



## William Brevard Hand

The Honorable William Brevard Hand, senior judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Alabama, died in Mobile September 6, 2008 at the age of 84.

Judge Hand was a native of Mobile and attended Murphy High School and the University of Alabama. His education was interrupted by service in Northern Europe where he defended his country as a combat infantry rifleman from the period of the Battle of the Bulge through VE Day, and for his bravery he was awarded the Bronze Star. After additional service with the Occupation Army, he completed law school at the University of Alabama. He entered the practice of law in June 1949 with the firm of Hand, Arendall & Bedsole. He was appointed to the federal bench by President Richard Nixon in 1971.



Judge Hand was a lifetime member of Dauphin Way Methodist Church and served in all lay capacities for which he was recognized as an honorary member of the administrative board and a lifetime steward of the church.

Judge Hand served as chief judge of the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Alabama, from 1981 to 1989, when he became a senior judge. He continued to carry a full caseload for many years. His years of service to the court were marked not just by his devotion to the rule of law and core Constitutional principles, but to establishing a standard of leadership and collegiality that were the benchmarks for the judges, the Clerk's Office and the Probation and Pretrial Services offices. He served for many years as a member of the Alabama State Bar, the Mobile Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association and the Inns of Court. Among his many and well-deserved honors, he was awarded the John Paul, II Religious Freedom Award in 1988 and with an honorary "Doctor of Laws" degree from Mobile College in 1990. He was named by the Rotary Club as a Paul Harris Fellow and the Mobile Bar Association honored him with the Liberty Bell Award.

Judge Hand was preceded in death by his wife, Allison Denby Hand, in April 2008. He is survived by his children, Jane Hand Dukes of Mobile, Virginia Hand Hollis of Germantown and Allison Hand Peebles of Mobile, and seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

*—Ian Gaston, president, Mobile Bar Association*

**WILLIAM BREVARD HAND**

**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN  
STOKES, III**

**GEORGE PEACH TAYLOR**

## Benjamin Franklin Stokes, III



Benjamin Franklin Stokes, III, a member of the Mobile Bar Association, died July 11, 2008 in Mobile.

Ben Stokes was born in Mobile but raised in Brewton, where he graduated from T.R. Miller High School. He received his bachelor's degree from Birmingham Southern College and his law degree from the University of Alabama. He entered the United States Army in 1955 as a JAG officer and served in that capacity until being discharged in 1958, at which time he began a career of over 50 years in the practice of law in Mobile. He continued to practice until June 2008.

Ben Stokes was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives as a Democrat in 1970 and served one term. All his life he was very proud of his membership in the Democratic Party.

As a member of the house, he never failed to take a clear stand on issues. At one time, the most powerful member of the house was presenting a bill which authorized payment of state funds to a private educational institution, an issue with which Mr. Stokes strenuously disagreed. In spite of his most determined arguments, the bill passed but Ben Stokes never regretted taking a clear and strong position on issues of principle.

He also was particularly quick on his feet in the courtroom. While testifying for a fellow lawyer regarding that plaintiff lawyer's fee, the out-of-town attorney representing the defendant on cross-examination posed the following question to Mr. Stokes: Mr. Stokes, what is your rating in Martindale-Hubbell?" In a microsecond, Ben Stokes shot back with, "I don't know what my rating is in Martindale-Hubbell, but I got a triple A rating at the bank." The response drew an audible chuckle from the judge and the rest of the courtroom. The cross-examination terminated instantly.

Mr. Stokes is survived by his wife, Alice Boles Stokes of Mobile; his children, Elizabeth Terry, Charlotte Eslava, Jennifer Glover and Benjamin Franklin Stokes, IV, all of Mobile; Suzanne Chenoweth and Jacqueline Pierce, both of Birmingham; Steven M. Stokes of Chicago; two step-children, Howard O. Bolton of Mobile and Christopher O. Bolton of Chicago; and 14 grandchildren.

Ben Stokes was a participant in numerous civic affairs and a longtime and dedicated member of Trinity Episcopal Church.

—lan Gaston, president, Mobile Bar Association

## George Peach Taylor



The very definition of service to others, our father, George Peach Taylor, died December 10, 2008 in Tuscaloosa at the age of 83. His wife of 59 years, Mary Leta Taylor, predeceased him by three months. He is survived by the authors—his four children—and seven grandchildren.

Our father served our country's military in the Navy, including the V-12 program at Howard College; Scouts and Raiders, Ft. Pierce, Florida (the precursor to the Navy Seals); Advanced Naval Intelligence School, New York City; and Operations Officer, Philippine Sea Frontier, Manila.

He entered Birmingham Southern College on a Phi Beta Kappa scholarship, won numerous athletic and academic awards there and graduated in 1948 with both AB and BS degrees. He completed his legal education at the University of Alabama School of Law, earning his LLB degree in 1951 with honors.

