In Memoriam

Roy Jennings Brumfield

December 15, 1896 – March 24, 1958

Hennepin County Bar Association
District Court
Fourth Judicial District
Minneapolis, Minnesota

May 10, 1958

Roy J. Brumfield

(1896-1958)

May it please the Court, Members of the Bar of Hennepin County, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Roy Jennings Brumfield was born in the mining town of Silverton, Colorado [on December 15,] 1896, receiving his primary and secondary education in the Colorado public schools and graduated from Colorado College. During the summer months of his college years he discharged the responsibilities of a deputy sheriff, operated a summer resort and devoted his talents to construction activities in the community.

His college days were busy ones —the football team on which he played guard, college wrestling, and employment in the college commissary and other supplemental work that was necessary to provide the money so essential to complete his academic education.

During World War I, he served the United States Navy and later accepted a commission in the United States Army, Officers Reserve Corps, wherein he trained frequently at Fort Riley, Kansas as a cavalry officer. Roy's love of horses and early training and experience in Western rodeos admirably qualified him for this service. The imprint of sports in his early years remained throughout his life; and football, wrestling, hockey and horseback riding continued to be his primary sports interests.

His early business life was in the field of casualty underwriting, which he successfully followed for a period of years while resident in Kansas City, Missouri and later in Minneapolis. He married Helen Payne, his college sweetheart, who survives him

The latent desire to study law was realized shortly after taking up residence in Minneapolis. He attended the Minnesota College of Law,

graduated in 1931 and was admitted to the bar of the State of Minnesota [on September 16] in the same year.

The active practice of law commenced with Roy's association with the firm Sweet, Johnson and Sands in Minneapolis, and of which firm he became a partner in 1934 and thereafter practiced under the firm name of Johnson, Sands and Brumfield, which for a period was Johnson, Sands, Brumfield and Maloney. This association continued until 1956, at which time he accepted an appointment as Assistant County Attorney of Hennepin County —the appointment which he held at the time of his death.

During the period of his active service he was associated with the Minneapolis College of Law for many years, teaching the subjects of torts and domestic relations. His students many of whom are now practicing lawyers in the State of Minnesota, will remember the clarity and thoroughness of his teaching and his personal interest in their individual problems.

He was a member of the Hennepin County, Minnesota State and American Bar Associations, and participated actively in committee work of the Hennepin County Bar Association.

Always active and vigorous in the enjoyment of life and his profession, death came suddenly as he began his last court appearance in Hennepin County District Court on March 24, 1958.

Few men are capable of greater devotion to the practice of law as a profession than was Roy Brumfield. By nature he enjoyed and respected people. Generous of his time, his talents and possessions, there was ever present within him the desire to help. Although a respected and at times a rugged adversary in the courtroom, his code of fairness, propriety and ethics was never compromised.

As to his professional life, the members of the Bench and Bar of Minnesota and the clients that he represented will remember him as an individual of warmth and understanding, dedicated to the basic principles of his profession, always conscious and considerate of the rights and feelings of others — a splendid citizen, a true friend and a capable lawyer.

Theme & Same

(Thomas E. Sands)

May 10, 1958

οβο

Posted MLHP: September 2, 2018.