

STATE OF MINNESOTA

DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF HENNEPIN

FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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ABNER J. SWANSON

PETITION FOR MEMORIAL

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TO HENNEPIN COUNTY DISTRICT COURT:

Abner J. Swanson was born at Brainerd, Minnesota, on February 5, 1904. He died at Santa Monica , California on December 16, 1955, and was buried at Brainerd, Minnesota, on December 24, 1955; he left surviving his widow, Florence L. Swanson, who now resides at 2421 Third Avenue, South, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

At the time of his untimely death, he was a member of the American Bar Association; the State Bar of California; the Minnesota State Bar Association; and the Hennepin Bar Association.

Abner Swanson attended elementary school and high school in Brainerd, Minnesota, and came to St. Paul in 1922 and graduated from the St. Paul College of Law in 1926. He was a member of Delta Theta Phi Legal Fraternity. From January of 1926 until December of 1930, Abner Swanson was Legal Editor and Assistant to the Editor in Chief of the West Publishing Company in St. Paul, Minnesota. In 1931, he was appointed Special Assistant to the Attorney General of the United States, assigned to the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice. He had a remarkable record with this Department, and was involved in much important litigation in the United States Courts.

Abner Swanson was not an eloquent nor polished speaker. His language had none of the qualities of rhetorical elegance; he was nothing of the showman, practiced no appeal to the emotions and made no effort to impress by the mere force of his personality. His right to be called a superior lawyer respects a more solid foundation; with abilities essentially of an intellectual order, he was a legal scholar in the full sense of the term. His mind was clear and quick, one that could make

short work of the analysis of intricate legal problems, one that could go directly to the core of the matter in controversy with penetrating judgment. His language, written or spoken, though plain as to literary style, was like his thinking – clear, concise and definite. Its meaning was never unmistakable.

During the period he was with the Antitrust Division, he served as the Public Information Officer of the Division, as well as counsel to other members of the staff of the Antitrust Division on procedural questions and he had charge of pleadings, dockets, and printing in the division. In addition to his Court work and other necessary functions, he found time to edit, compile and index the following law publications:

- 1) Federal Antitrust Decisions, Volumes 11 and 12.
- 2) Antitrust Law Memoranda, 4 volumes.
- 3) Trial of Federal Antitrust Cases, 5 volumes.

Abner Swanson retired from the government service in May, 1945, to enter the general practice of law as an associate of Thompson, Hessian, and Fletcher in Minneapolis, and was associated with this office until August of 1946. In 1946, Abner Swanson was appointed Regional Counsel of the War Assets Administration and remained in that capacity until November, 1948, at which time he reentered the general practice of law in Minneapolis, remaining in such until April of 1949, when he again entered government service as an attorney of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation in Minneapolis. In September of 1950, until October of 1955, just prior to his death, he was Agency Counsel for the Federal National Mortgage Association, an instrumentality of the Federal Government at Los Angeles, California.

Abner J. Swanson left an imprint upon the communities in which he resided and his demise was a true loss to his profession and a most sad and unexpected shock to the great number of those who were close to him.

Respectfully submitted

Alex Leslie Janes, Jr.

