

MEMORIAL FOR

JOHN ALAN BROADWELL

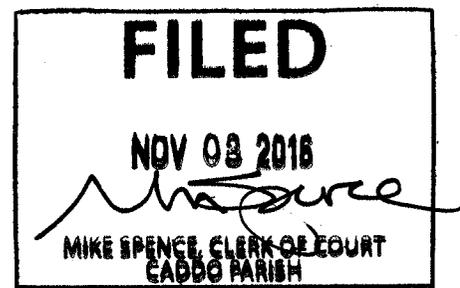
PRESENTED AT THE MEMORIAL AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY

HELD IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

NOVEMBER 3, 2016

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION

by John M. Robinson, friend



On Wednesday, September 2, 2015, at the passing of John Alan Broadwell, Diane lost a loving husband; Christopher and Heather lost a tremendous father; Hattie lost a doting grandfather; Jean lost a devoted son; I lost a trusted friend; the Body of Christ lost a dedicated disciple; and the legal community lost a true professional.

John graduated from Loyola Law School in 1983. He clerked for the Second Circuit Court of Appeal, then moved on to the Caddo Parish District Attorney's Office. In 1987, John began his career as a United States Attorney. He represented the interests of the United States and its agencies in civil litigation. His practice was exclusive to the federal courts in Shreveport, Monroe, Alexandria, Lafayette and Lake Charles. More specifically, he defended suits brought against the U.S. under the Federal Tort Claims Act, which, according to one of John's colleagues, he knew "inside and out". For several years, he was Chief of the Civil Division.

Since my relationship with John was more personal than professional, I reached out to several U.S. Attorneys who worked with John on a daily basis. John liked to do things his way. He did his own research, prepared his own pleadings, and did his own filing into files

which he kept in his office. He even answered his own telephone. He loved his work and his co-workers. Equality and justice for the people were his main goals. He would vigorously defend lawsuits where there was a valid defense, while at the same time offering fair and equitable settlement proposals in those where there was none. John tried to simplify his cases, rather than unduly complicate them. He routinely used a minimum number of formal discovery requests, and much preferred direct communication with opposing counsel.

John battled major health issues beginning with his first cancer diagnosis of Hodgkins disease in 1989 at age 32. In 1992 he received successful radiation therapy resulting in remission. Ironically, that very treatment later resulted in a rare form of lung cancer that by 2014 had metastasized into his bones. Between the cancer diagnoses, he suffered a major heart attack resulting in open heart surgery, as well as a ruptured Achilles tendon.

Amazingly, through all this, he was never away from his office for extended periods of time and managed to keep a keen sense of humor. One of his favorite pranks was to call the front desk of his own office where a student intern usually answered the phone, ask to speak to a particular attorney, and when asked "who's calling" answered Richard Nixon, Robert Mueller, J. Edgar Hoover, or the like. Invariably, the intern would put the call through as if the former president or FBI Director was actually on the line, and the recipient would be greeted by John's roaring laughter.

Even though John handled a variety of civil cases, when asked what he enjoyed most about his line of work, his immediate answer was "the inmates". These were almost exclusively "pro se" filings

alleging mistreatment by corrections officers, inhumane living conditions, and the like. Rather than immediately discounting their claims, he treated them with respect and as his equal, looked them in the eye at deposition and allowed them to fully state their case on the record. One of John's favorite "tongue-in cheek" quotes about himself came from such a "pro se" litigant who told him; "As a person, I find you as a leader to have great wisdom and a wonderful person within the human race". A bit awkward, but John truly was "a wonderful person within the human race".

As further proof of this, subsequent to his final diagnosis in March of 2014, John wrote an article for "The Last Word" segment of the August/September 2014 issue of the *Louisiana Bar Journal*. If you haven't been privileged to read the article entitled "Thank you letter to the Bar", I would urge you to do so. The letter was a recognition of and expression of gratitude to, his opposing counsel over the years. He concluded by saying, and I quote; "We should not be defined as a profession by those of whom we read in the "Discipline Reports", rather, we are defined by those who exercise grace and professionalism in the representation of their clients. So, I extend my sincere thanks to every lawyer on the other side of the caption with whom I have dealt. You unwittingly helped to shape me and enable me to grow not just as a lawyer, but as an individual. And to the envy of many, I can say that you enabled me to enjoy my profession."

John Alan Broadwell the consummate professional, to the very end.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Alan Broadwell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, circular flourish at the beginning.