

Memorial For Richard B. King, Jr.
November 3, 2011

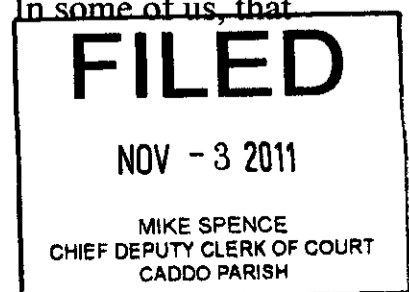
Memorial and Recognition Ceremony
First Judicial District Court
Shreveport Bar Association

Richard Barry King, Jr., was born on August 30, 1965 in Houston, Texas and passed away on April 11, 2011 at St. Luke's Hospital in Houston. He was 45 years old. Richard is survived by his wonderful wife Renee, his son Jett who he adored, his father, brother, and a loving family.

Richard was always proud to acknowledge that he was a graduate of Ringgold High School. He went on to receive his bachelors degree from Northwestern and his law degree at LSU in 1990. He was a partner in the law firm of Lunn, Irion, Salley, Carlisle and Gardner.

The week after he passed away, there was a very moving service at Grace Community Church to celebrate Richard's life and to honor his family. In preparing for this memorial, I realized I could never speak so eloquently in reflecting on Richard's life. So I would like to spend just a few minutes today talking with you about how his choice of vocations affected those of us who had the opportunity to practice law with him.

When Richard came to Shreveport, he was already a seasoned lawyer. He had the experience that affords you a certain comfort level with your clients, with other attorneys, and in the courtroom. He knew the ropes. In some of us, that



confidence may have fostered an air of condescension or arrogance. But not Richard. He was cut from a different cloth.

I was already on the bench when Richard started practicing here. I remember how I was struck by the fact that he would appear in court on the full spectrum of cases: civil and criminal; district court, federal court and city court. Something only a few of our peers can do effectively. Richard never missed a detail. But more importantly, he accomplished something that the system sometimes fails to do in its goal to move cases; he treated each of those clients kindly, patiently, and afforded them dignity during their day in court where they could tell their story.

I have always said that there are three common threads found in every good lawyer. And Richard had all three.

First, his goal was to get to the truth, even if it hurt his case, and to be prepared for anything. Richard instinctively knew that the common denominator to convince any judge or jury was the sense that the lawyers weren't hiding anything. He disregarded the patrician advice to never ask a question you don't know the answer to, realizing that the whole story had to be told. If the answer didn't help his case, he just made the best of it. He once told me that if you don't ask the tough question first, the other side will. Then it looks twice as bad.

Second, he was respectful. Whether it was another lawyer, the judge, a witness, even strangers, he was genuinely nice to everyone. Both in court and out of court. The first thing you noticed when he walked up to you was that he was always smiling. His laugh was infectious and his first words, no matter what may

have been going on in his own life, were always to ask how you were doing.

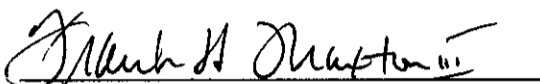
When I go to seminars, it seems the speakers always have a tough time defining what professionalism really means. Well, Richard King was that definition. And because of that, he had our trust and our confidence. I think that's why lawyers were always glad when he was on the other side, and even happier when he was on theirs.

And finally, Richard had a finely tuned internal compass. The line for him between right and wrong was always bright. He never avoided what might seem to the rest of us as a losing battle, if it was the right thing to do. By the same token, when the facts were bad for his side, he told you up front. In our world of mistrust and misleading polarizing issues that are constantly spun, that degree of candor is incredibly rare. But for Richard, it came so naturally and it was the only way he knew how to be.

Richard King was a role model for all of us as lawyers. Not just in the sense of intellect, or preparation, or work ethic. And not only in how he treated others. But in the best sense of all. He was a descent, kind man who loved his family and loved life. His compass kept him on the right course. If that can be said of each of us at the end of our lives, we will have lived life well. Richard left this life too early. But it was not the number of days he spent here, it was what he did with the time he had.

I ask that this memorial be inscribed in the permanent records of the First Judicial District Court in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and that copies be presented to his family.

Submitted with respect on this 3rd day of November, 2011 in Shreveport, Louisiana.


Frank H. Thaxton, III