

Marion Howard Haygood

Marion Howard Haygood was born in Greenville, Alabama on May 31, 1914 and died in Birmingham on April 21, 2009. Throughout his nearly 95 years, he was a model of faith, integrity and principle who was devoted to his family and friends. He loved the practice of law, often referring to himself as “just a country lawyer,” and was a credit to the legal profession and a hero and role model to many. He is sorely missed.



Howard lived most of his life in Greenville. He was a graduate of Butler County High School and Bob Jones College and was graduated from the University of Alabama School of Law in 1938. After law school, due to the hard economic times, he took a job on a surveying crew as the only member with a high school diploma. That job ultimately led to his becoming the manager of the newly-formed Wiregrass Rural Electrification Cooperative in Hartford during the ground-breaking times of bringing electricity to the rural areas of America. While working there, he met and married Katharine Liddon Smith of Dothan. After Pearl Harbor, he volunteered for the U.S. Navy and achieved the rank of lieutenant. He served in the Atlantic and Pacific theatres, the Mediterranean and North Africa, and was at sea for most of the war. During his time in the Navy, one of his fellow officers from Vermont, himself a practicing lawyer, urged Howard to practice law; and at least partly based on that urging, after the war, he and his wife moved to Greenville where he opened a law practice. He practiced there for over 50 years, well into his 80s. For many years he was judge of the Inferior Court, a position which included being juvenile judge. When the Alabama court system was revamped, he decided not to continue as a judge because it would have meant giving up the law practice he loved. He was also a longtime chairman of the Butler County Democratic Committee and president of the Greenville/Butler County Bar Association. In the late 1950s, he served on the Alabama State Democratic Executive Committee and was instrumental in having the symbol of segregation removed from the ballots used in the state.

He was deeply involved in the communities in which he lived. In Greenville, he was active in the affairs of the First United Methodist Church, serving as chairman of the Official Board and the Pastoral Relations Committee, superintendent of the Sunday School and teacher of many Sunday School classes. He was a member of the Rotary Club, serving in several positions, including president, Gideon's International and a founding director and counsel for The Greenville Bank. In recent years, he resided in Birmingham at Galleria Woods Retirement Community where he continued to be active, serving on the residents' advisory board, attending Bible studies and church services, and, in general, keeping up on current events. In 2008,

**MARION HOWARD
HAYGOOD**

MATTHEW LEE HUFFAKER

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based on his longtime involvement, first as manager of Wiregrass Cooperative and later as counsel for Pioneer Cooperative, he was honored with a Pathfinder award by the Alabama Rural Electric Association of Cooperatives. Among the things he loved were reading, especially history, hearing and telling a good story, the color red, sweets, and the Crimson Tide.

He is survived by two daughters, Marion Haygood Threadcraft of Birmingham and Katharine Hamilton Haygood of Falls Church, Virginia; three grandchildren, Joshua Howard Threadcraft of Birmingham, John Caleb Threadcraft of Fort Campbell, Kentucky and Anna Threadcraft Leiper of Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada; and two great-grandchildren, Lynley Freeman Threadcraft and Kathryn Law Threadcraft of Birmingham. Following his example, his daughter, Kathy, and his grandson, Joshua, became attorneys and are members of the Alabama State Bar.

—Calvin Poole III, Greenville

Matthew Lee Huffaker

Lee Huffaker, age 33, a man of extraordinary talent, wit and breadth of interest, passed away unexpectedly and tragically on August 16, 2009.

Despite his quiet nature and palpable humility, Lee was a renaissance man.

He was a lawyer's lawyer—a patent attorney, a skillful litigator, an intellectual property expert, a corporate lawyer, and a committed pro bono practitioner. In fact, Lee's legal accomplishments in the course of his short eight-year career were truly exceptional. Lee had successfully litigated multi-million dollar copyright, trade secret and patent cases. In 2005, he won a \$27 million jury verdict in a trade secrets case, one of the largest verdicts ever obtained in Jefferson County and one of the top 100 verdicts nationwide for the year. Lee was a member of the United States Patent and Trademark Office Bar and, at the time of his passing, was spearheading the effort to rewrite and modernize Alabama's state trademark act. He had been recognized by the Alabama State Bar in April 2006 for his outstanding



work through the Birmingham Volunteer Lawyers Program. In one of many examples, Lee took on the cause of an indigent prisoner sentenced to life without parole, obtaining a reduced sentence and, eventually, parole. Similar to Atticus Finch, Lee was paid by a gift membership in the Cake-of-the-Month Club, all his client's family was able to afford.

