IN MEMORIAM
IN CIRCUIT COURT RACINE COUNTY WISCONSIN

OSCAR M. "LEFTY" EDWARDS

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT:

The Committee appointed by the Racine County Bar Association respectfully presents to the Court this memorial to the distinguished life of Oscar Edwards, who for more than 45 years practiced law in Racine and was greatly admired and respected by his fellow members of the Racine County Bar. Mr. Edwards departed this life on Saturday evening, October 21, 1972.

He was born on the 13th day of January, 1905 in Lancaster, Wisconsin, and was graduated from Lancaster High School in 1922. He enrolled at the University of Wisconsin in 1924, and was graduated from law school in 1928. Mr. Edwards was appointed assistant district attorney for Racine County in January of 1929 by Earl Buelow. He served as an assistant district attorney for two years. In 1931 he joined the firm of Gittings, Janecky and Buelow and was engaged in the private practice of this firm until January 31, 1933, when he was appointed assistant district attorney by the newly elected district attorney, John R. Brown. He served as an assistant district attorney until the end of 1936. In November of 1936, Mr. Edwards was elected district attorney of Racine County and served as district attorney for the years 1937 and 1938. In 1939 he entered the private practice of law with the firm of Haley, Edwards and DeMark. He was appointed acting city attorney for the City of Racine on January 1, 1944 and served in this capacity until March 1st, 1946. He also practiced law with Mr. Al LaFrance under the firm and style of LaFrance & Edwards.

Commencing March 1, 1946, he practiced law with Gilbert E. Brach under the name of Brach & Edwards, which firm was in 1953 changed to Brach, Edwards & Wheeler, and he practiced with this firm until 1960. From 1960, Mr. Edwards practiced individually until his passing.

Mr. Edwards, who was known to all of his friends, as "Lefty" was a great lover of the outdoors. He earned a major "W" at the University of Wisconsin in baseball. Had he not decided to go to lawschool, he would have been an outstanding pitcher in the field of baseball. He dearly loved to hunt and fish, taking advantage of every opportunity to use his talents in catching the trout, and hunting wild game. Opening date of the trout season was not Lefty's day for the practice of law. The same can be said for the opening day of pheasant and deer seasons. Lefty had a hunting lodge at Minong, Wisconsin, which is in the heart of the grouse country. In the 50's, it would take approximately eight hours to drive from Racine to Minong, and many times I have traveled with Lefty to Minong, driving most of the night and being in the field at dawn for hunting or fishing.

On January 18, 1930, Mr. Edwards was married to Grace L. Burgeson. They had two children, Daniel, who presently makes his home in Milan, Italy, and Steven, who presently lives in Aurora, Illinois. Grace Edwards passed away on March 16, 1962. On June 6, 1964, Mr. Edwards married Kathryn L. Collins, who survives him and lives in the home at 532 S. Green Bay Rd. Mr. Edwards is survived by two brothers, Clarence of Waterford, Wis. and Arthur, of Monroe, Wisconsin, and one sister, Mrs. Lois Gister, of Harvey, Illinois.

Mr. Edwards led an active life and contributed much to the welfare of his fellowman and his community. He is a past exalted ruler of the Racine Elks Lodge #252, past chancellor commander of the Racine Lodge Knights of Pythias. He coached many boys baseball teams, and thoroughly enjoyed doing so. He was active in the Racine County Conservation League and acted as its attorney for more than twenty years. He was president of the Racine County Bar Assoc. in 1953 and was a member of the Racine and the State bar associations. M. Edwards did not enjoy the great luxury of life afforded by wealth during the time he attended college. He worked at any job that he could find in order to garner enough funds to stay in school. One might say that Lefty was a self-made man. Having come from a background of work and having developed a deep sense of determination to achieve his goal, it is small wonder that the members of the Racine Bar often stood in awe in the courtroom when Mr. Edwards was on the opposite side of the case. All who knew him would attest to the fact that he did his legal homework to fine perfection. When Mr. Edwards had researched a case and had briefed the question, you could rely on the correctness thereof.

He was not one to tell a client that his case contained merit when in truth and fact, the law spoke otherwise. One might say that he was honest to a fault with a client. It would not be unusual for Lefty to tell a client that he had no case and he couldn't represent him. As district attorney and as assistant district attorney, he prosecuted with the same drive and fervor with which he represented his clients in private practice. This adherence to his chosen field, in looking for the important matters therein, carried over into his private life. He devoted many many hours to the teaching of his sons of the

joys of the outdoor world. He also imbedded in his sons, the knowledge that drive, perserverance, honesty and accuracy are required to not only survive in this world, but to push ahead. This teaching served his sons well and Lefty was exceedingly proud of his sons and also of his grandchildren. You might say that Lefty was enshrouded with a granite-hard determination and a sense of responsibility to his convictions and that this carried throughout his long practice and into his private life, and there are those among his close friends who knew him as a rugged individualist.

In spite of this outward shell of deep determination, underneath was a kind and loving person. Lefty never failed to represent a client whom he felt had a just cause, even though the client was unable to pay. He would not turn away a deserving person because of the monetary inadequacy. He was a great and devoted family man and was a member of the Catholic church by faith. I know of my own knowledge that if you were a friend of Lefty's, you had one of life's greatest assets. If Lefty were here today, he would feel that the finest tribute one could pay to him would be the tribute that he most richly deserves, and that is, that Mr. Edwards was a lawyer's lawyer, and even though those not in our profession perhaps do not fully understand this remark, every lawyer knows that this definition applies only to a fellow lawyer who has shown deepest devotion to his professional career that can be attained.

