

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

CIRCUIT JUDGE ROBERT A. SPRECHER
May 30, 1917 - May 15, 1982

The death of Circuit Judge Robert A. Sprecher two days ago cut short the life of one of the most able and respected judges of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Seventh Federal Circuit. Judge Sprecher was a "lawyer's lawyer" when he was in practice, and, as was said this morning, "a judge's judge" when he carried out his judicial responsibilities. The judicial robe he assumed when he joined the Court of Appeals fitted him perfectly.

Judge Sprecher was born in Chicago on May 30, 1917. He attended the Chicago public schools for his elementary and high school education. In 1938, he graduated from Northwestern University with a Bachelor of Science degree Magna Cum Laude. Not surprisingly, he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

He continued his studies at Northwestern, receiving a Juris Doctor degree Summa Cum Laude in 1941. During law school he served as Editor-in-Chief of the Illinois Law Review and was elected to the Order of the Coif. The mark of the man can be gleaned from those early years. These remarkable intellectual accomplishments were achieved in spite of his having to work his way through school.

He was admitted to the Bar of Illinois in 1942. During that year, he married the former Helen Szymczak, and together they raised five children: Mark, Michael, Robert, Richard, and

Marybeth Patek. Judge Sprecher was devoted to his wife and family.

Following his admission to the Illinois Bar, Robert Sprecher practiced law in Chicago for three decades. His last 20 years of practice were spent as a partner with the Chicago law firm of Crowley, Sprecher, Barrett and Karaba. In a unique sense, he was a general practitioner with specialties in corporate and appellate practice. He participated as Counsel of Record in more than 500 litigated trials and appeals.

In addition to his private practice, he served the public and his profession in innumerable ways. He was appointed by then Attorney General Latham Castle as Special Assistant Attorney General of Illinois in the investigation and litigation involving Orville Hodge, the Auditor for the State of Illinois. Judge Sprecher was later appointed to the Court of Appeals to fill the vacancy created when Judge Castle took senior status.

Judge Sprecher lectured at Northwestern University Law School and at DePaul University School of law. He also lectured on Federal Civil Appeals and Organizing and Advising Illinois Business for the Illinois Institute on Continuing Legal Education.

From 1949 until 1971, he served as a member of the Illinois State Board of Law Examiners. Although the composition of the Illinois Supreme Court changed, the Court's opinion of Bob Sprecher did not. He was appointed and reappointed for eight separate terms. He was also appointed by the Illinois

Supreme Court as Commissioner of Character and Fitness and Commissioner of Grievance. His abilities did not go unnoticed as his colleagues throughout the nation elected him Chairman of the National Conference of Bar Examiners.

The professional activities of Robert Sprecher gave every indication to all who knew him that eventually he would assume a judicial role. He was ever the student and scholar. Over the years, article after article, essay after essay came from his prolific pen.

He received from the American Bar Association the Ross Essay Award in 1945, the State Administrative Law Essay Award in 1950, and the Weaver Essay Award in 1965. No subject was alien to his never ending interest in the law. His articles treated such matters as industrial disputes, securities law, corporate law, judicial administration, administrative law, constitutional law, bar admission, environmental law and procedure and practice.

He was coauthor and Editor of business law textbooks, practitioners' handbooks, and a handbook for bar examiners. Writing with such a broad and scholarly sweep required that he spend an inordinate amount of time in reading and scholarly research. He was a member of the Law Club and the Legal Club of Chicago.

On May 7, 1971 he took the oath of office as Circuit Judge. In his new position he applied himself with the same fervor, dedication and scholarship that have marked his entire

legal career. Last year his intellectual and judicial attainments were recognized when his alma mater, Northwestern University, awarded him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

The opinions of Judge Robert Sprecher will take their proper place in the lasting list of precedents of the Court of Appeals for the Seventh Federal Circuit and will be regarded not only for their authoritative worth, but also for their literary excellence. They stand as a fitting memorial to this master legal craftsman and attest to the wisdom he demonstrated throughout his judicial career.

We, as members of the Bar of this Circuit share with his brethren on the bench a deep sense of sadness at his departure from our midst. We extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to his wife and family.

BE IT RESOLVED that this memorial shall be spread upon the records of the Seventh Circuit Judicial Conference and the Bar Association of the Seventh Federal Circuit and transmitted to his wife and children.

Dated this 17th day of May, 1982, at the Seventh Circuit Judicial Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Tom S.

MINUTES OF THE 32ND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE SEVENTH FEDERAL CIRCUIT
HELD AT THE PFISTER HOTEL
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN - MAY 18, 1982

The Thirty-Second Annual Meeting of the Bar Association of the Seventh Federal Circuit was held on Tuesday, May 18, 1982 at the Pfister Hotel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Annual Meeting of the Bar Association of the Seventh Federal Circuit convened at 11:45 a.m. on Tuesday, May 18, 1982 at the Pfister Hotel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Present were:

Officers: Glenn O. Starke, President; Theodore R. Scott, First Vice-President; Joseph B. Carney, Second Vice-President; Mark Crane, Secretary.

Board of Governors: William A. Barnett, James R. Dowdall, James P. Hume, Timothy W. Swain, J. Frederick Hoffman, Carl Overman, Francis J. Demet, John S. Skilton.

Past Presidents: Sigmund J. Beck, James P. Brody, Irvin B. Charne, Edward A. Haight, Edward H. Hickey, Robert C. Keck, Walter T. Kuhlmeier, Karl J. Stipher, Robert C. Williams, James C. Wood, Harold R. Woodard.