

Memorial To

Chester Laroy Nichols

October 12, 1886 • September 20, 1957

**Hennepin County Bar Association
District Court
Fourth Judicial District
Minneapolis, Minnesota
May 10, 1958**

Chester Laroy Nichols was born at Monico Junction, Wisconsin, on October 12, 1886. He died on September 20, 1957, age seventy years and eleven months. His demise occurred at his home, 4813 Lake View Drive, in the village of the Edina, Minnesota. His death was sudden, caused by a heart attack. He left surviving him: his wife, Dell; two daughters, Barbara Nichols Hanson and Patricia D. Nichols, of the village of the Edina; and two sisters, Maud Nichols Gibson, Lansing, Michigan, and Bernice Nichols Schatzka, Kaukauna, Wisconsin.

Chet, as he was affectionately known to a host of friends, commenced the practice of law in Minneapolis in 1910, at the age of twenty-four years and, save for a short time in St. Paul and his Army service in World War I, he practiced his chosen profession during all of the years of his mature life in the City of Minneapolis. In fact, he attended all of his normal duties in his office at 410 Roanoke Building on September 19th, the day before he passed away.

Chet graduated from high school in Appleton, Wisconsin, in 1905 and in 1907 he entered the law school of the University of Minnesota from which he graduated in 1910.

Upon his graduation from law school [and admission to the bar on June 10, 1910] he became associated with the well-known Minneapolis law firm of Haynes, O' Brien & Bleeker, with whom he remained for approximate three years. He thereupon opened his own office in the City of St. Paul where he practiced for a short time and then returned to Minneapolis and commenced extensive trial work for the firm of Stiles & Devaney, continuing with that firm for approximately three years.

He entered the service in the United States Army on August 17, 1917. He was commissioned a First Lieutenant on November 27, 1917, and received his honorable discharge in January 17, 1919. Upon his return from the service he resumed the practice of law in Minneapolis in association with John K. and William M. Nash and with remained with that firm until the death of William Nash in 1934.



**Chester Laroy Nichols,
President of the Hennepin County Bar Association**

Source: *Hennepin Lawyer*, Volume 10, Issue 1 (September 1941)

In 1935 Gerald T. Mullin and Patrick L. Fernand joined him in the partnership of Nichols, Mullin & Fernand and Chet remained senior member of that continuing partnership until the time of his death.

During his long and successful career in his chosen profession Chet particularly distinguished himself as an able and effective trial lawyer. He participated in many important trials in Hennepin County, with singular success before juries.

Chet was very active in the work of the Hennepin County Bar Association. He served on many committees in the capacity of member and as chairman for a number of years. His unselfish devotion to the Hennepin County Bar Association was recognized by its members when in 1941 he was elevated to the office of President, a position which he filled with distinction and honor for a period of a year. He continued for many years after his term as President to actively participate in many facets of the Association' s activities.

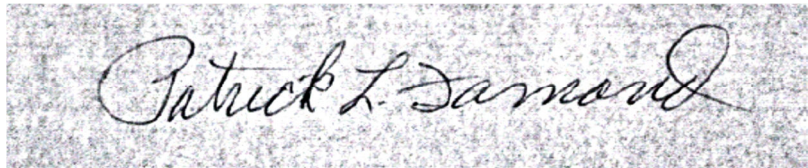
Chester L. Nichols was an industrious, loyal, scholarly and efficient lawyer and an estimable gentleman. Few lawyers have surpassed him in his devotion to the cause of his client. His forthright defense of what was right and just won for him the esteem and abiding friendship of all who came to know him. He was particularly admired by the members of the judiciary of Hennepin County and of the Supreme Court of Minnesota, who recognized in him an honest, able and straightforward advocate, a sincere friend and, above all, a man of sterling character.

To those of us who were fortunate in being associated with him in the practice of law he has left in our memory an indelible mark of real friendship, of undying loyalty and of unimpeachable honesty. His many friends also knew him as an ideal family man; as a devoted and faithful husband, an exemplary father and a good neighbor.

He was a member of the St. Stephens Episcopal Church in the village of Edina. His intense devotion to his church won the admiration

and respect of his fellow parishioners. He was a vestryman, the treasurer, a junior warden and a senior warden of that church during the past many years.

In the passing of Chester L. Nichols this city and state have lost an outstanding citizen, a man of great moral character and high integrity.



Acknowledgment

The photograph of President Nichols on page 3 was provided to the MLHP by the Hennepin County Bar Association.