Lee's scope of interests and breadth of expertise on matters outside the law were equally remarkable. He was an expert in computers, televisions, antique cameras, vintage watches, cars, clothes, home-remodeling, fountain pens, Italian road-racing bikes, power tools, grass seeds, grills, E-Bay, and Internet discount coupons just for starters. Lee's expertise was widely accepted and renowned by all who came in contact with him. Lee took great pleasure in responding in comprehensive detail to continual inquiries on all of these subjects from his family, friends and law partners. Lee never wavered in making time for any friend or acquaintance in need of help or information, and he met all situations with a quiet chuckle, a twinkle in his eye and a good measure of ironic humor.

Raised in Montgomery, Lee was graduated from the Montgomery Academy and then from Vanderbilt University, *cum laude*, with a degree in chemical engineering. He received his J.D. from the University of Alabama School of Law in 2001, graduating *magna cum laude*, receiving the Dean M. Leigh Harrison Award, serving on the *Alabama Law Review* and being inducted into the Order of the Coif.

Lee leaves behind a devoted wife, Caroline; two children, Ann Katherine, three, and Matthew Lee, Jr., one; his parents, Robert and Kitty; and his brother, Austin.

Lee was fascinating, brilliant and loving. Lee was unique and special. Above all, though, he was a kind and gentle soul. He will be greatly missed.

—Thomas W. Thagard, III, Birmingham

Nina Miglionico

Nina Miglionico passed away May 6, 2009 at the age of 95. She had been a lawyer for 73 years and practiced law longer than any woman in the history of Alabama. Besides the sermon at her funeral mass, two eulogies

were delivered in her honor. One was on Miss Nina—The Public Servant. The other had as its theme Miss Nina—The Lawyer and was delivered by her law partner of 35 years, Sam Rumore. The following is that address from her funeral.



I want to briefly tell you some things about “Miss Nina”—the lawyer. Her career in the law covers 73 years and parts of eight different decades. It is a record that she is the longest practicing woman lawyer in the history of the state of Alabama. What was it like when she began? Let’s go back to 1936. Our country was still in the depths of the Depression. There had never been many women lawyers in Alabama up until that time. The University (of Alabama) Law School Class of 1936 had a bumper crop—five women in a class of approximately 80. Miss Nina estimated that there may have been 25 women lawyers admitted to practice before her admission, but the records are not clear. At any rate, the supreme court was not accustomed to granting law licenses to women. For those of you who have seen Miss Nina’s law license, and a copy of it is in the Birmingham city archives at the library, she would point with pride to the pronouns on the pre-printed license. The word “he” was physically scratched out and the word “she” was written in. And the word “him” was crossed out and replaced by the penciled-in word “her.” In reviewing my own law license, the court in later years had removed all gender specific pronouns. But, in 1936, the women licensees received certificates with neatly crossed-out and replaced pronouns. That was the situation when Miss Nina became a lawyer.

What about job opportunities? Miss Nina was short, young (22 years old), Italian, Catholic, and she had a pronunciation-challenged last name which is still mispronounced today. The only job she was offered was one as a secretary for \$15 per week if she could type and take shorthand. She refused the offer and started her own practice.

What did she do? Her practice consisted of criminal cases, divorces, title searches, deeds, wills, taxes, probate, and all manner of other services that people needed to be done. She lived at home with her parents. She taught piano to make extra money. She was frugal. She often stated that she was Scotch-Italian. But she developed a loyal following and a reputation for honesty,

competence, tenacity, compassion, and fearlessness. When she would go to the jail to interview a criminal client her mother would say, “Nina, a lady doesn’t go to the jailhouse.” And Miss Nina would answer, “Mother, I’m not a lady, I’m a lawyer.” Well, I am here to tell you that she was wrong. She was a lady, a very dignified lady, and she proved to be a very good lawyer.

Miss Nina had practiced law 36 years before I met her in 1972. I had just finished my first year of law school. She had a successful practice. She had been the president of the National Association of Women Lawyers. She had served in the American Bar Association House of Delegates. She had already been elected to the Birmingham City Council three times. But I had the boldness to ask her for a summer clerkship. She agreed and we began our association in the law that extended for the next 37 years.

