

JOSEPH H. LEVY

On the morning of June 28, 1939, death suddenly removed a familiar figure from the ranks of the Shreveport Bar and of the citizenship of Shreveport when Joseph H. Levy passed away. Mr. Levy was born at Alexandria in 1876 and hence was 63 years of age at his death. He moved to Shreveport when a youth and ~~was~~ was identified with the City and its growth and development during practically all of his life. He attended the public schools here and later the Thatcher Military Institute, a noted boy's preparatory school of the period. He then went to New Orleans where he attended Soule Business College and fitted himself for a business career. Returning to Shreveport he took a position with the Bogart Dry Goods Store. He was never married,

His first association with the legal profession came when as a young man he was appointed Deputy Clerk of the District Court when Mr. Fred Leonard was Clerk of Court. This was in the days before the common use of typewriting and the recording was done in longhand. The beautiful and legible script of Joseph H. Levy, Deputy Clerk of Court, appears in many volumes of the Recorder's Office of Caddo Parish and it is always pleasing to the eye to come upon it. This ability of his to write beautifully, together with his undoubted attention to his duties doubtless tended to bring about his appointment to this position which he filled for many years. He held this position for about ten years and during this time he studied law, took the bar examination and was admitted to the Bar.

Upon his admission to the Bar he formed a partnership with the late E. W. Sutherlin under the firm name of Sutherlin & Levy, the only partnership that he was ever associated with.

Joe Levy was a pleasant, careful, methodical and painstaking lawyer. He would not be classed as what is sometimes called a "brilliant lawyer", but thoroughness was one of his outstanding characteristics and when a legal question or

lawsuit was presented to him he habitually made an unhurried and thorough study of all of the authorities which he could find bearing upon it. Another of the characteristics of Joe Levy was that he believed in the dignity of the legal profession and that the attorney was entitled to proper compensation for his services. Unlike too many present-day lawyers who are inclined to cut fees to get or hold business, Joe Levy rendered a distinct service to his profession in uniformly adhering to a standard of compensation that was remunerative without being exorbitant. He sometimes lost business by adhering to this standard but that it paid in the long run is shown in the inventory of his estate which discloses that he left a fortune well in excess of \$100,000.00. His insistence upon the observance of this standard is reflected in a somewhat unusual suit of Levy vs. Dehan, 8 La. App. 754, in which he successfully prevailed over two members of this committee in insisting upon the collection of a generous consultation fee for making a study and giving advice on a question in which he was later not retained and in which eventually his views were not entirely sustained by the Supreme Court as is true of the views of many of us. He had done the work, however, he felt that he was entitled to this remuneration, and the Court agreed with him that he was entitled to it.

Professionally Joe Levy was a pleasant lawyer for his fellow attorneys to deal with. Always zealous in the protection of his client's rights he was equally quiet and dignified and pleasant in doing so. Once his mind was made up upon any question it was difficult to change, but he was never offensive in trying to impose his views upon his opponents.

He had great faith in the commercial future of the City that he chose for his home and carefully purchased real estate well located and saw his faith justified through the years by its increasing value.

He was a familiar figure in the professional life of the City, always quiet and dignified and unassuming in his appearance and dress. He was so conservative that the change of the seasons could almost be marked by his change from the same type of dark clothing to the ~~invariable~~ suit of spotless white with white hat and white shoes that he invariably wore during the warmer months. He was not the "hale fellow well met" type of lawyer but he won and held friends and clients through his quiet and unassuming manner, his dignity, his thoroughness, his attention to his profession and the unflinching courtesy with which he treated those with whom he came in contact.

Joe Levy was a good man, a good lawyer and a good citizen, ~~and~~ the Bar of his City and of his State suffered a distinct loss in his death, and we, his fellow lawyers, adopt these resolutions of memory and respect.

Respectfully submitted,

*Aubrey M. Pyburn*  
Aubrey M. Pyburn

*Fred Simon*  
Fred Simon

*J. Fair Hardin*  
J. Fair Hardin, Chairman