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IN MEMORIAM

JOHN FOLK CASSIBRY

July 30, 1950 - December 1, 1987

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT:

These October ceremonies of the Shreveport Bar Association are always bittersweet events. On the one hand, we welcome to our ranks a fresh group of enthusiastic, young, talented lawyers who are just beginning their legal careers. On the other hand, we remember those members of the bar who have died during the previous year.

It is especially bitter for us today as we recall the loss of John Folk Cassibry.

John was only 38 years old when he died. He was born on July 30, 1950, in Ruston, Louisiana, to Reginald E. Cassibry, Sr., and Mary Elizabeth Folk Cassibry. John's father died when John was 5 years old. John's mother taught in the Lincoln Parish School System and only recently retired.

John was educated in Ruston and attended Ruston High School where he excelled as an athlete, scholar, and student leader. He was elected president of his student body and was honored as an all district basketball player. John graduated from Ruston High School in 1968. During that summer, John was one of the star players of the Ruston American Legion Baseball Team which finished as state runner-ups.

Upon graduation from Ruston High School, John attended Louisiana Tech on a baseball scholarship. While at Tech, he was the starting second baseman on the baseball team and was named to the Southland Conference All Star Team in 1972. He made the All Conference Baseball Team twice and helped Louisiana Tech reach the NCAA tournament once.

He graduated from Louisiana Tech in 1972 with honors. He was named Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities and was the recipient of the 1973 Southland Conference Scholarship for Post Graduate Studies which is awarded to an outstanding student athlete.

John married Virginia Cole of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in August of 1971. The summer before John began law school at LSU, he was offered the opportunity to play in the rookie league for a farm team in the Kansas City Royals organization. John Cassibry jumped at the chance and spent that brief summer of 1972 playing professional baseball in little towns in Tennessee.

One did not have to know John very long before one had heard about his glory days and about his growing up in Ruston with Bert Jones and Andy Hamilton. But what might have been boasting or self-conceit in someone else was never so with John. He enjoyed being teased about his past accomplishments almost as much as he enjoyed talking about them.

John excelled in law school where his academic achievements continued and where he earned a position as a staff writer for the Louisiana Law Review. During his first year of law school, his daughter Kimberly was born.

Upon graduation from law school, John accepted a position with the prestigious Houston law firm of Vinson & Elkins. While at Vinson & Elkins, John focused his practice in the labor law field. John quickly realized, however, that Houston was not the place he wanted to raise his children and that the successful practice of law with Vinson & Elkins would require more time away from his family than he was willing to give.

Accordingly, John and his family returned to Shreveport where he joined Cook, Clark, Egan, Yancey & King in 1977.

Again, John's talents were quickly recognized and in 1979 John was made a partner in the firm of Cook, Yancey, King & Galloway. John was always proud of his achievements and success

John would begin preparing for the LSU football season in July by subscribing to the Morning Advocate. Later in the fall, John would enlist other lawyers in the firm to subscribe to the Sunday Morning Advocate for the duration of the football season. These papers, naturally, were kept in John's office which became the reading room where the game of the previous week was replayed countless times.

If his enthusiasm for football could be characterized as a "vice", John certainly had no other vices. He was a member of the Broadmoor Baptist Church in Shreveport and a devoted family man. Despite all of his academic, athletic and professional achievements, John's first and greatest love was his family--his wife, Ginger; his daughter, Kimberly; and his son, John. Doing things together as a family took precedence for John over anything else in his life. He took great pride in his children and their accomplishments. He was careful not to push them too much and wanted them to find their own place and way in life. John was devoted to Ginger. Her devotion to him and the strength of their marriage was evident to even the most casual observer, never more so than during the time of John's illness.

John was diagnosed with cancer in 1982. After his surgery in 1982, John and his family drew even closer together. John continued his work at the law firm and took no small amount of comfort from this work. John had competed successfully on the playing field, in school and in his work, all his life, and we believe he looked at his battle with cancer as simply another competition in which he would prevail. John was hopeful and optimistic almost to the end. He was not bitter or despondent about his condition and never displayed any self-pity. John was the epitome of a "good man". He was never known to say or do a mean-spirited thing. We shall all miss him.

John is survived by his wife, Virginia Cole Cassibry; his daughter, Kimberly Brook Cassibry; his son, John Folk

with the Cook, Yancey firm and in addition to being able to practice the kind of law he desired, he was able to meet and make good friends.

John continued to specialize in the area of labor law. At that time, local businesses with labor relations problems often went to New Orleans or Dallas for legal help in the misplaced belief that there were no lawyers in Shreveport who could handle their problems. The very able and competent work John Cassibry performed in this esoteric area of the law did much to change that perception in the business community at large.

In addition to bringing a labor law expertise to the firm, his personal attributes endeared him to those with whom he worked and lived. His integrity and sincerity were immediately recognized by the firm, and very shortly, John was placed in charge of recruitment of associate attorneys. Recruiting was one of the rare times John practiced labor law from the employee's side. In the competition with other firms for the best new legal talent, John always pushed for better starting salaries with better benefits. Every summer, John shamelessly wined and dined the law clerks. Several of the younger lawyers in this courtroom, both with Cook, Yancey and from other firms, received the benefit of John's mothering while clerking. Whether they ultimately went to work for Cook, Yancey as associates or not, they can all attest to his care and concern for them. Part of the strength of Cook, Yancey, King & Galloway lies in its younger members, and it is due in no small measure to John Cassibry's efforts. These younger lawyers are John's legacy to his firm which will be felt and remembered for many years.

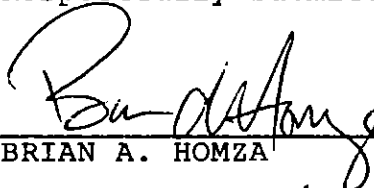
John Cassibry's trips to Baton Rouge for recruiting, however, were not just limited to interviewing law students. To say that John enjoyed LSU football would be a gross understatement. The day John became the owner of four season tickets to Tiger Stadium was a personal milestone for him.

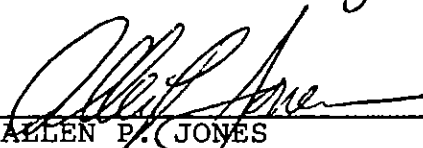
Cassibry, Jr.; his mother, Mary Elizabeth Cassibry, and his brother, Reginald Cassibry. To them we extend our deepest sympathy.

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Shreveport Bar Association, do extend our deepest sympathy to Ginger Cassibry, Kimberly Cassibry, and John Cassibry, Jr., to John's mother Mary Cassibry and to John's brother Reginald Cassibry for their loss;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the First Judicial District Court as a tribute to the memory of John Folk Cassibry and as evidence of the affection and respect the members of the bar had for him.

Respectfully submitted,


BRIAN A. HOMZA


ALLEN P. JONES


FRANK M. DODSON

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE