

RESOLUTION OF THE ALLEN COUNTY BAR  
ASSOCIATION IN MEMORY OF HOWARD L. TOWNSEND

WHEREAS, Howard L. Townsend, a member of this, the Allen County Bar Association, died March 20th, 1950, at the age of seventy-nine (79) years;

AND, WHEREAS, the Memorial Committee of the Allen County Bar Association find and say as follows:

Mr. Townsend was born on a farm near Eaton, Ohio. He graduated from the Angola, Indiana High School and Bethany College in West Virginia where he received an A.B. degree.

He taught Greek, Latin and mathematics at Tri-State College in Angola. Thence he went to Chicago and studied at the Chicago Kent College of Law from which he received an LL.B. degree.

For awhile he practised law in Chicago. In 1904 he came to Fort Wayne. In his profession he became associated with several well known members of this Bar. His first partnership here was with Newton W. Gilbert who became vice-governor of the Philippine Islands, and with Sol A. Wood, who later was Judge of this Circuit Court where we meet today in honor of the memory of Judge Townsend.

Later on he was associated in the practice of law with Elmer Leonard and Wilmer Leonard, Albert E. Thomas, Judge Olds, formerly of the Indiana Supreme Court, and in recent years with Judges Hilgemann and Logan.

From 1917 to 1923 Judge Townsend was a member of the Supreme Court of Indiana. He succeeded Richard Erwin of Fort Wayne who had died. He was elected to a full six year term.

After this judgeship Judge Townsend resumed the practice of law in Fort Wayne.

This renowned member of this Bar was the quintessence of intellectuality, not only in the field of law, but in the field of life. He exemplified the rightful concept of the lawyer as one well versed in other subjects. He continued to teach himself the classics of literature. He was an astute student of Shakespeare. His favorite poet was Burns. He loved Mark Twain.

One of his favorite poems was "The Last Leaf" by Oliver Wendell Holmes. A verse therefrom is:

"They say that in his prime,  
Ere the pruning knife of time  
cut him down,  
Not a better man was found  
By the Crier on his round  
Through the town."

At the age of almost four score, Judge Townsend, like the last leaf on the tree, was strong and in his intellectual prime.

Judge Townsend wrote some classics himself. We refer to his opinions as Judge of the State Supreme Court.

His opinions were sharp, thorough, concise, concerned with the essentialities of the case, the merits. They are masterpieces in clarity and pointedness of expression. His erudition was transcribed into his decisions.

He was a profound thinker. He took his thinking straight unimpeded by emotionalism. With him competence was an obsession. He displayed impatience with laxity and intellectual laziness. One should find the law one's self and not ascertain it by parasitical means, was a practised precept.

Judge Townsend was rather complete unto himself. He was self-reliant and fully self confident. Even so, he had the means wherewith to fashion accomplishment.

He carried efficiency to the details of life. Everything, not just books, not just law, had to be thoroughly understood, in the minutest details.

This persistent thoroughness in life and in the profession of the law brought him great success in both.

The force of his precepts and examples in the profession have been, are, and shall be helpful means to the betterment of the members of this Bar.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, that we deeply regret the passing of the Judge Howard L. Townsend, and extend our sympathy to the widow, Blanche, and the relatives throughout their bereavement.

MEMBERS OF ALLEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

BY

*O. P. Parson*

Chairman

*William H. Schuman*  
Judge, Allen Circuit Court

*Edward W. Keyes*  
Judge, Superior Court of Allen County

*Geo. W. Leonard*  
Judge, Allen Superior Court No. 2

*L. B. Harper*  
Members of Committee

## IN MEMORIAM

It is with regret that the members of the Huntington County Bar Association learn of the sudden passing of Judge Howard L. Townsend, widely known Fort Wayne attorney and former Judge of the Indiana Supreme Court.

On many occasions, Judge Townsend has appeared in our court and many of our local attorneys have had legal contacts with him here and elsewhere.

The career of Judge Townsend is an outstanding example of a young man starting out in life with an aim to achieve something for himself in a constant struggle and devotion to the ideals which he sought.

Born on a farm near Eaton, Ohio in December, 1870, he attended school there and later graduated from the Angola, Indiana High School; and continuing his studies, received the A.B. degree from Bethany College in West Virginia. He later taught mathematics and classical languages at Tri State College at Angola, and then took up the study of law and received his LL.B. degree from the Chicago-Kent College of Law. After practicing a short time in Chicago, he came to Fort Wayne in 1904 and entered the practice. From the time he began his career in the City of Fort Wayne, he established himself as an outstanding member of the profession; and during his active career to the time of his passing, he was associated in partnership with several of the leading and outstanding attorneys of this section. He was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court of Indiana, and was later elected and served for a period of six years, from 1917 to 1923, after which he resumed his local practice.

Judge Townsend was an ardent advocate in all matters in which he appeared, and unyielding in his determination as to the rights of his clients. Yet at all times, he strove to maintain the dignity of the profession. Aside from his duties as a lawyer and as a jurist, Judge Townsend was congenial and a person well met. He had convictions on most subjects and respect for the opinions of others.

In the passing of Judge Townsend, the Allen County Bar has lost an outstanding and distinguished member; and the legal profession generally likewise feels the loss. He has left his imprint in his community and the affairs of life.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Huntington County Bar Association and its members extend our regret to the Allen County Bar and the public generally because of his passing and that we extend to his wife our deepest sympathy.

Be it further resolved that a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the records of the Huntington Circuit Court and that a copy also be sent to the Allen County Bar Association and to the family.

Respectfully submitted,

Claude L. King

Herbert B. Spencer.

Sumner Kenner

Committee,

Huntington County Bar Association.