December 1965

In Memoriam: Dean Clyde Lemuel Colson: 1902-1965

Follow this and additional works at: https://researchrepository.wvu.edu/wvlr

Part of the Legal Biography Commons, and the Legal Education Commons

Recommended Citation

Available at: https://researchrepository.wvu.edu/wvlr/vol68/iss1/2

This In Memoriam is brought to you for free and open access by the WVU College of Law at The Research Repository @ WVU. It has been accepted for inclusion in West Virginia Law Review by an authorized editor of The Research Repository @ WVU. For more information, please contact ian.harmon@mail.wvu.edu.
et al.: In Memoriam: Dean Clyde Lemuel Colson: 1902-1965

[Image of Dean Clyde Lemuel Colson]

Dean Clyde Lemuel Colson

Disseminated by The Research Repository @ WVU, 1965
In Memoriam
Dean Clyde Lemuel Colson
1902-1965

During a span of thirty years, a generation, Clyde Lemuel Colson made many contributions to the West Virginia Law Review. For five years he was faculty editor in charge of the publication. He contributed many excellent articles on subjects of law and government. He advised and counseled students on their compositions for the Law Review. He was consulted on the quality, contents and types of materials to be published. He was instrumental in the working arrangements between The West Virginia Bar Association and the College of Law whereby problems of finances for and distribution of the Law Review were resolved. Much as a "page of history is worth a volume of logic," so also a page from the record concerning Dean Colson will serve here as an index to the volumes which might be written appropriately and fittingly concerning him, his life and services.

Clyde Lemuel Colson was born September 28, 1902, at Lumpkin, Georgia, son of Lemuel Wilson and Willie (Kennedy) Colson. His death occurred in Morgantown, West Virginia, on October 29, 1965. His early education was in Georgia, where his father was a minister of the Methodist Church. He received his A. B. degree from Emory University in 1921. Harvard University awarded him the LL. B. degree in 1929 and the S. J. D. degree in 1934. From 1929 to 1935 he was assistant professor of law at Emory University. At West Virginia University he was associate professor of law from 1935 to 1938, professor of law from 1938 to 1956, and dean of the College of Law from 1956 to 1964. In 1964 he retired as dean and resumed his role as professor of law, in which position he was serving when stricken by his last illness.

Dean Colson was a member of The Order of the Coif, The West Virginia Bar Association, The West Virginia State Bar, the
Phi Delta Phi legal fraternity, the Delta Tau Delta social fraternity, the Morgantown Rotary Club, and the Wesley Methodist Church in Morgantown. Twice he was acting president of West Virginia University when the University was in search of a president. From 1957 to 1961 he was Director of the West Virginia Commission on Constitutional Revision. In addition to his teaching and administrative services at the University, he was long active in drafting legislation and providing counseling services for state and local government officials and agencies. In 1962 the University bestowed on him the Order of Vandalia award in recognition of his "long and distinguished service." The 1964 College of Law graduating class dedicated its class brochure to Dean Colson. The Student Bar, the law school student body organization, honored him at the 1964 Law Day dinner and program. The West Virginia Law School Association, at its 1964 College of Law Alumni Day program, awarded Dean Colson a commemorative plaque in recognition of his valued services. He was the recipient of many other tokens and expressions of appreciation.

Surviving Dean Colson are his widow, Helen Claire (Hamer) Colson; three daughters, Mrs. Robert Lee (Claire) Roberts, of Charleston, Mrs. Herbert Stephenson (Julia) Boreman, Jr., of Parkersburg, and Mrs. Benjamin Holt (Helen) Hayes, of Fairmont; and seven grandchildren.

Clyde Lemuel Colson came to West Virginia in 1935—a stranger among strangers. Thirty years later he departs, well and favorably known throughout the state and beyond, leaving an indelible imprint by his services, accomplishments and contributions. His students have become governors, judges, legislators, government administrators, corporation executives and lawyers in many capacities and fields of service. Through them his influence will continue. His work in legislation and government will long manifest his keen mind and able touch. His kindly, gentle, humble disposition will long be remembered. His many attributes will enshrine him in lasting memories.

With abiding appreciation, respect and reverence, the West Virginia Law Review records these words in memoriam of Dean Clyde Lemuel Colson.