



Patricia Yeager Fuhrmeister

Patricia Yeager Fuhrmeister, a member of the Shelby County Bar Association for more than 27 years, died February 9, 2008. She graduated from Auburn University in 1977 and received her law degree from the University of Alabama School of Law in 1980.

Fuhrmeister practiced law in Shelby County from 1980 until 1994, when she was elected the first female probate judge in that county. She served with honor, dignity and integrity in that capacity from 1994 until 2008.

Fuhrmeister served as president of the Shelby County Bar Association, as chair of the Committee on Continuing Education of the Alabama Probate Judges' Association and as chair of the Alabama Electronic Voting Committee.

She is survived by her husband, James, and her two sons, Chris and Will.

—Lara L. McCauley, president, Shelby County Bar Association

PATRICIA YEAGER
FUHRMEISTER

ALVIN F. HARRIS, SR.

WINDELL CLIFTON OWENS

Alvin F. Harris, Sr.

Alvin F. Harris, Sr., a member of the Mobile Bar Association, died January 15, 2008.

Alvin Harris was born September 23, 1945 in Monroe County, but later moved to Mobile County, where he was a resident for more than 30 years. Before entering the practice of law, he was a bank vice president in Shorter and then served as Birmingham's Director of Housing.

Harris went to the University of South Alabama and received a bachelor's degree. After graduation, he attended Jones Law School and began his practice September 10, 1993 in Saraland with Johnny M. Lane. His law practice consisted of criminal law and domestic law. Harris also served as the municipal judge of Mt. Vernon.

He practiced law with Lane & Harris until his death.

Harris was member of three Mardi Gras organizations, the Mobile Botanical Gardens and other organizations. He also enjoyed bird hunting and fishing. He was active in several animal rights groups and gardening clubs, as a result of his love of animals and gardening.

Alvin F. Harris, Sr. is survived by his wife, Edna Harris; his children, Jennifer Nikolov, Al Harris, Jr., Jessica Moree and George Harris; his grandchildren, Harris, Kamden, Konnor, Parker, and Mary Lois; his sister, Alyce Snow; and other family members. He had a gentleness of heart and was respected by all who knew him. He was a wonderful husband, an incredible father and a trusted friend to all, who is truly missed.

—Ian Gaston, president, Mobile Bar Association

Windell Clifton Owens



On February 20, 2008, the Alabama State Bar and the legal community lost highly respected, longtime member Windell Clifton Owens of Monroeville.

Windell practiced law in the southern part of the state and maintained his office in Monroeville for 60 years, having just recently retired from practice August 2007, at the age of 85.

Although a successful businessman and local politician, the practice of law was Windell's greatest passion, particularly criminal law. With the reputation as an excellent trial attorney throughout the region, he was best known for his participation in many criminal cases before the bar.

In the early 1940s, Windell attended the University of Alabama and was a Golden Gloves boxer for the university, participating in many well-known bouts of the time. Like many men of the "Greatest Generation," World War II interrupted his education. In 1943 he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Air Force, serving as a bombardier aboard a B-17 Liberator.

Following the war, Windell returned to the university and received his bachelor's degree and later his juris doctorate degree from the University of Alabama School of Law, where he was a Farrah Law Society member.

On a local level, Windell served as a city councilman and later as mayor of Monroeville (1968-1972), during one of city's most prosperous periods. He also served as Monroe County attorney and as an assistant attorney general for four state administrations, and on the state Democratic Executive Committee and the Alabama State Bar. He served as commander of the Monroe County National Guard Unit stationed in Monroeville for many years, until

his retirement from the armed services. From a business prospective, Windell was a founding partner of Crown Investment Corporation, one of the largest nursing home entities in the state, the First Citizen's Bank of Monroeville and several other local business ventures. However, it was his love of the law for which he is best known.

Equally at home in and out of the courtroom, Windell served as a mentor to two generations of aspiring young lawyers in the 35th Judicial Circuit, some of whom were associates or partners of his law firm during a period spanning 60 years. Before the new Monroe County Courthouse was built in the 1970s, he tried many of his cases in the old county courthouse, now a museum and where the trial scene in the 1961 movie "To Kill a Mocking Bird" was filmed. Known by many who had made his acquaintance at various local bar functions and around the Monroe and Conecuh County courthouses, he was described as a master storyteller and to possess a uniqueness of character and presence unlike any other. Windell attended law school with the former Alabama Supreme Court Justice and late United States Senator Howell Heflin and when the Senator visited Monroeville, locals noted that he always visited Windell's law office, located just across the street from the courthouse.

Windell was a country gentleman who loved a good cigar, hunting, fishing, golf, an occasional poker game, and the device members of the Monroe-Conecuh County Bar Association affectionately refer to as the "sand box." He was a friend and counselor to many and a champion for his fellow citizens seeking equal access to the law.

He is survived by wife Elaine Owens; two daughters, Lynn Franklin of Dothan and Denise Mounger of Vicksburg; and two sons, George Owens of Monroeville and Windell Richard Owens of Birmingham.

-Windell Richard Owens

Black, Robert Coleman

Montgomery
Admitted: 1961
Died: March 24, 2008

Dickinson, William Louis

Montgomery
Admitted: 1950
Died: April 1, 2008

Graffeo, Nick John, Jr.

Birmingham
Admitted: 1964
Died: March 7, 2008

Gustin, Patrick I.

Jasper
Admitted: 1976
Died: March 19, 2008

McConnell, John William, Jr.

Memphis
Admitted: 1984
Died: January 29, 2008

Mendelsohn, James Alan

Birmingham
Admitted: 1988
Died: February 19, 2008

Pointer, Sam Clyde, Jr., Hon.

Birmingham
Admitted: 1957
Died: March 15, 2008

Robinson, Joel Patrick, Jr.

Jasper
Admitted: 1954
Died: April 16, 2008