

IN MEMORY

OF

WALTER J. WELCH

(August 10, 1891 – January 17, 1953)

**Hennepin County Bar Association
District Court
Fourth Judicial District
Minneapolis, Minnesota
1953**

This Memorial is presented in behalf of the many friends, lawyers and associates of Walter J. Welch, as a living memorial of the high regard and esteem which they held for him.

Walter J. Welch was born in Minneapolis on August 10th, 1891. His parents were John and Mary Welch, both of whom preceded him in death. He died January 17th, 1953, at the age of 61 years. He is survived by his widow, Grace Welch, a sister, Mrs. Adelaide Gallagher of Kansas City, and a brother, Herbert F. Welch of Shreveport.

He passed away in the late afternoon from a heart ailment. He had not been sick and had worked at the office during the entire day.

Walter J. Welch attended public schools in Minneapolis. He studied law at the Minnesota College of Law and graduated June 14th, 1926, with the highest honors in his class.

After his graduation from law school, he entered the practice of law in Minneapolis, associating with Arthur Hallgrain, Theodore Peterson, Charlie Rosander and Eugene A. Rerat. From 1926 until the time of his death, he was associated in the practice of law with his brother-in-law, Eugene A. Rerat.

Because of his quiet and unassuming personality, Walter J. Welch was not widely known, except among the lawyers who were engaged in personal injury work. He was an expert on the Federal Employers' Liability Act. He was recognised as an outstanding authority in this particular field of the law throughout the United States. His advice was

sought by countless lawyers who wanted an expert opinion on a given set of facts in cases involving the Federal Employers' Liability Act. He was a "lawyer's lawyer". During his 26 years of practice, he has given opinions on cases to numerous lawyers seeking his counsel. He was never too busy to advise with other lawyers and was especially patient, kind and understanding of the young lawyers who sought his counsel.

He was not only an outstanding lawyer, but an outstanding citizen. He participated in activities for the general welfare of the community. He was very active in the Knights of Columbus and in American Legion work as a veteran of the first World War. He gave of his time generously to all worthwhile causes.

On October 12, 1937, he was married to Grace Rerat. He was a generous and indulgent husband. He was quiet, soft-spoken, gracious, kindly and devout. He was never known to speak an unkind word to anyone or about anyone.

Walter J. Welch was known by all of his close associates as "The Judge." They all referred to him as "The Judge" because of his scholarly opinions and the fact that he had a better knowledge of the Federal Employers' Liability Act than probably any other lawyer in the United States.

He was able to cite practically every leading case under this Federal law from memory and give the facts.

At the time of his death, he was a member of the firm of Davis, Rerat, Yeager & Lush. He had charge of the pleadings, the writing of briefs, instructions and appellate work for this firm.

The Bar of Minnesota has lost one of the greatest and most scholarly lawyers ever practicing in this state. He leaves a multitude of friends, all of whom have fond memories of him that will long continue. The community has suffered a great loss.



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