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Robert T. Donley

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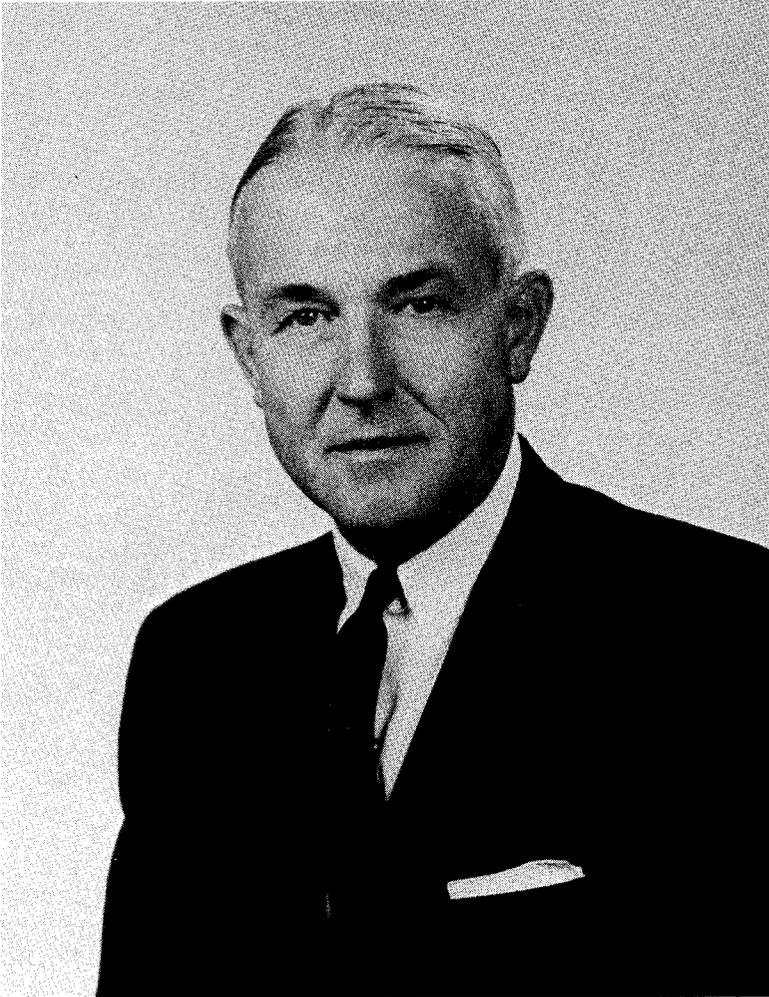
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JUDGE ROBERT T. DONLEY
1904-1977

ROBERT T. DONLEY

The *West Virginia Law Review* dedicates the first Coal Issue to Robert T. Donley, an individual who has been West Virginia's most prominent leader in the development of mineral law. Born and raised in Morgantown, West Virginia, and admitted to the Bar in 1926, his goal in all legal matters was not that he should prevail, nor that his clients should prevail, but that the law should prevail. In particular, he practiced this philosophy as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia and later as a highly regarded labor arbitrator. Moreover, he was never too busy to help any sincere younger lawyer with a legal problem or to assist one of his older colleagues in resolving a troublesome question.

Judge Donley's success as a teacher is evidenced by the profound respect and deep affection with which he is regarded by his former students. His colleagues at the College of Law recognized his ability by awarding him a full professorship, the only part-time teacher known to have attained such status. Judge Donley was also named the first recipient to the *Justicia Officium Award*.

His reputation as an author was based upon a nationwide recognition of his eminence in the fields upon which he wrote; the simplicity of his language and the clarity of his thought. His works in the area of mineral law and contract law are accepted authority.

It is appropriate that the first Coal Issue of the *West Virginia Law Review* recognize the efforts and achievements of Robert T. Donley, a man who dedicated his life to the service of his fellow man through the legal profession.