

IN MEMORIAM

WILLIAM W. GIBSON

[October 11, 1883 – November 15, 1957]



**HENNEPIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
HENNEPIN COUNTY DISTRICT COURT
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA**

[ca. 1958]

WILLIAM W. GIBSON
(1883 – 1957)

William W. Gibson was born in Glendale, Minnesota, on October 11, 1883, and died at Minneapolis, Minnesota, on November 15, 1957.

He spent his youth in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he received most of his education. He attended the University of Minnesota law school and graduated from the Minnesota College of Law.

He was admitted to practice [on June 2,] 1917 and practiced law in Minneapolis his entire professional life.

On January 29, 1936, he was married to Martha Kutz, who preceded him in death on September 29, 1950. They had no children. He was survived by several nieces and nephews.

Mr. Gibson, perhaps more than any other lawyer of the State in this generation, gave of his strength and thought to advancing the legal profession. He served from time to time on a multitude of committees of the Hennepin County, Minnesota State and American Bar Associations. He served as Secretary and President of the Hennepin County Bar Association, Vice President and President of the State Bar Association and for many years served on its Board of Governors, and for many years served as state delegate for Minnesota to the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association

For many years, Mr. Gibson was editor of *Bench & Bar*, the State Bar publication. When committees reported unfavorably upon the economic possibility of publishing *Bench & Bar*, he had the sound vision to see its possibilities and its helpfulness to the profession. He received permission from the Board of Governors to go ahead and the result justified his imagination.

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BENCH and BAR
O F M I N N E S O T A



**Merry Christmas
and a Victorious New Year
1943-1944**

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MINNESOTA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Mr. Gibson's greatest bar achievement was the development of a state and national public relations program. For many years, he acted as a thorn in the side of the too complacent American Bar Association Committee of Public Relations and finally instilled enthusiasm and activity into its program. As to the State Bar, Mr. Gibson used his genius in developing an ever changing program to convince the Bar that money spent in furthering public relations was a sound investment and to convince the public that the profession was an honorable group of men and women who perform economic functions of great importance. To all lawyers who have practiced law 25 years or more, it is recognized that the attitude of the public toward the profession has improved tremendously, from an attitude of suspicion to that of reliance. In its beginning, this campaign was a one man campaign and Bill kept urging such a program for acceptance.

Mr. Gibson was chairman of the executive committee in charge of the Northwest Regional meeting of the American Bar Association held in the Twin Cities in 1955.

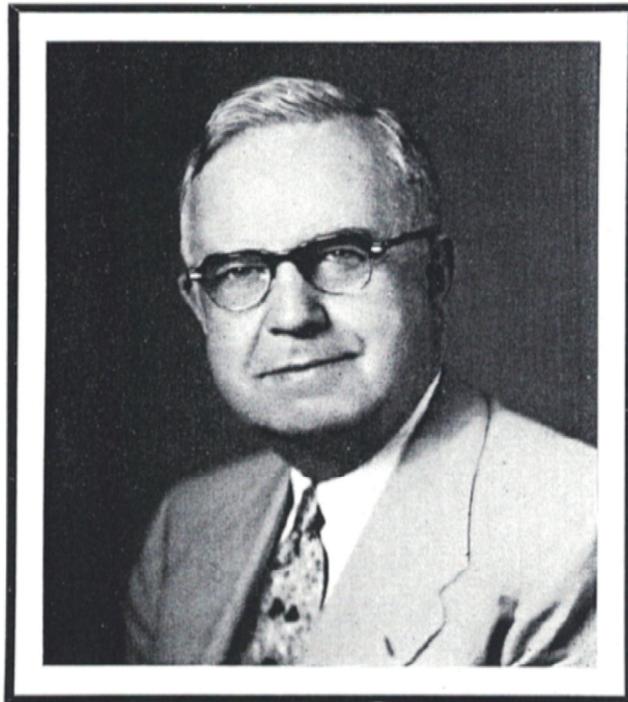
A listing of the many recognitions given him by business and professional groups would make this memorial lengthy and cumbersome, but one above all others was the "Outstanding Achievement" plaque presented by the Hennepin County and State Bar Association in 1956 at its annual convention.

Certainly because of his professional life, the Bar has progressed in its techniques, its efficiency and in aiding in improving the basic law, and the dignity and prestige of the profession has been enhanced by his crusade to have the lawyer well trained and worthy and to have the public recognize him as a protector of rights and a fundamental cog in the free enterprise system of our economy.

Morse Van Halbeurgh

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The
BENCH and BAR
OF MINNESOTA



WILLIAM W. GIBSON
Past President, Minnesota State Bar Association
1883-1957

New Member Campaign Going Forward in All Districts, page 21
87 New Members Join State and Local Associations, page 22

December 1957



W. W. Gibson Has Passed Away

William W. Gibson, prominent Minneapolis attorney and past president of the Minnesota State and Hennepin County Bar Associations, passed away November 15 at the age of 74.

Mr. Gibson will be remembered for his work in promoting better understanding between the legal profession and the general public through the Public Relations committees of the Minnesota State and American Bar Associations. He was instrumental in initiating the public relations program of the Minnesota State Bar Association and for many years had been chairman of that committee.

Born in Glyndon, Minnesota, Mr. Gibson was educated in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Minneapolis. He was a graduate of the Minnesota College of Law and also had taken courses at the University of Minnesota Law School. He had been practicing law in Minneapolis since 1917 and was very active in civic affairs and good government activities.

Mr. Gibson's long career of public service in Minnesota reaches back to 1912 when the Minneapolis Traffic Club was organized and he was its first secretary.

For many years the Minnesota State Delegate to the American Bar Association's House of Delegates, Mr. Gibson served on the Public Relations Committee of the American Bar group and was recently appointed by President Charles S. Rhyne to serve another two-year term.

In 1955 Mr. Gibson served as chairman of the executive committee in charge of the Northwest Regional Meeting held in October of that year and including attorneys from seven states as well as barristers and solicitors from three Canadian provinces. It was during the time of that meeting that he suffered a heart attack from which he had never fully recovered.

He was presented with a well deserved Outstanding Achievement plaque by the Hennepin County and Minnesota State Bar Associations at the 1956 State Bar convention in Minneapolis.

Mr. Gibson's wife preceded him in death a number of years ago. He is survived by several nieces and nephews.

Credits

The photograph on the first page was taken on August 24, 1924, when Gibson was the Secretary of the Minneapolis Traffic Club. It was taken for a Minneapolis newspaper, and is from the Minneapolis Newspaper Photograph Collection, Hennepin County Library.

The cover of the first issue of *Bench and Bar of Minnesota* is posted on page 3.

The cover of the December 1957 issue of *Bench and Bar* is posted on page 5, and a memorial from that issue follows on page 6.

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