

**In  
Memoriam**

**Moritz Heim**

**[ October 1, 1864 ▪ July 13, 1932 ]**

**Ramsey County Bar Association  
District Court  
Second Judicial District  
St. Paul, Minnesota**

**April 15, 1933**

## **Moritz Heim**

The undersigned committee of Ramsey County Bar Association, appointed for that purpose, desire to submit the following memorial in memory of Moritz Heim, one of its deceased members.

Moritz Heim was born in Leitmoritz, Austria, now situated in Czechoslovakia, on October 1, 1864. He came to the United States as a young man and first settled in North Dakota; and after he to remaining there some little time, moved to St. Paul. He almost immediately began the study of law in the offices of Davis, Kellogg & Severance, and was admitted to the bar on October 7, 1884; and he practiced law continuously in this city from that time until the date of his death, a period of over forty-eight years.

Early in his career, he was associated with the firm of O'Brien, Eller & O'Brien, a partnership composed of John D. O'Brien, Homer C. Eller and T. D. O'Brien, and a particular friendship grew up between the deceased and John D. O'Brien, which continued throughout their lives and during their long association they occupied adjoining offices for many years. In 1910 Judge Loevinger joined with Mr. Heim in a partnership known as Heim & Loevinger, which continued for a considerable period and after the dissolution of this firm, Mr. Heim continued his practice in an individual capacity.

He passed away suddenly, while apparently in good health, on July 13, 1932, at his home in Bald Eagle Lake, survived by his wife and two daughters Helen and Margaret.

He was an interesting and unique character in many respects. He was a self-made man, and though he did not have the advantages of a college or university training, he was well-informed, due largely to constant and extensive reading, which he regularly indulged in on general subjects as well as legal matters. He was also an accomplished linguist.

His law practice was in the main along rather unusual lines. He is generally accredited with being one of the being the one who is largely responsible for the

development of the doctrine that the respective consuls of foreign governments are authorized to act as attorneys-in-fact for their citizens in the handling of estates and carrying on of suits in the United States. He conducted extensive litigation a number of years ago involving this matter, and represented the various foreign consuls in the leading cases that have been decided upon that subject. He represented at various times the Consulates of Germany, Austria, Sweden, Switzerland, Russia and other European countries, and even in one instance, Japan.

Prior to the war, his consular work was so extensive that he maintained law office not only St. Paul, but also in Chicago and Pittsburgh. He was not only northwest representative and attorney at various times for the consuls here and before mentioned, but also prior to the war was general attorney for the Imperial Russian Consulate in thirty-seven states. As such consular attorney he carried on a very extensive law practice for a number of years, with such a massive detail that it required a great deal of time and effort on his part to take care of it. He worked unceasingly and probably as hard during those years as any member of the Bar of this County.

All sorts of litigation and legal complications were his to carry on and solve. He had the confidence not only of the Consuls representing various foreign governments, but also many persons of those various nationalities. An instance of his respect and esteem with which he was held, was the time he was called upon to arbitrate and determine a bitter factional dispute which had caused a split in the Orthodox Greek Catholic Church in the City of Chicago, which dispute involved religious as well as other questions, and which required a wide knowledge, experience and ability to determine, and due to his rather unique ability and fund of information, he was successful in this connection.

After the conclusion of the World War and the formation of new European states, Mr. Heim became quite active in the practice of international law. He was the author of the treaty negotiated between United States and then new Republic of Czecho-Slovakia, which he represented, the draft of which treaty was written by him in the City of St. Paul; and he was also largely responsible

for the drafting of the treaty of between United States and Poland, finally ratified by both of these countries. He was well versed in international law as well as domestic law, and in fact his work on the treaties referred to brought him considerable prominence in this connection. He was also known for his knowledge of foreign law, and on different occasions he was called upon in Court to testify as to the law of various European countries.

He was a hard worker, a thorough gentlemen, a well-informed and well-thought a lawyer and leaves behind him a record of achievement in the profession, which is all the more remarkable when one considers the disadvantages under which he labored in his early years while struggling for an existence and to obtain an education.

Respectfully submitted,

*Arthur K. Kupper*  
*Oscar Kupper*  
*Oscar Kupper*  
*William Richardson*  
*Thomas D. Owen*

Memorial Committee.

Early in his career, Heim seems to have attracted clients from the immigrant communities of Minnesota, as suggested by this entry in *Little Sketches of Big Folks* 181 (1907):

HEIM, Moritz, St. Paul. Res. 548 Dayton av, office 47 E 6th st. Lawyer. Born 1886 in Bohemia. Has been engaged in general practice of law in the state and federal courts since 1889, making a specialty of practicing among the natives of Behemia (sic) and southern Austria and working men, farmers and country merchants.

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Posted MLHP: November 5, 2016.