



**Harold J. Richardson**  
1872 - 1952

**Memorial Services of  
The Ramsey County Bar Association  
in District Court  
St. Paul, Minnesota, April 12, 1952  
in Memory of  
Harold J. Richardson**

*May it please the Court:*

Harold J. Richardson was born on a farm near Rochester, Minnesota, a son of Henry M. and Sarah McCrillis Richardson, on the 26th day of March, 1872. He passed away in St. Paul, Minnesota, on the 4th day of March, 1952, in his 80th year.

He was graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1901, and admitted to the Minnesota Bar.

In his early professional career he practiced law at Rochester, Minnesota, with his brother the late Senator William B. Richardson. From 1903 to 1909 he was County Attorney of Olmstead County.

On January 1, 1903, he was married to Anna Reimers of Evanston, Illinois, a granddaughter of F. C. Denkmann, the first business associate of Frederick Weyerhaeuser.

In 1912 the family moved to St. Paul where Mr. Richardson was associated in practice with the former Chief Justice Charles M. Start of the Minnesota Supreme Court and Kenneth G. Brill.

In 1920 he became a member of the firm of Clapp, Richardson, Elmquist, Briggs and Macartney and so continued until 1931.

Thereafter he continued the practice of law as an associate of the successors to that firm, the last being Briggs, Gilbert, Morton, Kyle and Macartney.

He was a long time member of the American Bar Association, The Minnesota Bar Association and of this Association. He was a member of Delta Tau Delta and Phi Delta Phi fraternities.

He was a member of Rochester Lodge No. 21, A.F. & A.M., Halcyon Chapter No. 8, R.A.M., Home Commandery No, 5 Knights Templar, and Osman Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S.

He was a member of the Minnesota Club and the White Bear Yacht Club.

Mr. Richardson occupied high positions either as director or officer of many business organizations with which he was connected and of which he was a legal adviser. He was a director of the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company for 32 years until his resignation in 1946. At the time of his death he was a director of First Trust Company of Saint Paul, an honorary trustee of Hamline University and an elder of the House of Hope Presbyterian Church.

He is survived by his wife; two daughters, Mrs. Charles Carpenter Cook of White Bear Lake, and Mrs. Locke Lamprey Murray of Winnetka, Illinois; three grandchildren, and a sister, Mrs. A. D. Sanders, Jr., of Evanston, Illinois.

The scroll should contain something more.

Harold was accustomed to deal with large business affairs. To them he applied the same verities and moral standards he

observed in simple transactions between man and man.

He was a modest, a sincere, a democratic man. With him the amenities of life were inborn.

He played his part well in momentous business and industrial developments but in spirit all the while he walked instinctively with Robert Burns and Abraham Lincoln. For him "the heart hath reasons which reason itself can never know. "

He was a gentle spirit given to tempering all judgments with kindness and mercy. The firmness he displayed developed naturally from the soundness and justice of his position. In argument a pointed question from him was often an adequate brief in reply.

A law partnership is a close relationship, testing the capacity for tolerance, sympathy and forbearance. It calls for a fair appraisal of abilities and contributions to a common effort. It requisitions maximum mutual helpfulness and the highest order of friendship.

Harold was a real partner.

He and his associates maintained to the last that mutual respect and feeling for each other which rest upon the broader humanities.

If one is to know the metal and character of a lawyer he would repair to measurements the members of the legal profession have made. Without doubt the final verdict for Harold should be of comfort to his family.

He had an abiding reverence for his country and for the institutions that made her great.

This deep conviction was in part an inheritance from his father who served in the Civil War.

He was bereft of his only son, Lt. John Richardson, a member of this Bar, who fell heroically in the Italian campaign of World War II. He bore his grief with the courage of the patriot that he was. He balanced this great loss against the meaning that life must hold for every citizen if this country is to endure. Upon him the Silver Star awarded to John cast a kindly and soothing light.

Harold had a trained legal mind but he rose above the legalisms of the day. His mind was a rich storehouse of the philosophy and wisdom of the great thinkers. He was a student of history and the great literature of the ages from which he was able to quote so aptly and so accurately. From the experience and the noblest thought of man he fueled a lamp to guide his steps ahead.

This was one motto by which he lived: "Those friends thou hast, and their adoption tried, grapple them to thy soul with hoops of steel."

He never lost nor deserted a friend. He did not speak evil of any man,

"The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power" never enticed him. "Far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife he kept the noiseless tenor of his way."

He coordinated his family life, his business and his professional work in a simple and useful pattern of service.

Justice Holmes' poetic reflections upon life deeply impressed him. This great Justice lamented the shortness of man's allotted time. He resigned himself to the fact that it is given to no man to complete his achievements, he can but leave a sample of his worth, which after all is enough. Holmes was content to leave on the hedges of life some of his fleece that men who followed afterward might know that he had passed that way.

And so if we would remember this good man and this esteemed lawyer let us say with him: "Any good that I can do let me do it now for I shall not pass this way again. "

*Respectfully submitted,*

CHARLES W. BRIGGS  
GRANT S. MACARTNEY  
COLE OEHLER

*Committee*

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This Memorial was delivered in 1952 at the annual memorial services of the Ramsey County Bar Association, and later reprinted as a pamphlet with a photograph of the deceased. The original pamphlet is at the Minnesota Historical Society.

## APPENDIX

Harold James Richardson was admitted to the bar on October 3, 1900. Roll of Attorneys, Supreme Court, State of Minnesota, 1858-1970, at 58 (Minnesota Digital Library). The alumni records of the University of Minnesota Law School record him as a member of the 1901 class. Alumni of the College of Law, 1889-1915, at 268 (1916).

He practiced law in Rochester from the time of his admission to the bar until about 1912, when he moved to St. Paul to join the firm of Charles Start and Kenneth Brill. While in Rochester, he placed the following profile in *The Book of Minnesotans*, edited by Albert N. Marquis, published in 1907:

**RICHARDSON, Harold J.**, lawyer; born at Haverhill, Olmsted Co., Minn., March 26 1872; son of H. M. and Sarah J. (McCrillis) Richardson; graduate of Rochester High School, 1889; one year in College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota; three years in College of Law, University of Minnesota, graduating, LL.B., 1900. Married at Evanston, Ill., Jan. 1, 1901, to Anna Reimers. Has been engaged in practice at Rochester since 1900; member of the law firm of Richardson & Richardson. Three times elected county attorney of Steele Co., and is now serving third term. Republican. Methodist. Member Law Alumni Association. Member Knights of Pythias and Delta Tau Delta and Phi Delta Phi fraternities. Address: Rochester, Minn.

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