly person, interested in the activities of his fellow lawyers and friends. He possessed a wit that made him enjoyable company. He loved his country, his state, and his hometown of Nashville. He was a faithful husband, a proud father, and a loyal friend. It is impossible in this brief sketch to picture Mr. Bowen as his friends and his family knew him.

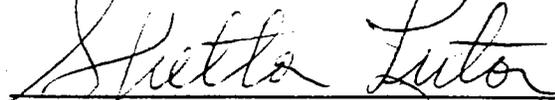
Nevertheless, we can express our appreciation of his life among us, acknowledge our indebtedness to him, and give recognition to a portion of the honor which he deserves, which we have undertaken to do in a small way by this memorial. This association, the State of Tennessee, and the City of Nashville are privileged to have had a citizen who so steadfastly and loyally served their best interests in every field of endeavor of which he became a part. Representing the Nashville Bar Association, we say to the family and friends of William Chester

Bowen that we understand how much they miss him and neither they nor we shall ever forget his friendly and useful life among us.

We move the adoption of this memorial and its enrollment on the enrollment book of the solicitors of the Chancery Court where Mr. Bowen often appeared in the practice of the profession which he loved and served so well.

We further move that copies of this Memorial be furnished to the children of Mr. Bowen.

Respectfully submitted,



JOHN SHELTON LUTON



WILLIAM J. HARBISON



J. C. DALE, JR.