On behalf of the committee consisting of Fred W. Wheeler, Arthur Lucarelli and Anthony DeMark, I move that this memorial be spread upon the records of Racine County Circuit Court.

Respectfully submitted,

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FILED

Apr. 30 1973

~~MAY 1~~ ~~1973~~

EDWARD F. DALEY
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
RACINE COUNTY, WIS.

MEMORIAL OF RACINE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

FOR SAMUEL M. WEISMAN (1908-1972)

May it please the Court: The undersigned Committee appointed by the Racine County Bar Association to present to this Court, with its permission, a memorial in honor of the late Samuel M. Weisman, does now present the following:

Samuel M. Weisman was born on August 19, 1908, to parents who had been only recently emigrated from what was then Russia. He was preceded in birth by two brothers, Jacob M. Weisman and Joseph Weisman, both now deceased. His brother, Jacob, was also an honored member of this Bar Association and was former President of the Association. Both brothers are now deceased.

Sam graduated from the Wisconsin University Law School and was admitted to practice law in this county on the 18th day of November, 1935. At that time, he became associated in the practice of law with his brother, Jacob, and later became his partner and the name of the firm became Weisman and Weisman. In 1943, Sam entered the military service and served with the Field Artillery overseas in France and in Germany. Sam, when he would reminisce about his Army service, would refer to his being in the junk yard division, in that his job was to salvage usable materials from areas of combat. He was honorably discharged from the service in 1946, when he returned to practice law with his older brother in Racine.

During his practice, he and his brother provided office experience for a number of attorneys, among whom are Edward Sowicky, Frank Feil, Victor Cairo, and Thomas Hansen, all of whom later practiced by themselves or became associated with other attorneys.

Sam and Jake were close as law partners and as brothers because they complemented each other. Jake preferred the excitement of trial practice, and Sam, the necessary chores of office management and briefing. Sam

not only looked after the office, but also managed the home that he and his brother shared for many years until Jake's death.

Following the death of his brother, Sam married Marie Weinberger on December 24, 1964. This was a most happy and successful marriage for both Sam and Mae, and prematurely terminated at Sam's death on October 20, 1972, at Sam's age of 64.

Sam was a kind man and a gentle man. He was not one who strove for great show, or flamboyant. Sam was extremely warm with his friends and acquaintances, and sentimental when it came to his family and others dear to him. He was faithful and loyal to his clients, his family, his employees, and his friends, which was reciprocated by them in their trust of him.

Samuel M. Weisman, during his too short a life, did justice, loved mercy, and walked humbly with his God. Nothing further can be asked of any man by his Maker. May he rest in peace.

We respectfully request that this memorial be spread upon the records of this Court and that a copy be furnished to the departed's family.

Respectfully submitted

Honorable James Wilbershide

Samuel P. Myers

Robert P. Goodman

Committee, Racine County Bar Association

Filed
5-30-74

Samuel M. Weisman
1906-1972.

RESPONSE OF HONORABLE

HOWARD J. DUROCHER
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

MEMORIAM OSCAR "LEFTY" EDWARDS SAMUEL M. WEISMAN

At the investiture of the Honorable Gilbert Geraghty, I drew a parallel between the trial judge and the parish priest. Such parallels do exist but they are limited. Among them, however, is the opportunity and very real privilege of knowing and understanding the communicants who pass before them in a way in which their fellow human beings do not.

The advocate, the immutable mercenary champion, presents to his opponent and his ward an aspect of omniscience and invulnerability. He must. A deviation may be interpreted as indecision, it may reveal a weakness, a chink in the armor. It is only to one, who by training, experience, impartiality and sympathy may be capable of understanding that a lawyer may allow a revelation of those virtues so often ascribed as weaknesses. This strain upon the fibers of his being, is incalculable.

So, the attorney often reveals, most frequently, inadvertantly, the personal problems confronting him, unrelated to the merits of his clients cause, to a trial judge. It is truly impossible for one not trained, not experienced, uncomprehending of the unique positions of the lawyer to understand the man behind the position his professional obligation obliges him to assume.

Dissatisfied as I sometimes am, with the course of the law, with the positions of its advocates, with the knowledge that we practice an art and not an exact science, I know of no pursuit in which I might engage which would better afford me the reward, not monetary, of better knowing those engaged in my profession.

Lawyers, for all their sound and fury, often with the significance Shakespeare ascribed to those phenomon, are an interesting, sympathetic people.

Professionally, Samuel M. Waisman and Oscar M. Edwards may have presented vastly different aspects to the world. The one appeared the implacable and unremitting advocate, the other, the diligent unassuming student.

In my experience with each of them, extending over many years, each of them might have subscribed to this statement attributed to DeGrellet:

> "I shall pass through this world but once. If, therefore, there is any kindness I can show, or any good that I can do, let me do it now; let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

May we stand in a moment of silent reflection upon the lives of our departed fellow lawyers.

The motion to spread the respective memorials upon the records of this court are granted.

I know that in expressing my appreciation to the committees who prepared these testimonials, I but echo the thoughts of all members of the bench.