

**FILED**

JOHN T. CAMPBELL MEMORIAL  
BY HIS SON-IN-LAW,  
CHIEF JUDGE C. A. MARVIN  
SECOND CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEAL

NOV 2 1993  
*Edw. Bertie*  
DEPUTY CLERK

SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION MEMORIAL SERVICE  
CADDO PARISH COURTHOUSE  
November 2, 1993

Thank you Mr. Piper. May it please the court: Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished officials, families and friends of the lawyers whom we memorialize and of the lawyers who will be introduced to the bar, and my sisters and brothers of the bench and bar:

I thank the Court and the Shreveport Bar Association for allowing this memorial honoring JOHN T. CAMPBELL, a Minden, Louisiana, attorney, not a member of the Shreveport Bar. He was my late father-in-law and my father in the law, my mentor and roll model for my 36 years at the bar. His faith, intellect, influence and example made me a better lawyer, family man, and better Christian.

The fact that the Shreveport Bar honors the memory of a Minden lawyer indicates that there was something special about John T. Campbell. He was special or unique in three areas: First is the number of clients he served and the length of time that he served them. The second area relates to his love of the law, his professionalism in his practice. The third area that made John T. Campbell special or unique is the faith and

loyalty that existed between him, his Lord, and his clients.

From his admission on July 2, 1926, until a few days before his death on August 11, 1993, a few weeks before his 90th birthday, John T. Campbell practiced law almost daily for slightly more than 67 years, almost 3,500 weeks.

Through West Law, we were able to obtain a reasonably accurate count of his appellate appearances. He first shows up in the court reports in 1930. He last showed up in an appeal, the opinion in which was not rendered until shortly after his death in 1993. In between those 63 years, he represented an appellant or appellee in over 300 reported opinions.

John T. averaged being in a trial court more once a week during his career and found the time to counsel many thousands of people. Conservatively estimated, he handled 2,000 or more cases during his career, in state and federal courts in Louisiana and other states. Although stricken with a malignancy 4 1/2 years ago, having most of his stomach removed and undergoing chemo-therapy during that period, he continued his devotion to the law, his clients and his practice.

He handled cases all over Louisiana, in Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi, South Carolina, Virginia and Pennsylvania, even during the last years of his life. His clients were as varied as his cases. He represented clients in almost every imaginable case, whether a plaintiff or a defendant: a

defendant lawyer in Hope v. Madison (a mineral rights contingent fee case); A plaintiff lawyer in Madison v. Bolton (a libel case). Another lawyer in an extortion case. A plaintiff doctor in the undisclosed principal case (Sentell v. Richardson), one or more defendant doctors in malpractice cases. He represented clients in every type case, civil and criminal, on either side of versus, bank directors, businesses, insurers, mineral law litigants, governmental agencies, family law, criminal law, financial and corporate law. He said he got more pleasure from handling bond issues as a lawyer for the City of Minden fifty years ago, than he got out of prosecuting misdemeanors.

His professionalism, devotion to a client and to the system, may be briefly illustrated in Clara Hall's case. This young lady, married to a soldier, gave birth in 1950 to her only child in the hospital at the Great Lakes Naval Station in Chicago. She was left permanently paralyzed from the waist down by a spinal bloc. Her husband thereafter divorced her, leaving her with a child to raise. She came south where she had a few relatives. John T. lost her malpractice case in the state and in the federal courts, even the Supreme Court by 1956. But capitalizing on his earlier political and professional contacts, and after a three-year effort, John T. persuaded the Congress to enact a special law to award Mrs.

Hall the munificent sum of \$12,500 in 1959.

Congress apparently did not trust lawyers for the bill provided that no more than 10 percent of the amount could be paid by her to any lawyer or agent. That did not disturb John T. Campbell. Knowing her circumstances, he charged her no fee or expenses. John T. believed Clara Hall died last year, because in 1992, for the first time in 40 years he did not receive a Christmas card or a birthday card from her. Clara Hall credited John T. Campbell with helping her to find the faith in her Lord that enabled her to live an abundant life in spite of her disabilities. She raised her child and helped raise her grandchildren.

Born November 27, 1903, John Taylor Campbell was the third of seven sons in a farm family at Castor in south Bienville Parish. Like others in Castor at the turn of the century, the wealth of the Campbells was not money, but farmland and hard-work. John T. told me he decided at a very early age to pursue an education so he would not have to look at the back end of a plow mule for the rest of his life.

And pursue an education he did, graduating as valedictorian at Castor High School at age 15 and at the top of his class at the LSU law school in 1926. A modest man, John T. did not tell me this. I learned these things from family and his friends, such as Mrs. Harriet Daggett, who was John T.'s

classmate and competitor for grades. Mrs. Daggett is known to those of my vintage as the lovable and astute Ma Daggett, the legendary LSU law professor.

