

**FILED**

OCT 30 1989

*Elmer Denton*  
DEPUTY CLERK

IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT  
CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA

**IN MEMORIAM  
RICHARD H. SWITZER**

July 10, 1907 - December 18, 1988

We, the undersigned committee, designated by the Shreveport Bar Association with the privilege of presenting an appropriate memorial resolution on our recently departed friend, we do hereby submit the following:

On December 18, 1988, Richard H. Switzer, one of the pioneers of the defense bar in Shreveport, indeed, in the State of Louisiana, passed away following surgery to repair a broken hip. In 1979 he received a special certificate from the Louisiana State Bar Association celebrating 50 years of practicing law. He died at the age of 81 after 59 years of practice, survived by his wife of 50 years, Nell White Switzer. He is also survived by a niece, Denise Switzer Jacobsen, of Houston, Texas and a great niece.

Mr. Switzer, as he was known to most of the younger members of the Bar, or Richard, as he was known to those who can no longer claim membership in the Young Lawyers Division, was admitted to practice in 1929, having engaged in private study to qualify for the practice of law.

It is difficult to mention Mr. Switzer's name without mentioning the name of his long-time law partner, Val Irion. According to lunch-time stories on the origins of the practice of law by Irion and Switzer, it was necessary for

those two lawyers to join together as partners in 1930 during the Great Depression: Val Irion had a client and Richard Switzer had a car. Together they helped pioneer the practice of insurance defense law in Northwest Louisiana. Having hung out their shingle during the depression, they met with clients during the morning and afternoon hours, but closed their office at lunch to do their own typing until they could afford clerical assistance. Mr. Switzer had a general law practice which evolved into a heavy concentration in defending insurance companies and their insureds, as well as major corporations, involved in personal injury and commercial litigation.

Irion and Switzer had offices in the old City Bank Building, moved to the Giddens-Lane Building and later to the Slattery Building where he remained until his retirement from Lunn, Irion, Switzer, Johnson & Salley in 1984. From 1984 until his death he maintained his law office in the Lane Building with Hicks & Bookter.

His compassion for young associates and willingness to discuss what attorneys called "new approaches and theories" will be long remembered. After patiently listening to our ideas, we often heard "I had a case like that once, I even tried your theory, but the Court of Appeal flat out rejected it." He would proceed to the precise volume in the library with the case and flip to the page containing the information needed.

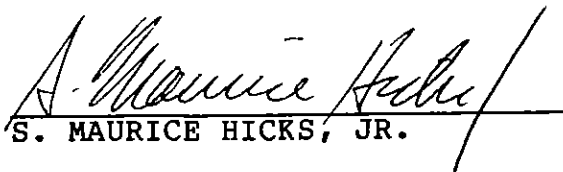
He was not comfortable with the computerization of legal research. The associate attorneys thought computerized research to be a nifty approach to cut through the puzzling maze of West Publishing Company's topical indices. When frustrated with the West indexing system, Mr. Switzer was quick to remind us of his cardinal rule of researching a topic buried obscurely somewhere in West's indices: "Start

with Railroads or Indians - those were the only two real items of any importance when West got started."

In his later years, Mr. Switzer joined the University Club and the Shreveport Club. He always enjoyed coming to the office until about 3:00 or 3:30 in the afternoon, when he would grab his hat and cane and head home. He was an avid reader of advance sheets and always quick with a story. He conducted his legal business in a friendly and dignified manner which earned him the respect of clients, fellow lawyers and judges. Many lawyers, young and old, who worked for or with Richard Switzer owe him much for their success in the legal profession.

Be it further resolved that we extend to the members of his family our sincere and heart felt sympathy in his death, and that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the First Judicial District Court as a final tribute to his outstanding service to his friends, fellow lawyers, community and state.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this memorial be delivered to the immediate members of his family.

  
S. MAURICE HICKS, JR.

  
CLAUDE W. BOOKTER, JR.

  
MICHAEL S. HUBLEY