

FILED

IN MEMORIAM

WILLIAM MASTERS GREENE

SEP 16 1968

*W. C. Price*  
Deputy Clerk

HONORABLE JUDGES OF THIS COURT; MR. PRESIDENT;  
MEMBERS OF THE BAR; LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

Some weeks ago the undersigned were asked to prepare a memorial to William Masters Greene. At first, words and expressions came easily; today the vocabulary seems inadequate to express our sincere thoughts.

William Masters Greene was often called "Mr. Bill" by his friends, his clients, and us, his brothers of the Bar. To his highest honor, those of us who knew him best unanimously agree that his legal ability was respected not only by his clients but by the Bar itself.

William Greene was born in Lake Charles, Louisiana, on July 2, 1907, and he died in this City on October 23, 1967. He was survived by his widow, Linnie Ewing Greene; a son, William M. Greene, III; a daughter, Carolyn Greene; his mother, Mrs. Henrietta Berlin Greene; and a sister, Henrietta Greene Essary, all residents of the City of Shreveport.

William Greene was reared during his adolescent years in Alabama and attended the University of Alabama, from which he obtained his under-graduate degree. Thereafter, he enrolled in Louisiana State University Law School and was a classmate of his long time friends, Judge Henry F. Turner, and Dean Paul Hebert of the L. S. U. Law School. William Greene was admitted to the Louisiana Bar and entered the practice of law in 1930. He was first associated with the firm of Foster, Hall and Smith of Shreveport. Shortly he moved to Longview, Texas, and continued

his study of law with various legal firms of that City. In 1932 William Greene was admitted to the Texas Bar and continued his practice at Longview and Atlanta, Texas, until he returned to Shreveport in the fall of 1937. Here he remained in active practice until his death.

He often recalled the "boom days" of the Homer-Haynesville Oil Field, the East Texas Field, and especially the Hawkins Field, and I have heard him say, on occasions, that in those few years he practiced a lifetime of law between the derrick floor of an oil rig and the Parish or County Courthouse. From this training and experience, Bill Greene became a student of the law; one highly skilled in the art of applying the legal theory to the client's business. No one denies that he learned and learned well; he personally felt that his success as a lawyer, in part, was due to the fact that he rendered service and that his work was of paramount importance. The practice of law was not only his profession, but also his hobby. His capacity for work was unlimited.

William Greene was a sensitive, sympathetic and understanding man. He did not disclose his personal feelings readily, but was always concerned with the problems of those who requested his assistance; he endeavored to ascertain the truth of any dispute; he demanded fair play from all, including that of his client with the opposing side; his advice was sound.

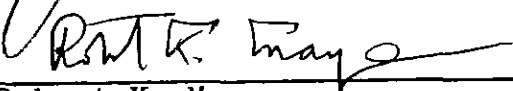
Furthermore, William Greene was a most generous, kind, gentle, and certainly a wise man. It was once said: "Of all men, the lawyer has the best opportunity of being a good man." There can be no doubt that William Greene made the best of that opportunity. We are sorrowful indeed for our ranks have lost an illustrious member, and to his widow and children and the many, who, with us, mourn his loss, we extend our deepest sympathy.

Our final tribute is that our deceased brother was inherently a good man and we are personally grateful for the privilege of having known this lawyer and this man.

We do now submit to this Honorable Court the above, in the discharge of a duty for which we are sorrowful, but pleased to perform.

BY THE COMMITTEE:

  
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James E. Ayres

  
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Robert K. Mayo

  
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Herschel M. Downs