

Memorial Resolution Of The Bar Association Of The Seventh
Federal Circuit At Its Annual Meeting, May 13, 1985.

CHIEF JUDGE J. WALDO ACKERMAN

Chief Judge J. Waldo Ackerman of the United States
District Court for the Central District of Illinois was born on
New Years day, 1926 in Jacksonville, Florida. He grew up in
Springfield, Illinois, was a graduate of Cathedral Boys High
School and attended Northwestern University during 1945 and '46
where he was in the Navy officer training program. He subse-
quently received his undergraduate and Juris Doctor degrees from
Marquette University, was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1949
and practiced law in Springfield, where, in 1952, he married
Doris Ann Bivin. Shortly thereafter, he was called back to duty
as a naval intelligence officer during the Korean War. He
returned to Springfield in 1954, and in the years following he
and Mrs. Ackerman became the happy parents of James Waldo III,
Ann Francis and Philip William.

Soon after his return from service, he became first
Assistant State's Attorney for Sangamon County. In 1956, he was

elected State's Attorney for Sangamon County which he remained until 1960 when he returned to the general practice of law. He was promptly appointed Corporation Counsel for the City of Springfield and in 1962 he was appointed Chief Deputy Illinois State Treasurer, which office he held until 1964. He was named Chief Deputy Illinois Attorney General in 1968 and occupied a principal role in the investigation and prosecution of the derelictions of the then State Auditor and of the Secretary of State of Illinois.

In 1971 he was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to a vacancy on the Illinois Circuit Court for the Seventh Judicial Circuit comprising six central Illinois counties, including Springfield. Judge Ackerman was elected thereafter to that judgeship until, in 1976, President Gerald Ford nominated him to the United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois. He became Chief Judge for the Central District in 1982.

Judge Ackerman had the unusual distinction for a lawyer of serving as an Adjunct Professor of Medical Humanities on the faculty of the School of Medicine of Southern Illinois University. As such, he taught medical students through lectures and moot trials directed toward achieving better understanding and relationships between the medical profession, the legal profession and the public. In this connection, he also co-authored an article entitled Termination of Medical Treatment: A Judicial Perspective published in the Journal of Legal Medicine, Vol. 3, No. 2, June, 1982.

Not only did Judge Ackerman find time for teaching medical students, but also he was active as a lecturer and teacher of trial practice, trial technique and advocacy. For many years he served as a teacher of newly appointed Assistant United States Attorneys and other new government lawyers at the Trial Advocacy Institute which the United States Department of Justice conducted in Washington. He served likewise as an instructor for the United States Federal Judicial Center on the

trial of civil cases before juries. Recognizing his particular expertise, Chief Justice Warren E. Burger appointed Judge Ackerman in 1981 to a four year term as a member of the Judicial Conference Committee on the Operation of the Jury System. It is also noteworthy that during his service on the state bench, Judge Ackerman was a very active member of the Illinois Supreme Court's Committee which developed the Illinois Pattern Jury Instructions for Criminal Cases. These instructions now are required for use in all Illinois criminal trials and have dramatically diminished the reversals for jury instruction error.

Commencing early, and continuing throughout his life, Judge Ackerman unstintingly and devotedly contributed of himself not only to the best interests of his profession but also those of his community generally. In recognition of such efforts, he was named Springfield's Outstanding Young Man in 1958. For many years, and at the time of his death, he served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Springfield Boy's Club and of the city's Memorial Hospital as well as an active leader in numerous

other community and charitable endeavors. During the 1960's, he served as General Counsel and a member of the Board of the Springfield Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Judge Ackerman was ^{also} held likewise in high esteem by his colleagues on the federal bench, and he served as President of the District Judges Association of the Seventh Circuit.

Judge Ackerman died in Springfield on November 23, 1984. He is mourned and missed by his family, his great host of friends and his entire community. At the time of his death, Sangamon County Judge Ray Terrell expressed the feelings of many in saying that Judge Ackerman was "exceptional in combining a strong sense of duty with compassion and gentle good humor." County Judge Simon Freidman spoke of his "humility and compassion." Judge Harlington Wood spoke of the "high regard in which Judge Ackerman is held by the judges all over the Circuit." Governor James Thompson described him as a "rare man" and a "superb judge" who "will be sorely missed on the federal judi-

ciary." Judge Harold A. Baker beautifully eulogized his friend and colleague at his funeral. He said Judge Ackerman was a man who "loved the law" and "he"loved people." He "had scrupulous honesty and integrity and he was a hard worker." "He was a man you could safely entrust with great power;" "he was kindly and even-handed;" "he had that golden quality and characteristic: he had judicial temperament." "He exemplified what we search and hope for in the character and conduct of a judge."

These are some of the measures of the man who has left us. We are grateful that he was among us.

Beverly W. Pattishall
May 13, 1985
Chicago, Illinois

107 J.

MINUTES OF THE JOINT ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND MEMBERS OF
THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT BAR ASSOCIATION
HELD AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS ON TUESDAY
MAY 14, 1985

The joint annual meeting of the Board of Governors, Committee Chairmen and Members of The Seventh Circuit Bar Association was called to order at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, May 14, 1985 at The Westin Hotel pursuant to notice duly given in conjunction with notice of the Judicial Conference of the Judges of the Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit and the District Courts within the Circuit.

Present were:

Officers: Mark Crane, President; John S. Skilton, First Vice President; William A. Montgomery, Secretary.

Board of Governors: James R. Dowdall; J. Frederick Hoffman; Eugene C. Miller, Jr.; Francis J. Demet; Howard A. Pollack.

Past Presidents: Joseph B. Carney; Irvin B. Charne; William M. Evans; Edward H. Hickey; Robert C. Keck; Walter T. Kuhlmeier; Sidney Neuman; Owen Rall; Theodore R. Scott; Robert C. Williams; James C. Wood.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Administration of Justice: Charles J. O'Laughlin, General Chairman; Lloyd A. Barbee, Wisconsin Chairman.

Bankruptcy Law and Procedure: Louis W. Levit, General Chairman; Michael C. Runde, Wisconsin Chairman.

Circuit Rider: Margadette M. Demet, Wisconsin Chairman.