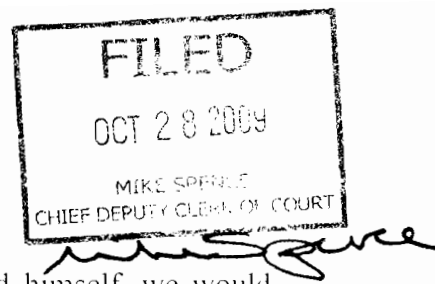


**EULOGY**  
**ROLAND ACHEE**



If all lawyers conducted themselves like Roland Achee conducted himself, we would have no need for ethics and professionalism courses. Roland practiced law for fifty years in this community. His devotion to academic excellence, rigorous ethical standards, and unfailing decency and civility to all was universally recognized.

Roland was born on December 12, 1922, graduated from Jesuit High School in 1939, and Centenary College in 1944. He was Editor of the school newspaper at Centenary and was elected to Who's Who in American Colleges in 1943 and 1944.

After graduating from Centenary, Roland went to Mid Shipman School at Notre Dame. He served his country in World War II in the U. S. Navy as Lt. JG and was in the Battle of Okinawa and the invasion of Luzon.

After the war, Roland attended LSU Law School where he was Editor of the LSU Law Review. Roland graduated LSU Law in 1949 and then began private practice.

Roland served on the Committee for Professional Responsibility for ten years. Roland, with his long-time partner, Harry Nelson, was awarded the SBA Professionalism Award.

Roland served with distinction as an Assistant City Attorney for thirty years. He was devoted to this work and saved the taxpayers of this City countless times with his brilliant and tenacious defense of the City.

Roland was a master trial lawyer. With Roland, cross-examination was an art form and a thing of beauty. Anyone who saw Roland in court never forgot that experience. He was tenacious but never offensive, superbly prepared but never haughty. He brought to his work technical and academic brilliance combined with genuine humility and a sense of humor. As an advocate, if you lost a case to Roland, you never felt animosity for him because he was never mean spirited and you knew you had faced one of the best lawyers you would ever face.

But with all of that, the essence of this man was his fundamental decency, humility and sense of honor. Near the end of his career, Roland came to the aid of a friend and colleague who was involved in a contentious litigation that Roland feared would consume his friend personally and professionally. Essentially forswearing his other practice, Roland worked relentlessly night and day for several years on this case. It was a testament to Roland's devotion to his colleague

and tells you all that you ever need to know about Roland Achee. It was in my lifetime the most Christian act I ever observed.

Roland was eclectic in his interests. He had a lifelong passion for the English language. He studied English grammar texts at night and insisted that lawyers use the language correctly. He loved the language of the law and had a particular fondness for the writings of Justice Benjamin Cardozo and Brian Garner, Editor of the Black's Law Dictionary and author of so many excellent works on proper English usage.

Roland acquired and maintained the largest collection of Shreveport postcards ever assembled. He traveled to postcard shows all over this country to find a single Shreveport postcard. In this, Roland's love of history was manifested. Those cards tell you as much about the history of this community as any historical text ever written about it.

He played tennis in high school before it was popular for men to do so. He walked stairs long before Stairmasters or personal trainers. When we had offices in the Beck Building, Roland walked twenty flights of stairs three times every morning before 7:00 a.m. He fondly told me the story of a gentleman in his eighties whom Roland would meet on the stairwell every day. One day the gentleman asked Roland if he intended to walk forever and Roland said no, that his knees were hurting. Roland said you know, the knees are the first thing to go. The older gentleman gently corrected Roland - well, not the first thing.

He loved Sir Winston Churchill and the language of Churchill. He greatly admired Adlai Stevenson for the same reason. Roland became emotional when he read Stevenson's magnificent eulogy for Winston Churchill.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife of 54 years, Jean, his daughter Marie Mayo, his grandson, Christopher Mayfield, and great-grandchildren, Jaydin Mayfield and Christopher Joseph Mayfield, his brother, Benjamin, and wife, Ida, and his sister, Mary A. Fortier. He was the finest of men. All of us who knew him were blessed. We simply cannot afford to lose men like Roland. I pray that his life and work will inspire those of us left in this demanding, maddening, and rewarding profession to so conduct ourselves that we make Roland proud. He deserves no less. Thank you.

Dale G. Cox  
October 22, 2009