

Clarence E. Fugina

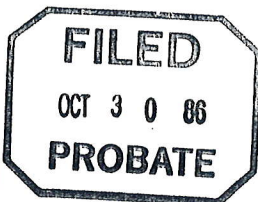
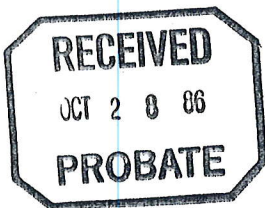


MEMORIAL TO CLARENCE E. (CASEY) FUGINA, SR.

The Committee appointed by the President of the Tri-County Bar Association to prepare and present to such Association a Memorial in honor of the late Clarence E. (Casey) Fugina, Sr. presents the following and moves that it be made a part of the minutes of the Tri-County Bar Association and that it be filed with the Circuit Court of Trempealeau County, and that it also be presented to the family of the decedent.

Clarence E. Fugina Sr. was born on September 28, 1898, in the City of Arcadia, Wisconsin, to Alois and Katherine Rohn Fugina. He received his grade school and high school education in Arcadia. Either before or during his matriculation in Liberal Arts at the University of Wisconsin, he entered the Military Service of his Country during World War I. Thereafter he was active in the organization of the American Legion Post in Arcadia and active in later Legion activities and affairs. He was a graduate of the University of Wisconsin at Madison, Wisconsin and immediately following his graduation he taught school at New Richmond, Wisconsin for a period of three years and then returned to the University and entered the Law School. During the time that he was studying he distinguished himself as an honor student and in recognition thereof was named as Editor of the Wisconsin Law Review, and at the time of his graduation in 1927, he was elected to the Order of Coif for his academic excellence.

He began practicing law in Arcadia, Wisconsin in the firm of Gaveney and Barlow. When John Gaveney became County Judge of Trempealeau County, the firm became Barlow and Fugina, and continued as such until 1948 when the Law Firm of Fugina, Kostner, Quinn and Ward was established. He served two terms as Trempealeau County District Attorney, having been elected in 1936 and 1938. He retired from the active practice in 1974.



He married Gaynell L. Meyers on June 7, 1932, in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. He is survived by his wife; one son, Clarence Fugina, Jr., of Galesville, Wisconsin; two daughters, Kay Mettlach, of Oshkosh, Wisconsin; Flo Gennerman, of Oconomowoc, Wisconsin; and seven grandchildren. Three brothers and one sister preceded him in death.

He was a Charter Member and a Past President of the Tri-County Bar Association and a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin.

He was active in the organization of the Tri-County Bar Association in the mid-twenties when the prominent members of the bar of Jackson, Trempealeau and Buffalo County would gather for an afternoon of golf and an evening devoted to dinner and good fellowship. Casey, as the Secretary and Treasurer of the Association was charged with the payment of the expenses of the meetings and, until the advent of the policy of "pay now" enforced by the then Treasurer, Edward Kulig, would hope to be reimbursed in the following year.

During the period of his association with the State Bar of Wisconsin he served in a number of different capacities. The one for which he was best known and for which he was very highly regarded and recognized by the State Bar and by the Court was as a member of the Board of State Bar Commissioners from 1952 until 1974.

In the years prior to World War II, Casey, somehow, despite his busy and wide ranging law practice found time to devote his energies to assisting in the formation of civic and social organizations in Arcadia. He was one of the founders of the Arcadia Golf Club; the Arcadia Club, whose members, some of the leading citizens of Arcadia, met weekly in executive session for many years to test Dame Fortune in games of chance. We presume that he now has joined his club associates around a round table in the sky.

He was a director of the State Bank of Arcadia from 1945 to 1972 and was President of the bank's Board of Directors from 1967 to 1972. He had also served as Arcadia's City Attorney for several years and for many years was a member of the Arcadia Projects Board and it was in both of such capacities that he had a hand in promoting and helping to create and establish new business interests in the City of Arcadia and working with the same for the best interests of the City.

Casey was active in Republican Party politics in Western Wisconsin. For many years, he was County Chairman of Trempealeau County Republicans, and exerted extensive influence in District and State political circles. One, seeking political appointment in Western Wisconsin did well to seek his endorsement.

He was blessed with and possessed some very unusual and gifted qualities. He was a man of super intelligence which manifested this in his photographic memory coupled with the rare ability of instant recall of information contained in situations, events, materials, conversations and the like with which he had been involved at some time in his life and career.

He was always a profound student of the law during all of his illustrious legal career. He was a very capable and fine trial lawyer when he was active in the Courts and was in his active years well known and respected for his trial work in the various Courts of the Tri-County Bar Association, of surrounding Counties, and in other Counties of this State. He had many cases before the Supreme Court of this State on some very vital and controversial issues and points of law. In his Court work and handling of cases he was always well-prepared and presented his case with dignity and finesse.

He was a kind and gentle man and it may well be said that such qualities helped make his handling of legal cases and

dealing with clients from all walks of life very much easier. He was a man of deep-rooted standards and values, of high ideals, and of sound moral principles, all of which combined to mold his way of life and his practice of the law into a wholesome and uplifting service to those whom he sought to help. He was a man of deep faith, simple truths and firm convictions. He was gifted with an inner sense and quality of fairness and justice, and for these he was respected and admired by friend and adversary alike.

In fitting tribute to Casey many of the same qualities which were attributable to his long-time associate and law partner for many years - the late LaVern G. Kostner - in the Memorial to him in that particular language which follows, can be said to fully and adequately apply alike to Casey and the same are reprinted here in the following paragraphs.

