

MEMORIAL FOR HONORABLE FLOYD J. MONK

Presented to the Circuit Court of
Racine County, Wisconsin,
April 2, 1956.

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT:

The loss of Floyd J. Monk has been felt not only by the Bench and Bar, but by the community of Racine which he served so well as a lawyer, Divorce Counsel and Judge.

Floyd J. Monk was born in Chilton, Wisconsin, August 31, 1896, and was educated in the elementary schools of Clinton, Wisconsin, and graduated from the Neillsville Public High School. After graduation from high school he attended the Eau Claire State Teachers College, graduating in the Class of 1917. After graduation Judge Monk taught school for a short time, and then enlisted in the U. S. Navy, in which service he served with honor during World War I. On his discharge from the Navy, he matriculated at Wisconsin Law School, from which he graduated in 1923 with a degree of L.L.B. The following year he was admitted to the Wisconsin Bar. During the school year 1923-1924 he taught school in Kenosha, Wisconsin, where he met his future wife, Isabel Anderson, who was working with the Girl Scouts in that city. They were married March 3, 1928. He is survived by his widow, Isabel Monk, and a brother, Robert W. Monk, of Wausau, Wisconsin.

In 1924 Judge Monk came to Racine and became associated with the firm of Thompson & Harvey, which later became Thompson, Harvey & Monk. Still later the firm became Thompson & Monk, and then Thompson, Monk & Thompson. In 1945 he was appointed Divorce Counsel for Racine County, and served in that capacity until 1952, when he was appointed by Governor Walter Kohler to the position of Judge of the Municipal Court. In 1954 he was elected to a six-year term as Municipal Judge, and in 1955 he was elected without opposition as Judge of the Racine County Court to succeed Honorable J. Allan Simpson. During his practice of law, he took an active part in community and civic affairs, having served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Theresa & Elizabeth Home, Library Board, and on many other organizations. During World War II he served for many years as Government Appeal Agent.

Judge Monk was loved and respected by all of the Members of the Bar, and by all with whom he came in contact as lawyer, Divorce Counsel and Judge, and in whatever capacity he served, his honesty, integrity and judgment were respected by client, opponent and litigant. His ability to grasp the fundamentals of a legal or social problem was well known. He was not often deceived by a sham defense or a manufactured cause of action.

In private life, Floyd J. Monk was among the first to respond to the needs of a friend in difficulty, always with a cheerful word and undoubted sincerity. He enjoyed the companionship of the Members of the Bar and of his many friends, always ready with a laugh and a new anecdote. The humor of a situation never escaped "Doc" Monk, as he was known to his many friends. He was past master at the give-and-take of friendly ribbing and banter. Yet he deeply enjoyed serious reading and discussion and would express his own views openly and freely so that his position was always clear on any important problem or issue of the day.

As Divorce Counsel he served the community well. If there was a reasonable opportunity to reconcile the parties, Judge Monk would do anything in his power to effect that end. Many couples are still living together happily as a result of his effort to bring each litigant to the understanding of the position of his or her spouse. If in his opinion the parties should be reconciled, the lawyers were so advised promptly. The rights of the parties' children, the innocent bystanders in a divorce action, were always protected to the utmost of Floyd Monk's ability.

Judge Monk presided over the Municipal Court of Racine County with dignity and understanding. The lawyers and the clients were always treated with respect and consideration. The young lawyer could always depend upon the Judge for a helping hand if the pleadings were incomplete or if the witness was unduly difficult. He had almost a sixth sense when it came to meting out punishment for the guilty--he thoroughly understood not only the importance of fitting the punishment to the crime but also to the individual. Probation, parole and leniency were recognized as important tools of rehabilitation of the guilty. Where necessary and deserving, Judge Monk did not hesitate to impose severe penalty so as to protect the public from the criminal, the inebriate and the careless.

Judge Monk's wide experience in the practice of law, his work with the public schools, and with the civic organizations, gave him the necessary attributes for a Judge of the Municipal and Juvenile Courts. The public of the community held Judge Floyd J. Monk in high esteem, recognizing both his judicial ability and his high degree of integrity and moral courage. His fairness and dignity endeared him to all members of the community, including the Bench, the Bar and the Public.

When Judge Floyd J. Monk was elected as Judge of the Racine County Court, the lawyers knew that the tradition of justice and service so well established by his predecessors in office, would be carried out with dignity, dispatch and understanding.

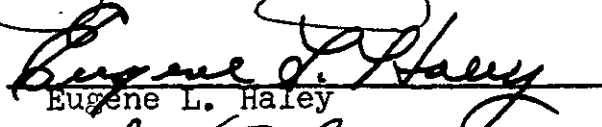
It is with deep regret that the community as well as the Bar must do without the services of a man who would have performed duties and functions of County Judge in a truly traditional manner.

The Bench, the Bar and the Public of this community indeed suffered an irreparable loss upon the untimely death of Floyd J. Monk on October 25, 1955. He has left behind for us an example of integrity and understanding that we who remain can well emulate. His active and useful life will serve for many years as a guide post for all who follow.

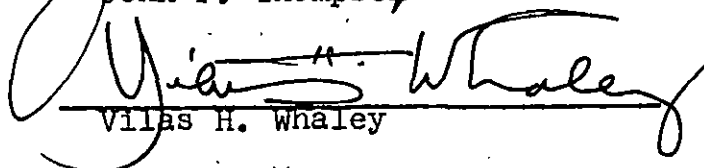
The Committee of the Racine County Bar Association moves the Court to spread this memorial upon the records of the Court and that copies be sent to members of his family.

Respectfully submitted,


J. Lester Johnson


Eugene L. Haley


John F. Thompson


Vilas H. Whaley

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Handwritten signature
4-2-56