

IN MEMORIAM

MAURICE A. HESSIAN

September 29, 1888 – March 6, 1956



Memorial Services
Hennepin County Bar Association
Minneapolis, Minnesota
May 5, 1956

M E M O R I A L
T O
M U R I C E A. H E S S I A N

Maurice A. Hessian was born in Le Sueur, Minnesota, on September 29, 1888, the son of sturdy and ambitious first generation American parents. Here it was that he received his early education and acquired a lasting love for sports which he cherished to his dying day.

Upon graduation from high school, he attended St. Thomas College, and then following in the footsteps of his illustrious father, Thomas B. Hessian, took up the study of law. He attended the University Minnesota where he was an outstanding baseball player and received his L.L.B. in 1911. He was admitted to practice in the same year and from that time to the very hour of his death, engaged actively in the practice of his profession, at first individually and since 1916, as a member of the firm which now is now Thompson, Hessian, Fletcher and McKasy.

Over the years he was active in the County, State and American Bar Associations, and was President of the Minneapolis Athletic Club and Interlachen Country Club.

He is survived by his widow, Helen L. Hessian, three daughters, Katherine E. Neehan, Mary H. Nesbitt and Patricia A. Sherman, and one son, Maurice A. Hessian, Jr.

It was my good fortune to have the benefit of Maurice's counsel while attending law school and to be associated with him for over a quarter of a century in practice and it is my firm conviction that he was possessed of the most astute legal mind of any person I have known, but the quality which endeared him to me and a host of others was not so much his possession of ability, as the manner in which he exercised it.

Anyone Maurice represented, be he great or small, received the full benefit of all of his talents, and the strength and vigor of his advocacy gave him that indefinable but definitely recognizable quality of "color" which characterizes all of his activities. In any phase of life that he pursued, there were no dull moments. He could be warmly sympathetic or coldly analytical as the occasion might make appropriate or require. Every situation with which he came in contact was enlivened cautious planning, kindness, righteous anger, generosity, bold action or keen humor. He was an excellent judge of human nature and loved the genuine in people as much as he despised the hypocritical.

From his father he inherited a love of contest. He could well appreciate the efforts of the legal theorists, but his real enthusiasm was for a contest and the bigger the contest the greater his efforts and resourcefulness.

From his mother he inherited a deep sense of religious conviction to which he adhered in determining basic questions of right and wrong. Pomp and the open profession of deeply felt convictions had no place in his makeup, rather, he believed in applying the precepts that he thought should govern his endeavors.

In an attempt to appraise a lawyer, I often ask myself, should I want him to represent me? In my father's lifetime, which was practically concurrent with that of Maurice's father, I know that my father, applying this criterion, rated Maurice's father at the top. If we apply the same standard to Maurice, I think that all of us who knew him would also rate him at the very top.

His departure has caused great sorrow, but those of us who believe that we die only to be born into eternal life are comforted by the thought that he has gone to a reward that transcends any earthly pleasure or enjoyment, and all of the members of his family should take a deep and lasting pride in the memory of the universality of the respect and esteem which he held in the hearts

of all who knew him. Though he be gone from our midst, his spirit will live as long as those who knew him remain on earth.

Presented by John J. McKasy at a Memorial Service of the Hennepin County Bar Association on May 5, 1956.



Related Article

"John McKasy (1906-1986)"
in Hennepin County Bar Memorials (1987)
(MLHP, 2014).



The following photographs of Maurice A. Hessian are from the Minneapolis Newspaper Photograph Collection, Hennepin County Library.

The portrait on the first page was taken by Lee Brothers on June 12, 1940. It too is from the Minneapolis Newspaper Photograph Collection.



Maurice A. Hessian.
Attorney at Thompson, Hessian & Fletcher.
Date of photograph: December 18, 1929.
Source: Minneapolis Newspaper Photograph Collection,
Hennepin County Library.



Maurice A. Hessian.
Attorney at Thompson, Hessian & Fletcher.
Photographer: Lee Brothers.
Date of photograph: November 9, 1933.
Source: Minneapolis Tribune,
Minneapolis Newspaper Photograph Collection,
Hennepin County Library.



Maurice A. Hessian.
Attorney at Thompson, Hessian & Fletcher.
Date of photograph: July 28, 1935.
Source: Minneapolis Tribune,
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Hennepin County Library.



Maurice A. Hessian.
Attorney at Thompson, Hessian & Fletcher.
Date of photograph: August 26, 1935.
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