In my first year of practice, she told me to sign up for all of the appointment lists—criminal court, probate court, state court, federal court, all of them. Within six months of becoming a lawyer I was appointed to handle a murder case. That was in 1975. It doesn’t happen that way today. There are minimum standards for experience now before you receive such an appointment. Anyway, I asked her what I should do. She said to take a week off and sit in criminal court. Watch the lawyers. Talk to them. Take notes. You can do it. And I did. Her advice gave me confidence, but the experience taught me that I did not want to do criminal law.

In those early days together I would sit in on client consultations. I attended court sessions with her. He probably does not remember this, but the first time I met Mayor Langford was when he was Miss Nina’s client. And I remember when the case was over, he hugged her in court. Miss Nina and I discussed cases and prepared cases together. I can’t help but think that having a young lawyer around kept up her interest in the law and contributed to her great record of 73 years of service. So the lesson here is that older lawyers should associate with younger lawyers. It can be a mutually beneficial relationship. It certainly was for me.

One of the most enjoyable pastimes for Miss Nina was her weekly barbecue lunches with the boys. For more than 35 years we would go on Tuesdays for a barbecue lunch at Ollie’s Barbecue, and later at Carlile’s, Costa’s or Golden Rule. In fact, in honor of Miss Nina, my wife, Pat, and I went to Carlile’s yesterday and sat at

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our booth—a booth that had Miss Nina’s photo with our lawyer gang in it overlooking the table. It was certainly fortuitous to find that booth open. We saw a number of lawyer friends there, as we always did, and we commenced telling Miss Nina stories. She loved the barbecue and the conversations on politics, legal issues, books and whatever problem the city was facing that day. The reason we went out for barbecue on Tuesdays was because that was the day that the City Council met. She always said that she needed to meet with her lawyer friends to get her sanity back. I know that we helped her.

I was proud to be associated with Miss Nina over the years as she gained her well-deserved recognitions. Her alma mater, the University of Alabama, named her as one of the 31 top women graduates during the first 100 years of co-education at that school. The law school alumni association gave her its award of the year. The Alabama State Bar’s Women’s Section bestowed on her the Maud McLure Kelly award named in honor of the first woman lawyer in Alabama. And she was most proud to have received the Margaret Brent Award from the American Bar Association. This award was named for the first woman lawyer in America, dating back to the 1600s, and it honors the five outstanding women lawyers in the country for a particular year.

Miss Nina was also a role model and mentor to younger lawyers, both men and women. The Birmingham Bar’s Women’s Section named its annual award the Nina Miglionico Paving the Way Award. It honors a lawyer who helped pave the way for women in the profession. The recipients to date have included Federal Judge Inge Johnson, attorneys Ann Huckstep and Ed Elliott and Professor Pam Bucy. Miss Nina was most appreciative of this recognition. The Birmingham Bar also gave her its Burton Barnes Community Service Award. Her recognitions and achievements in the legal profession were many.

Up until the year 2009 the Alabama State Bar has never had a woman president. I was so happy that Miss Nina lived long enough to see that a woman—Alyce Manley Spruell—was selected as president-elect designate of our state bar in March. Miss Nina knew her mother and, of course, her father, Rick Manley. She was

most pleased that this barrier to women in the law in Alabama was finally broken.

There is only one honor that the Alabama State Bar bestows on its members posthumously. That is induction into the Alabama Lawyers’ Hall of Fame. The philosophy behind that policy is that the jury is still out until a lawyer reaches the pearly gates. Miss Nina has now been welcomed by St. Peter. For many years she has been qualified for the Hall of Fame, she was just not eligible. I know of no lawyer who deserves this recognition more than Miss Nina. I hope that when the two-year period passes before a lawyer can be considered, she will receive this last great honor from the peers of her profession.

In conclusion, Miss Nina, we loved you in life. We will miss you now. But your memory as a public servant, dedicated citizen and, yes, great lawyer will live on. Be sure to save us some barbecue in heaven. Until then, we say goodbye.

