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In Memoriam
IN MEMORIAM
PAUL N. BOWLES
October 9, 1921-October 8, 1986

Paul N. Bowles, a respected West Virginia lawyer and Adjunct Professor of Law at West Virginia University College of Law, passed away October 8, 1986. Since 1977, he served on the Advisory Board to this publication. The West Virginia Law Review dedicates the 1987 National Coal Issue to Professor Bowles. The following tribute was written by the partners and associates of Bowles, McDavid, Graff and Love.

In a world of increasing specialization, Paul N. Bowles was truly a man for all seasons. No aspect of the law was foreign to him and no problem beyond his ken. The quality of Paul’s mind and his extraordinary power of concentration brought him success not only in the law but in everything he did.

Paul’s roots ran deep in West Virginia and the Kanawha Valley, where he was born and educated. He married and raised his family in West Virginia. He attended West Virginia University where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and was chosen Order of the Coif at the College of Law.

Paul was proud of his service in World War II. He flew combat missions over Europe in a P-51 Mustang, and was a man of great physical courage. Perhaps one of the few accomplishments he discussed was that of a young fighter pilot serving in the 357th Fighter Group. Among his friends from those days was General Chuck Yeager, a fellow West Virginian, with whom he shared a life-long friendship.

Paul returned to Charleston where he practiced law until the time of his death. As a lawyer, Paul exemplified the highest ideals of his profession. His clients ranged from Fortune 500 companies and West Virginia’s most prominent business organizations, to individuals he met in his church and civic activities. Each client received his full measure of attention, and each found him a worthy advocate and trusted advisor.

Throughout his lifetime, Paul was dedicated to the community in which he lived and, in his quiet and unassuming manner, spent countless hours and made lasting contributions. He served as Chairman of the Charleston Regional Chamber of Commerce, Vice President of the Charleston Renaissance Corporation, Chairman of the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, President of the Kanawha County Bar Association, a Trustee of Alderson Broaddus College, a Trustee of the West Virginia University Foundation, President of the Fund for the Arts in Charleston, and a leader of his church. To each of these organizations he gave freely and fully of his time and talent, just as he did in the practice of law.
Much of Paul’s legal practice involved mineral law. For ten years, he was an Adjunct Professor of Law at West Virginia University College of Law where he taught coal, oil, and gas. He was a splendid teacher by all accounts, respected and remembered fondly by his students. His interest in education extended beyond the classroom. Paul was instrumental in establishing the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation’s extensive scholarship program and served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Yeager Scholars Program at Marshall University.

At the height of his career, Paul helped establish and nurture the Eastern Mineral Law Foundation, now centered at the West Virginia University College of Law. He served for many years on the executive committee of its board of trustees. This foundation, like so many other of Paul’s endeavors, will have a lasting impact on the people it serves.

Everything Paul did, he did well. He was a splendid companion, who cherished life and lived it to the fullest, inspiring friends along the way. He was a generous man who will be missed by all whose lives he touched, none more than us, his partners and the members of the firm he nurtured and helped grow. Others may assume his duties in the community and the practice of law, but no one will replace him. He was a friend and teacher to all of us, and we shall not forget him.