"He possessed that rare and gifted quality of human understanding and relating with compassion but firmness to people's legal problems and was able to counsel and reassure them in a manner which helped troubled and depressed people regain the necessary confidence in themselves. This is what can be said to be his gift to the people who were his clients, associates, and friends."

"He never minimized or put down the importance of a client's problem or concern and always gave it his best efforts. Although he was and liked to be referred to as a "small town lawyer" in the scope of his law practice over a continuous period of 47 years he was truly a very worldly practitioner based on the size and scope of his law practice."

"It is well known that in his many years of law practice that he acted and filled the role in many instances of umpire, referee, mediator, moderator, arbitrator, peacemaker, conficant, counselor and adviser to couples with matrimonial problems, champion of the right of anyone who had legal problems, and

unofficially in the various roles which have been endearingly attributed to him such as family adviser, father confessor, psychologist, psychoanalyst, and street-level psychiatrist."

"He always appeared to have a keen intuitive and down-to-earth grasp of the vital facts and circumstances in every situation he was involved in, to start out in a case with some preconceived goal and game plan, and with a sound approach as to the use, application, and handling of the law as it applied to both sides of a case, and with a strong sense of the 'value of a case' both from settlement and for trial, both from the monetary standpoint and from the personal angle insofar as it involved the personalities in any given case."

"He was blessed with the rare qualities of a deep love for the practice of law, strong pride in his work, and humility in the manner in which he went about doing it. He was most gentle and considerate in dealing with people's feelings and emotions, but yet he was firm enough in his dealings with the opposition to enable him to accomplish the best results possible for his clients."

"He was a man of exceptional depth and strong character. He was a man of mature judgment who had a sound sense of values which guided him in his practice of law and in advising clients. He was gifted with the qualities of self-assurance and poise which gave to him a profound sense of dignity and ease of manner. Although firm and deliberate, he was always gracious, considerate, sympathetic, and understanding. He had a cheerful disposition, a keen wit, a delightful sense of humor, and an optimistic outlook on life."

"His active participation in the practice of law in the many fields in which he was considered an expert, his involvement in the field of legal counseling, and his continuous interest in civic and community affairs for 47 years in the City of Arcadia

and the surrounding area, qualified him as one of the truly great and outstanding country lawyers of his time."

With the close friendship and working relationship as business partners which existed between Casey and La Vern for almost all of the active working careers of each of them it seems only natural that their individual thoughts, actions, accomplishments, successes, standards, principles, ethics, and virtues were very close to each others in such a way that they complemented each others.

He was a very dedicated family man who loved the close company of his own immediate family and their families. He was a very practical and successful businessman in all of his business ventures. He was a very modest and unselfish man as was evidenced throughout his life by his many acts of kindness and charity for individuals and his community. He was also a very devout and religious man and his Church affiliation was an integral part of his life.

When he was in the prime of his legal career he led a one-man crusade against and attack on the U. S. Government Corps of Engineers and was successful in battling them to a standstill for a number of years by his protest against the "unauthorized Upper River Draw-Down" each fall in order to provide more water for Down River Navigation regardless of the resulting death of fish, migratory birds, aquatic plants and animals, and other wild life. As a result of his persistent efforts such practices have now been minimized materially with new importance being placed on any resulting damages from such action.

During his lifetime Casey enjoyed many hobbies. Probably the one which he enjoyed the most and for the greatest part of his active life was fishing. He was an expert fly rod fisherman and used this technique for trout, small mouth bass, sunfish, and crappies. He shared his love of fishing with both his own children in their

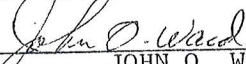
younger days and then later with his grandchildren, with the family cottage below the Trempealeau Dam as the weekend and summer vacation headquarters. In his early days he was also an avid hunter and made numerous trips to the Dakotas to hunt pheasants. For many years in his younger days he was an avid golfer who shot a lot of excellent golf, which he shared the enthusiasm for with his lovely wife and children.

It was always a rare privilege and treat to have a good and serious conversation with Casey because you always learned something just by listening. In a lighter vein he always told fishing and hunting stories well and with true realism. He was, however, at his absolute best when after a couple of drinks he proceeded to entertain and quote poetry for hours at a time from memory. For many years he preserved much of his wit and humor in the stories which he wrote for the Arcadia paper.

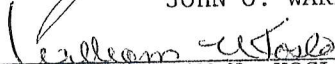
As was expressed in the Memorial for La Vern the same thought and feeling in our opinion suitably and affectionately applies to Casey in these words:- "The works, accomplishments, and triumphs of Clarence E (Casey) Fugina, Sr. reflect well in the traditions of the Tri-County Bar Association and he will be long remembered as a true exemplification of a "Country Lawyer."

IN FOND AND LOVING MEMORY OF CLARENCE E. (CASEY) FUGINA, SR.

RESPECTFULLY AND SINCERELY SUBMITTED
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE TRI-COUNTY
BAR ASSOCIATION IN ATTENDANCE AT
THE REGULAR SUMMER MEETING OF THE
ASSOCIATION ON THURSDAY, AUGUST
14, 1986, HELD AT DEER ISLAND,
IN PEPIN COUNTY.



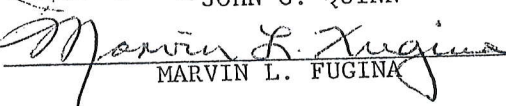
JOHN O. WARD



WILLIAM N. KOSLO



JOHN C. QUINN



MARVIN L. FUGINA