—Samuel A. Rumore, Birmingham

Maury Drane Smith

The Alabama State Bar and the legal community lost one of their most able and respected members, Maury Drane Smith, on May 24, 2009. A member of the Alabama Law Institute, a member of the original advisory committee on the *Alabama Criminal Code*, a fellow of the Alabama Law Foundation, an original member of the Hugh Maddox Chapter of the American Inns of Court, and a past president of the Montgomery County Bar Association, Maury served his profession—and served it well—throughout his 57-year legal career. In addition to serving in these professional roles, Maury served as a mentor to many young lawyers and as an advisor to the judiciary and the state bar on issues important to the bench and bar, including monitoring judicial campaign ethics compliance as chairman of the Judicial Oversight Committee and enhancing professionalism among lawyers.

Maury was born in Samson on February 2, 1927, one of six children of Abb Jackson Smith and Rose Drane



Sellers Smith. He attended Auburn University, and after military service during World War II, entered his beloved University of Alabama, where he earned B.S. and L.L.B. degrees and was an active member of Sigma Nu Fraternity. He later served the University of Alabama as a member of its board of trustees.

Upon graduation from law school in 1952, Maury joined the Alabama Attorney General's Office. In 1954, he participated in the investigation of the murder of Attorney General candidate Albert Patterson. In 1955, Maury served as a part-time assistant district attorney for Montgomery County District Attorney William Thetford, and entered private practice in Montgomery with the late Senator Joe Goodwyn. Subsequently, the firm became Smith, Bowman, Thagard, Crook & Culpepper, which, in 1983, merged with what is now known as Balch & Bingham LLP. Maury worked with Balch & Bingham LLP until his death.

Maury was a gifted trial lawyer. He was known for his enthusiasm, positive attitude and great trial instincts. Lawyers who tried cases with him will recall the numerous occasions on which, when confronted with challenging evidence presented by opposing counsel, he stuck out his jaw and dared jurors not to believe the evidence that he had presented in support of his client. His confidence was contagious and often convinced jurors that his client was in the right. Maury was recognized for his achievements as a trial lawyer by the American College

of Trial Lawyers, which named him a fellow in 1977.

Maury also contributed significantly to his state and to his community. Governors, mayors and top business executives frequently sought his counsel. As Montgomery Mayor Todd Strange observed, "[Maury] was involved in most everything good about Montgomery for so many years." Maury served as chairman of the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Montgomery Committee of 100, president of the Board of Directors of the Alabama Heritage Foundation and a member of the Board of Directors of the Alabama Department of Archives and History. In addition, he served his church, First United Methodist in Montgomery, in many leadership positions.

Above all, Maury was devoted to his family. He and his wife, Cile, the former Lucile Martin of Clayton, raised three wonderful children: Martha Vandervoort, who lives in Anniston with her husband, Kenneth, and their two sons, Kenneth and William; Sally Legg, who lives in Birmingham with her husband, Will, and their two daughters, Martha and Elizabeth; and Dr. Maury Drane Smith, Jr., who lives with his wife, Adele, and their daughter, Cecile, and son, Maury, III, in Randolph, Vermont.

Maury will be greatly missed, by his family, friends, law partners, colleagues, clients, and many people who never knew him but who have been the beneficiaries of his years of service.

—Sterling G. Culpepper, Jr., Montgomery

Amos, Mary Riseling

Birmingham
Admitted: 1990
Died: May 24, 2009

Blackburn, John Gilmer

Auburn
Admitted: 1954
Died: May 31, 2009

Colvin, Serena B.

Jasper
Admitted: 1950
Died: June 7, 2009

De Laney, Christopher Columbus, Jr.

Mobile
Admitted: 1948
Died: June 8, 2009

Huffaker, Matthew Lee

Birmingham
Admitted: 2001
Died: August 16, 2009

Jones, A. Gary

Dothan
Admitted: 1996
Died: April 24, 2009

Marks, Alex Andrews

Montgomery
Admitted: 1935
Died: June 9, 2009

McCoy, Albert Lee

Alabaster
Admitted: 1997
Died: May 11, 2009

Morgan, Charles, Jr.

Destin, FL
Admitted: 1955
Died: January 9, 2009

Seale, James Hezekiah, III

Greensboro
Admitted: 1982
Died: June 21, 2009

Southerland, Henry deLeon, Jr.

Birmingham
Admitted: 1949
Died: April 26, 2009