

Memorial Resolution
of the
Allen County Bar Association
The Honorable Vern E. Sheldon

We are here to pay our respects to the memory of our deceased colleague and friend, The Honorable Vern E. Sheldon, who passed away on July 29, 2007.

Judge Sheldon was a Fort Wayne native, having attended the Fort Wayne Community Schools and graduating from Central High School in 1949. During high school, he was both an outstanding student and a nationally recognized high school speaker. He graduated with an A.B. Cum Laude, from Franklin College in 1953, and with a Juris Doctor Degree with Distinction from Indiana University, Bloomington, in 1956. While at law school, he both published articles and served as Editor-in-Chief of the Indiana Law Journal. Following graduation from law school, he associated himself with the distinguished Lafayette firm of Stuart, Devol, Branigin & Ricks, continuing there until he was called into the military. While in the Army he graduated from the Judge Advocate General Schools and was commissioned as 1st Lieutenant in the Judge Advocate General Corps of the United States Army in 1957. He served with distinction as Post Judge Advocate of the Pine Bluff Arsenal Troop from 1957 until 1960. Upon completion of his military duties he associated himself, and soon became a partner with, what is now the firm of Rothberg Logan & Warsco LLP. He continued there for a period of 25 years, distinguishing himself as an outstanding trial lawyer, well known, popular, and much sought after legal advisor specializing, both in litigation and municipal law. He served both as an Associate City Attorney and as Attorney for the Fort Wayne-Allen County Airport Authority.

In 1985, he was appointed by the Governor of the State of Indiana as a Judge in the Allen Superior Court where he continued to serve with distinction until his retirement on December 31, 1998. During his judicial service, he served as Chief Judge from 1989 through 1991, and was primarily assigned the responsibility of supervising trials of complex and delicate legal issues. Judge Sheldon was highly regarded by all of his colleagues as an outstanding Judge, totally dedicated to his judicial responsibilities, always cordial and thoughtful to the lawyers appearing before him, to witnesses, and to the many jurors over whom he exercised responsibilities.

His professional affiliations included the Indiana Judicial College; Indiana Judicial Conference (Judicial Administration Committee, 1992 to 1996); Probate Committee, 1997 to 1998; Allen County Bar Association (President, 1984 to 1985); Indiana State Bar Association (House of Delegates, 1983 to 1988) Secretary, Board of Managers, 1987 to 1988; Benjamin Harrison American Inn of Court (President 1994 to 1995); Indiana Judges Association; and American Bar Association. Since 1992, he was in Marquis' Who's Who in American Law. Following his retirement from the Allen Superior Court, he was appointed a Sagamore of the Wabash by Governor Frank O'Bannon. Just prior to his death, he was personally asked by Indiana Attorney General Steve Carter to serve on the Board of Directors of the Schwab Foundation. He accepted and was elected to the Board on June 26, 2007. Judge Sheldon was

active in innumerable local civic organizations, including the Fort Wayne Quest Club, the Fort Wayne Country Club, 33 Degree Mason Member of Maumee Lodge #725; Scottish Rite, Commander-in-Chief, Fort Wayne Consistory, 1975-1977; Trustee of Scottish Rite, Fort Wayne Valley, 1982-1994; Mizpah Shrine; York Rite; Royal Order of Scotland; Member Royal Order of Jesters, Red Cross of Constantine and the 33 Degree Association, (President, 1982-1983); Trustee, Franklin College, 1971-1974; Alumni Council, Franklin College, 1961-1971; Past-President, Evening Sertoma Club; Past President, Fort Wayne Forum Club; Fort Wayne Rotary Club (Board of Directors 1981-1984, 1985-1987), President Samaritan Pastoral Counseling Center, 1984; Associated Churches Foundation, Director 1983-1984.

Judge Sheldon was a lifetime member of the First Presbyterian Church. Since 1973 he served the church as an Elder, was Clerk of Session from 1973 to 1979, served on the Board of Trustees from 1982 to 1988, serving as President in 1985, and continued to serve the church on the West Berry Foundation until the time of his death.

Judge Sheldon is survived by his wife of over 50 years, Mary "Libby" Sheldon, two daughters, Nancy Porter and Susan Stavretis; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

He shall always be remembered as a kind, generous and thoughtful man who led a life which was truly a credit to his family, his profession, his church and to this honorable court.

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 and death of The Honorable Vern E. Sheldon; and

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 Sheldon family; and

Be it further, resolved, that this Resolution be spread of record in the permanent records of the Courts of Allen County, Indiana, to evidence the respect and admiration of the members of the Bench and Bar for their departed friend, The Honorable Vern E. Sheldon.

Dated this 12th day of October, 2007.

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