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In Memoriam

**FRED SIMON**

May 12, 1904 - February 10, 1993

Fred Simon, trial lawyer, advocate and gentleman, was born May 12, 1904, in Baltimore, Maryland. He was one of four sons and one daughter born of the marriage of Aaron Simon and Jennie Markel Simon. At an early age the family moved to Merryville, Louisiana, where he attended high school. After graduation from high school he entered Louisiana State University and later attended Louisiana State University Law School where he graduated in 1926. At the time of his death, he had actively practiced law in this city and state for more than sixty years.

Upon receiving his L.L.B. Fred Simon came to Shreveport and immediately became associated with the law firm of Pugh, Grimmett and Boatner. When Judge Grimmett was Referee in Bankruptcy for the Western District of Louisiana, it is interesting to note that at this time there was not a courtroom for bankruptcy hearings to be held. The hearings were held in the firm's law offices in Shreveport, Louisiana. When Judge Grimmett was not available, Fred was the referee in bankruptcy ad hoc and often filled in for him.

At various times the firm continued under different names, the longest period being under the name of Simon, Carroll, Fitzgerald and Frazier, consisting of Fred Simon, his brother, Archie Simon, Dixon Carroll, Thomas Patrick Fitzgerald and Richard Fraser. In 1985 the firm's name was changed to Simon, Fitzgerald, Cooke, Reed & Welch; that same year it was moved to its present location at 4700 Line Avenue, Shreveport, Louisiana. He was at all times a senior partner in the firm.

The firm concentrated mainly in the fields of oil and gas, corporate, insurance and bankruptcy law. As a result of the discovery of the Rodessa Oil Field in 1935, Fred was involved in substantial oil and gas litigation. One of the more interesting of these cases was Tillery v. Fuller, 182 So. 683, 190 La. 586. Six cases were consolidated for trial and this case involved a large segment of the Shreveport bar. The Louisiana Supreme Court decided the case in favor of Fred's clients and the case in the Reporter consists of twenty-eight pages.

Fred was general counsel for Southwest Natural Gas Company until they merged into Arkansas Louisiana Gas Company. The firm was also Louisiana attorney for Magnolia Petroleum, which was merged into Mobil Oil Company. The firm

was also one of two Shreveport firms representing Union Producing Company and United Gas.

Fred was married in 1929 to Juliet Perlstein of Beaumont, Texas. Of their marriage two children were born, John F. Simon, who is now U. S. Magistrate Judge in the Western District of Louisiana, Alexandria and Monroe Divisions, and one daughter, Betty Simon Goldstein, presently residing in Annapolis, Maryland.

During his years of practice, he was well known through Northwest Louisiana as an aggressive, true advocate of the law, one who wrote well thought out petitions, briefs and legal documents. He spent countless hours in research prior to preparing his well written legal documents and often had lengthy discussions with his partners and others in his quest for representing his clients to perfection. He was a true trial lawyer as well as office practitioner, trying many cases in the state and federal courts.

Fred practiced law primarily in Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, before the First Judicial District Court, Shreveport City Court, the U. S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana. However, he frequently extended his practices to neighboring parishes of Bossier, DeSoto, Webster, Rapides, Bienville and Ouachita. He was

likewise admitted to practice before the U. S. Supreme Court. His peers of the trial bar honored him repeatedly for his abilities. He was a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association, the American Bar Association and the Shreveport Bar Association, and was honored by the Shreveport Legal Secretaries as Boss of the Year.

The chairman of this Committee recalls having filed a lawsuit some years back on behalf of a stockholder to dissolve an existing corporation. I received a telephone call from Mr. Simon advising he was going to represent the defendant, but prior to filing an answer could we possibly arrange a meeting of our clients to attempt to settle the litigation, to which I readily agreed. As I was younger, I came to Fred's office and after exchange of greetings, I recall Fred saying to me, "Jack, you have filed a very unusual lawsuit and I was wondering why you filed this type of lawsuit". My reply was, "Fred, your client has been avoiding my client for quite some time. The whole purpose of the lawsuit was to arrange this meeting where we could negotiate a settlement". After several weeks, an amicable settlement was agreed between the parties. He was always ready, if possible, to negotiate with adversaries actively to avoid protracted litigation. However, he never gave up any good legal position his clients held.

Everyone that knew Fred loved and respected him for his sincerity, his kindness, caring, hard work, his beliefs and his genuine interest in the problems of others and his clients and his assertiveness and work on behalf of his clients.

In his personal life, he was a very devoted family man. He served with honor in various organizations including Shreveport Masonic Lodge No. 115, for more than fifty years, and his congregation, B'Nai Zion Temple, where he served on the Board of Trustees. He also was co-chairman of B'Nai Zion's Fund Raising Committee for the building of the present ediface of said temple.

At the time of his death, Fred was married to his loving wife, Juliet, who survives him. As stated above, he has two children who also survive him. He is likewise survived by seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren as well as one brother, Archie Simon, who still continues to practice law in Shreveport, Louisiana, two other brothers, Walter Simon of Pleasant Hill, California, and Melvin Simon now residing in New Orleans, Louisiana, and one sister, Evelyn Simon Edwards of Stamford, Connecticut.

He was always supported by his loving wife, Juliet, who was patient and understanding when legal emergencies would change the plans of the family. He was an advocate of

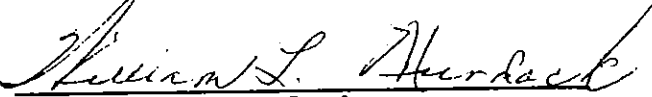
his profession, being well respected by his peers for his ability and his thoroughness in the courtroom and the orderly presentation of his cases.


The committee is privileged to offer the following resolutions:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Shreveport Bar Association does hereby direct that the admiration and respect in which Fred Simon was held by his fellow lawyers, his family, his friends and his fellow citizens, be made a permanent part of the records of the First Judicial District Court and a copy of this attempt to express this admiration and respect be sent, with the sympathy of this Committee and the Shreveport Bar Association, to his family.

Respectfully submitted this 2nd day of November, 1993.

  
Chatham H. Reed

  
William L. Murdock

  
Jack H. Kaplan, Chairman