John T.'s parents thought 15 was too young for college, so he worked in various jobs for a year or so and then had to withdraw from LSU after a month or so because of typhoid fever. A year later he again enrolled at LSU, still serious about pursuing a law degree. There he worked part time to find a way to feed himself and to earn his tuition. In law school he got a job with the State Auditor and about the time he graduated in 1926, he became an assistant or deputy Clerk of the House of Representatives when that body was in session. In these jobs at the old state capital, he became closely acquainted with prominent lawyers and politicians, including Huey P. Long, who was elected in 1924 to what we now call the Louisiana Public Service Commission before being elected Governor in 1928, and U.S. Senator in 1932. John T. continued to work as a deputy clerk for the house for several years after he began practicing law in Minden in 1926. He knew Overton Brooks in those days. Brooks became the Congressman who introduced Clara Hall's bill in the House of Representatives 30 years later.

I said he was a modest man, but there were two things John T. Campbell did brag about: He and other students were

paid to help make the first move from the old to the new LSU campus and to plant the grass in what we now know as Tiger Stadium, and, as a deputy clerk of the house, he helped move records and things from the old capitol to the new.

After beginning his law practice in Minden, John T. Campbell married his lovely wife, Mary Hays of Castor, in 1932. She and their daughter, Rebecca Campbell, whom I married in 1956, our four children and seven grandchildren survive him, as well as three brothers: Cecil P. Campbell and Harry M. Campbell of Minden, and Laurie G. Campbell of Bossier City, and numerous other relatives.

John T. Campbell early had the respect of his professional peers, even across state lines, and gained ranking as an A lawyer in Martindale-Hubbel. I solicited comments from those most of you would call the old-timers like retired Chief Justice Joe Sanders and prominent Shreveport lawyers including Charlie Mayer, Ben King, G.M. Bodenheimer, Jim Van Hook, Cleve Burton, Judge Tom Stagg - all younger than John T. Campbell - but who became his contemporaries. Time does not permit a full recitation, but from his contemporaries came comments such as "always knowledgeable and well-prepared . . . a formidable adversary, but a gentlemen and very accommodating . . . a role model . . . No attorney . . . had a better knowledge of the fundamentals of the law or was more capable of representing his

clients . . . John T. Campbell contributed greatly to the development of the law in our state and nation . . . his dedication to the practice of law is a worthy example for all lawyers . . . He had few equals when his glasses were pushed up on his forehead." He was known as a "tough" lawyer. He personally demonstrated his toughness, losing 3/4ths of his stomach and undergoing chemo-theraphy during the last 4 1/2 years of his life, yet still practicing law because he loved it.

John T. Campbell did not avoid representing the unpopular client on either side of versus, but wanted nothing to do with anyone whom he decided was trying to "skin" somebody. He cross-examined his clients extensively and counseled them not only about the law but about personal ethics and morals, and he said that once he reachd age 80 he could get away with counseling judges in the same way.

John T. Campbell was devoted to the law, his clients, his family and his Lord. To each in a different way he spent his life and energies. Except for his being an avid reader, a loyal Tiger and Lady Techster fan, John T.'s avocation was his vocation. He taught Sunday School in the Methodist Church in Castor before he reached age 14. He later resumed teaching Sunday School at the First United Methodist Church in Minden and faithfully served as a leader and teacher in that church for the five decades of his life.

He served his state and his profession, being a leader in the state and local bar, a member of the Board of Governors of the State Bar in the 1950's and he served as the consumer member of the Cemetery Board of Louisiana under the last two governors. He wrote and influenced legislation to cure anomalies in the law and to remedy injustices. The first lawyer in his family, John T. Campbell inspired and helped more than a half-dozen relatives by blood and marriage to become lawyers, some of whom became judges.

John T. Campbell's creed for living and practicing is set forth in a brief he wrote to the Louisiana Supreme Court in 1957 when he was representing a lawyer, James Madison of Bastrop, plaintiff in a libel suit:

[T]here is no other profession -- unless it be the ministry -- in which the practitioner is more dependent upon his reputation for whatever success he achieves than that of the lawyer. The relationship between an attorney and client is one of trust and confidence -- reliance by the client not only in the legal ability of his attorney, but above and beyond all, in his character and integrity.

He would have wanted me to say that to the young lawyers who will be introduced here today.

Longevity and case numbers, of course, are measures of a



lawyer's industry and endurance. Devotion to the law, to family and to the Lord are measures of a lawyer's faith, fidelity and character. But the added measure that made John T. Campbell a very special lawyer was the reciprocal devotion and loyalty exhibited between him and his clients for 67 years. I had one elderly gentlemen tell me in 1957, "Why John T. was my grandfather's lawyer in 1929." Some of the family clients of John T. Campbell spanned three, four and five generations.

One of the 70-year-old lawyers with whom I discussed this responsibility wrote me these remarks about John T. Campbell: "I trust that I can leave as many worthy footprints on the professional sand. If I need an advocate before my Creator, I hope the Lord will appoint John T. to plead my case. I will be well represented."

On behalf of Mrs. John T. Campbell, my wife, Becky, our children and grandchildren and John T.'s brothers, I thank the Shreveport Bar and this court for allowing this tribute to very special lawyer, John T. Campbell, and ask that this memorial be inscribed on the minutes of the court and copies thereof be presented to his family.

Respectfully,

Charles A. Marvin