He was the very first law clerk to the Alabama Supreme Court, serving for Chief Justice J. Ed Livingston from 1951-1952. In 1952 he joined the Birmingham law firm that became known as Dominick, Fletcher, Taylor & Yeilding. He was active in legal, political, civic, social, and religious work. He served as president of the Young Men's Business Club, and chairman of the Homewood YMCA. He was a plaintiff and co-counsel in *Reynolds v. Sims*, 374 U.S. 802 (1963), landmark reapportionment litigation that helped established the principle "one man-one vote." He was president of both the Birmingham and Alabama Young Lawyers' sections, and was an ASB Bar Commissioner.

Inspired by John and Robert Kennedy, he left a comfortable lifestyle and law partnership in 1965 as he, our mother and the four of us (age six to 12) joined the Peace Corps. For over five years he served as director of the Peace Corps in two different countries, Sierra Leone, Africa and Guyana, South America, with a stint as chief of the West Africa Division of the Peace Corps (Washington, D.C.) between the two.

Sensing another need for service, he opted not to return to his practice in Birmingham after leaving the Peace Corps, but instead went to Mississippi to become chief counsel for the Mississippi Office of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights under Law. In Mississippi he

handled criminal and civil rights cases including landmark cases such as *Connor v. Johnson*, 402 U.S. 690 (1971), 404 U.S. 549 (1972) (reapportionment); *Gates v. Collier*, 501 F.2d 1291 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1974) (Mississippi prison system); *Zimmer v. McKeithen*, 485 F.2d 1297 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1973) (reapportionment litigation in Louisiana); and numerous county redistricting and jury discrimination cases. He also was co-counsel for plaintiffs in *Burton v. Waller*, 502 F.2d 1261 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1974), the civil suit for damages arising out of the shootings of students and by-standers by law enforcement at Jackson State College in 1970.

He joined the faculty of the University of Alabama School of Law in 1973, served as dean of admissions for many years and retired as professor emeritus of law in 1989. He renewed and vastly expanded the trial advocacy program, teaching many current litigators how to try a case. In 1974, federal Judge Frank Johnson appointed him counsel for an indigent prisoner in the Alabama prison system. After trial, Judge Johnson issued one of the most comprehensive decrees in the history of prison reform suits, declaring the Alabama prison system unconstitutional. The case was consolidated with others and reported on appeal as *Newman v. Alabama*, 559 F.2d 283 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1977), *cert. denied*, 438 U.S. 915 (1978). Judge Johnson also appointed our father to two committees established during litigation over Alabama's mental health institutions, serving as chairman of the Committee on Sterilization Review and member of the Extraordinary Treatment Committee. During his tenure at the law school, he sought and received appointments as

attorney for indigents, appealing convictions to the Fifth and Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, and involved students in preparing briefs and attending oral arguments. Feeling the itch to get back into the courtroom, he took a one-year sabbatical from the law school and became an assistant district attorney for Tuscaloosa County.

In 1989, he retired from the law school after 16 years to serve for four years as chief public defender for Tuscaloosa County, after which he fully retired.

In 2001, his years of service to the country and the legal profession were recognized when he was given the American Bar Association's John Minor Wisdom Award for Service to Civil Rights and the Legal Profession. He was also awarded the Order of the Samaritan by the University of Alabama School of Law.

Our father was the consummate lawyer, whose service to others, often not popular and often at personal sacrifice, is likely not to be equaled by many. He will be sorely missed by his children and grandchildren, his friends and the many lawyers whom he admitted to the law school, mentored while there, taught how to try a case in court, and in whose successes after graduation he rejoiced. His life serves as an example and, indeed, a challenge, not only to the legal community but to our entire society.

—Dr. George Peach Taylor, Jr., Northrop Grumman Corporation, Alexandria, Virginia; Ann English Taylor, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile; Jarred O. Taylor II, Maynard, Cooper & Gale, PC, Birmingham; and David K. Taylor, Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, Nashville

**Bates, John Burdette**

Birmingham  
Admitted: 1963  
Died: November 30, 2008

**Burkett, Morris**

**Anderson**  
Montgomery  
Admitted: 1941  
Died: January 3, 2009

**Dominick, Frank**

**McCoy Jr.**  
Birmingham  
Admitted: 1948  
Died: November 14, 2008

**Kendrick, Leonard  
Gilbert**

Montgomery  
Admitted: 1971  
Died: November 22, 2008

**Lipscomb, Hudson  
Powell III**

Bessemer  
Admitted: 1952  
Died: July 1, 2008

**McCall, Winston Bush**

Birmingham  
Admitted: 1934  
Died: December 12, 2008

**Rainey, Howard Clay III**

Tuscaloosa  
Admitted: 1969  
Died: September 9, 2008

**Roemer, Albert Lewis**

Montgomery  
Admitted: 1938  
Died: December 27, 2008

**Roseberry, Robert  
Clarence**

Greensboro  
Admitted: 1981  
Died: April 5, 2008

**Stanard, Chandler Kite**

Spanish Fort  
Admitted: 1971  
Died: November 2, 2008