

Professor Harry Cohen

Long-time University of Alabama School of Law Professor Harry Cohen, age 80, died October 7, 2007 at Hospice of West Alabama, in Tuscaloosa.

Survivors include his wife of 57 years, Doris Klein Cohen of Tuscaloosa, and Alabama State Bar members Nettie Cohen Blume (daughter) and Gary L. Blume (son-in-law), three other children and eight grandchildren.

Mr. Cohen was born in New Orleans on April 5, 1927. After the death of his mother, Harry and his brothers spent their formative years living in the Jewish Children's Home in New Orleans. He excelled in athletics, playing on an American Legion baseball team that was a perennial Southern power, advancing to the World Series in South Dakota. He entered active duty with the Coast Guard at 17 years of age.

Upon graduation from high school, it is interesting to note that his social worker at the Jewish Children's Home wrote in her discharge report that Harry was clearly not college material and suggested that he begin an apprenticeship in an appropriate trade. Nevertheless, Mr. Cohen received his B.A. (1949) and L.L.B. (salutatorian 1951) from Tulane University. In law school he was book review editor of the *Tulane Law Review* and a member of Phi Delta Phi Legal Fraternity and was elected to Order of the Coif. Following a year of graduate study at the Yale Law School, he practiced law in New Orleans for two years. At that time, he found his life's work when he accepted a position as a law professor at the University of Alabama School of Law.

Professor Cohen was a member of the law faculty for 37 years, holding the Marc Ray Clement Professor of Law Chair and receiving the Sydney Algernon Distinguished Professor Award. He authored two books, *Alabama Mortgage Law* and *Legal Ethics in Alabama*, as well as countless articles for legal journals published throughout the United States and England. He founded *The Journal of the Legal Profession*, the first legal periodical devoted solely to the issue of ethics and the legal profession.

During his tenure, Professor Cohen was both revered and feared by legions of law students as "Hatchet Harry" because of his passion for the law, demanding excellence from his students in the process of training them to "think like lawyers." His mastery of the Socratic method of instruction prepared his students for the demands of law practice and litigation (or led them to seek alternative careers). He mentored many students throughout their law school education, assisting them in obtaining employment upon graduation. Professor Cohen was often sought out by former students for counsel and guidance years after their graduation, particularly in the areas of oil and gas law and ethics.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Temple Emanu-El Building Fund, P. O. Box 3066, Tuscaloosa 35403 or Hospice of West Alabama, 3851 Loop Road, Tuscaloosa 35404.



PROFESSOR HARRY COHEN

GEORGE MACDONALD
GALLION

George MacDonald Gallion

George MacDonald Gallion ("Mac" to his friends) died August 11, 2007 at 94. He was a member of that greatest generation to whom duty was second nature. His Alabama roots go back into the 1700s when his family settled in what is now Marengo County and founded the community of Gallion. From there, his family moved to Birmingham where he grew to adulthood.

The son of Dr. Thomas T. Gallion and Varina George Gallion, he attended the University of Alabama where he was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. Upon graduation from college and law school there, he entered the private practice of law in Birmingham.

Upon the outbreak of World War II, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, rising to the rank of first lieutenant. He was wounded in action against the Japanese on Saipan in 1945 and was awarded the Purple Heart.

Returning to civilian life, he became an assistant attorney general for a short time before re-entering private practice, this time in Montgomery; when the Phenix City crisis broke out in 1954 with the murder of Attorney General-elect Albert Patterson, he was recalled to state service as special counsel to Gov. Gordon Persons for both the investigations and prosecutions of the guilty parties.

In those days, constitutional officers could not succeed themselves. Hence, it was only natural that upon the completion of Attorney General John Patterson's term in 1958, Mac, as chief assistant attorney general, should be elected. He maintained a peerless record as the state's top lawyer. He led the successful litigation against loan sharks and in establishing Alabama's off-shore oil and gas rights.



Upon the expiration of his first term as attorney general in January 1963, he re-entered private practice with Nicholas S. Hare, Sr., now of Monroeville. In 1966, when he became eligible for a second term as attorney general, he was overwhelmingly re-elected.

He served for two years as chairman of the National Association of Attorneys General. He also assisted in the formation of the state District Attorneys Association.

Upon the expiration of his second term as attorney general in January 1967, he returned to private practice for the final time and continued as such until his retirement.

Mac was a former associate editor of *The Alabama Lawyer*, and a member of the Alabama State Bar, the Montgomery County Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the American Judicature Society, and many other legal organizations.

He served for many years as a member of the Board of Directors of the Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Company of Omaha. He was a member of the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Executive Board of the Boy Scouts, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Alabama Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association, Exchange Club, Montgomery Country Club, and various other organizations.

His wife, Velma B. Gallion, predeceased him. He is survived by his son, Thomas T. Gallion, III, and his daughter, Mallory Gallion Bear, six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Mac was a Southern gentleman of the old school. He was a friend of many. He was my friend. "He was a man, take him for all in all, I shall not look upon his like again." *Hamlet, Act I, Sc. 2, Line 187*

—Judge W. Mark Anderson, III, Montgomery