

*Memorial Resolution of the  
Allen County Bar Association*

*Ralph R. Blume*

We are here to pay our respects to the memory of our deceased colleague and friend, Ralph R. Blume, known by all as “Doc”, who passed away on June 20, 2008, at the age of 78.

Doc was a long time Fort Wayne resident and attorney. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ralph J. and Geraldine Blume, his sister, Sr. Geraldine “Betty” Blume, and his beloved wife of 46 years, Susanne Blume. He is survived by his sister, Judy Byrnes of Warwick, R.I.; six children, Liz Blume of Cincinnati, Ohio, Dan Blume of Inman, S.C., John Blume of Wilmington, N.C., Mike Blume, Steve Blume and Sara Dressler, all of Fort Wayne, and eight grandchildren, Jonathan, Brian, Sophia, William, Rachel, Paige, Isaac and James. He was a loving husband, and a kind and proud father and grandfather.

Doc graduated from Central Catholic High School in 1948. He received his undergraduate and law degrees from Notre Dame, graduating *Summa Cum Laude* from Notre Dame School of Law in 1957.

The origin of Doc’s nickname may still be a mystery to some. His father was an optometrist with an office downtown who was also known as “Doc” Blume and the nickname passed down to his son. Therefore, there had been a “Doc” Blume in downtown Fort Wayne for close to 100 years. This however, is only part of the story. Doc’s 7<sup>th</sup> grade football coach at St. Jude’s recognized that Doc was no Peyton Manning and designated him to be the team trainer or doctor in charge of leading the team’s warm up exercises. Either way, Doc said he did not mind the nickname because it was easy to spell and it was better than “Shorty”.

In November, 1957, Doc was admitted to the Indiana Bar and began practicing law in Fort Wayne, joining the firm of Neiter & Smith at the same time as Don Wyneken. Doc and Don set out on their own a few years later to form the firm of Blume, Wyneken and Bullman which is now known as Blume, Connelly, Jordan, Stuckey and Lauer. During that time, many attorneys came and went but

the team of Doc Blume and Don Wyneken stayed together for 35 years and as Don Wyneken will tell you, in all of those years, they never had an argument. Doc practiced law for more than 50 years in Fort Wayne, during which he always treated people with kindness and respect. Many people in the legal community can probably recall having a disagreement with Doc, but no one can recall him being disagreeable.

During the more than 50 years that he practiced law in Fort Wayne, Doc was a general practice lawyer, handling a myriad of cases. In the 90s he became well known in Fort Wayne as an “annexation foe” for his representation of the neighborhoods of St. Joseph Township and Pine Valley in their fight against the inevitable annexation of their homes into the City of Fort Wayne. Doc’s knowledge in this area was gained from his experience as an associate city attorney in the early 1970s when he was on the other side of the fence. While the annexation eventually came to fruition, Doc’s clients were satisfied that they had bought a little time and had some break from paying city property taxes.

Doc Blume was recognized by his peers as a skillful legal writer, and he handled numerous appeals. His legal briefs were outstanding and the many lawyers who practiced with him could rely on him as a guide and mentor in legal research and writing.

Doc was not a flamboyant showman in court who would pontificate for a jury. Rather he was dignified and well prepared, appreciating the legal research and writing component of the practice of law. This is not to say that Doc did not have a sense of humor. Many still recall his tenure on the Gridiron Committee and his duet with Judge Levine, “To All The Girls I’ve Loved Before.” Through the Gridiron, Doc was able to share with the Bar Association his great voice and his greater willingness to play any role assigned to him.

Fortunately, Doc’s gift as an accomplished singer was not limited to Willie Nelson cover songs at annual Bar Association events. In college, he was a member of the distinguished Notre Dame Glee Club. Doc also served as a Cantor for the St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, and was a member of its choir for over 40 years.

Doc will be best remembered for his kindness and ability to remain unfazed while in the midst of a situation others would consider to be a time for angst. On one rare occasion at a firm partnership meeting when things became heated, one partner asked Doc what he thought about the situation. Doc replied, “I just want to

hang around long enough to see how it all turns out.” We are all so grateful that Doc was able to “hang around” for so long making such a contribution to our legal community. His sense of humor and his legal skills will be sorely missed.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Allen County Bar Association gives public expression of sorrow upon this, the occasion of the remembrance of the life of Ralph R. Blume.

Be it further, resolved, that this Resolution be unanimously adopted by those present at this assembly upon this occasion; and

Be it further, resolved, that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted by the Office of the Allen County Bar Association to the members of the Blume family; and

Be it further, resolved, that this Resolution be spread of record in the permanent records of the federal and state courts of Allen County, Indiana, to evidence the respect and admiration of the members of the Bench and Bar for their departed friend, Ralph R. Blume.

Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2008.

THE ALLEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

By: Thomas A. Hardin  
Thomas A. Hardin, President

By: Stanley A. Levine  
The Honorable Stanley A. Levine  
Judge, Allen Superior Court