

## ROMAN W. FELTES MEMORIAL

After graduating from Marquette University Law School, Attorney Roman W. Feltes opened his solo law practice in 1952 at Arcadia, Wisconsin- the City where he had been born on July 12, 1920, and had graduated as valedictorian of his high school class. He practiced law from the same building in Arcadia for fifty plus years. Roman died April 18, 2011 at the age of 90. His wife Elaine had predeceased him. He was survived by their eight children, twelve grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

As a child growing up in the depression years in the 1930's, Roman worked a number of jobs to help the family. During those early years he acquired knowledge about radios and opened a small part-time radio repair business in Arcadia while completing his years in high school. Following high school graduation he would make use of this skill by enlisting in the military, specializing in the use of communication equipment while serving in the Pacific Theatre during World War II. His duties included action in New Guinea and the Philippines, where he was wounded in action.

Roman's legal career in Arcadia was a good example of a general practice country lawyer. In addition to covering a wide variety of legal matters, he was active in his community and church. Roman had a soft spot

for people of little means who needed help with their problems and was sometimes referred to as the “poor man’s lawyer”. His family has recollections of pay for some legal services consisting of farm produce or other commodities which were delivered to their home by a grateful person.

This concern for people’s well being extended beyond the law practice. Following Roman’s death his children heard from many about the generosity of Roman and his wife toward people of the community who were in need.

In 1972 Roman was elected District Attorney for Trempealeau County and was re-elected in 1974. In those days, Trempealeau County was one of many counties where the position was part-time and the District Attorney also served as the County’s Corporation Counsel. This part-time status, and the help of a part-time assistant District Attorney, allowed Roman to continue in his private practice during his terms in office. In the decades through the 1980s most rural law offices were preparing income tax returns for clients; several hundred returns per attorney was common. Roman’s office was no exception. Many stories have been told by Roman’s loyal clients of exceptional and creative efforts he made on their behalf.

In addition to his family, Roman enjoyed history, reading and politics. He served for a time on the local school board and was the Mayor of Arcadia

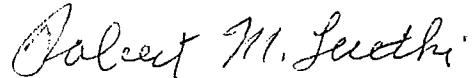
from 1957 through 1963. Roman was proud to be a life-long member of the Democratic Party, attending state conventions as a delegate and looked forward each year to the Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner. He was also a member of the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Knights of Columbus, and had an adult leadership role with the Arcadia Boy Scout Troop.

Personally, Roman was a pleasant and sociable individual. Although not formally a member of the Tri-County Bar Association, fellow attorneys were treated by him with a level of civility and respect called for in the unwritten code of conduct for the Association. He will be fondly remembered by those who knew him.

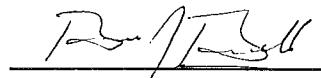
Respectfully submitted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of January 2017.



LaVerne Michalak



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