

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR  
ROBERT GAHAGAN PUGH

Presented at the Memorial and Recognition Ceremony  
Held in the First Judicial District Court  
October 29, 2008  
Under the Auspices of the Shreveport Bar Association

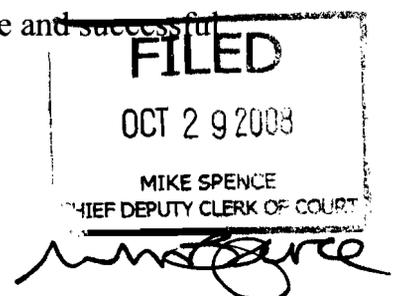
TO THE HONORABLE JUDGES OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT,  
FELLOW LAWYERS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

I rise today to mark the passing of one of the lions of our Bar, Robert Gahagan Pugh. Bob was from Shreveport his whole life, but he was not of Shreveport. His life belonged to the larger world. The challenge today is to do even passing justice to the depth and breadth of that life.

He was born here on August 25, 1924 and raised during the Depression in circumstances that gave no hint of what lay ahead. At the age of 16, while at St. John's High School on a trip to the State Capitol, he found a \$20 bill, which went unclaimed. Ever creative, he took \$11 of that twenty and bought a baton, taught himself how to twirl it, and won a Drum Major's scholarship to Centenary College. Though he rarely spoke of his military service, he took leave from Centenary to join the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II and flew over Germany as the navigator of a pathfinder aircraft, and returned to serve again with distinction during the Korean conflict.

In 1949, he received his law degree from L.S.U. Law School, beginning a legal career that spanned nearly 60 years. Soon thereafter, in 1952, he began a family life by taking as his bride Jo Ann, for a marriage that would span 55 years and produce the three children who would join him in his law firm--Robert, Jr., Jean, and Lamar. A man who can gather his family around him for support is a man who can go far. And that he did.

Bob is perhaps best known as an expert in constitutional law, both state and federal. But his practice is dotted with landmark cases in fields as diverse as election and redistricting law, antitrust, securities regulation, corporate law, sports law, successions and trusts. Those of us who practice law know how rare such a diverse and successful



and trusts. Those of us who practice law know how rare such a diverse and successful practice is. He was an adviser to Chief Justices and NFL quarterbacks alike. He was a trusted adviser to Louisiana Governors from both parties over several decades. He was elected as President of the Shreveport Bar, the Louisiana State Bar, and even the National Conference of Bar Presidents, the only Louisianan ever to hold that office. Bob was a long-time member of the American Bar Association House of Delegates, and served as Chairman of the ABA Membership Committee during a time when its membership tripled. He was a founding member of the Harry V. Booth and Henry A. Politz American Inn of Court, as well as its second President, and also the President of the Federal Fifth Circuit Bar Association.

Bob wasn't just a joiner. He saw problems and looked for solutions. While president of our local bar, he helped develop a prepaid legal services plan that became a model for the nation. As a lawyer, he helped several governors find constitutional ways to tax the valuable minerals extracted from state lands, and represented the Louisiana Department of Revenue in these matters for over thirty years securing tremendous revenues for state and local governments. He was responsible for modernizing Louisiana's juvenile code and wrote the book: "Juvenile Laws of Louisiana, Their History and Development." Bob was at the U.S. Supreme Court in 1972 when it handed down the ruling requiring defense attorneys even for misdemeanor cases, causing him to advise Gov. Edwards to create an indigent defender program. Since no good deed goes unpunished, the Governor appointed him Chairman of the new Commission on the Indigent Defense System.

Bob's ability to get things done made him a key player in civic affairs. As a delegate to Louisiana's Constitutional Convention in 1973, he had a major hand in shaping the structure of our state government. As a member of the Citizens Charter Study Committee, he helped craft the new mayor/council form of government for Shreveport. When the movement began to raise LSU-Shreveport to four-year status, Bob was

recruited to help the push succeed. He also wrote the governing documents to create the LSU Health Sciences Foundation and served continuously on its Board of Directors. As a longtime member and Chairman of the Louisiana Board of Regents, he drafted Louisiana's Master Plan for Higher Education. After Louisiana's capital punishment laws came under attack, Bob chaired the Governor's Committee for the Study of Capital Punishment to rewrite those laws in accordance with Supreme Court precedents.

In the public's eye, Bob's career is most identified with his appearances before the United States Supreme Court, often representing the State of Louisiana in high profile matters. Perhaps his most memorable argument, and one of his favorite professional experiences, was when he and one of his sons both argued different cases at the Supreme Court on the same day—a first in the history of the Court.

It is a reflection of Bob's quiet modesty that his life's work has received more notice around the state and nation than in his hometown. In 1998, he was awarded the Professionalism award for the U.S. Fifth Circuit by the American Inns of Court in a ceremony at the U.S. Supreme Court, which stated that his "life and practice display the highest character and integrity, coupled with an on-going dedication to the highest standards of the legal profession and the rule of law." The Louisiana Bar Foundation named him its 1990 Distinguished Attorney. His alma mater, the L.S.U. Law School selected him as its Distinguished Alumnus of the Year in 2003. He was named a Fellow in the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers, and has been listed in The Best Lawyers in America since its inception.

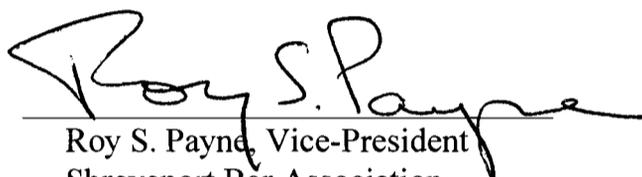
Even though Bob rubbed elbows with the most prominent judges and lawyers in the country, he always made time for family, friends, and other lawyers. He gave generously of his time and talents to countless clubs and civic organizations. He liked to say that he was home for dinner at six even when his career was at its busiest. Only Jo Ann really knows that. But even a lowly law clerk and young lawyer knows that Bob made time to be a mentor and friend to younger lawyers, buying many a lunch at the

Shreveport Club and sharing his keen insights on the practice of law and the politics of the day.

Those of us who practiced law during Bob's life will never forget him. But even those who come behind will know of his work, for Bob Pugh altered the landscape of the law of his State like few other practicing lawyers ever have. We will all miss him.

It is an honor to present this Memorial Resolution for Robert Gahagan Pugh and to move that it be made part of the permanent records of the First Judicial District Court and that copies hereof be delivered to Bob's family and forwarded to the Supreme Court of Louisiana for recordation.

THUS RESPECTFULLY DONE AND SIGNED on this 29<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2008.

  
Roy S. Payne, Vice-President  
Shreveport Bar Association