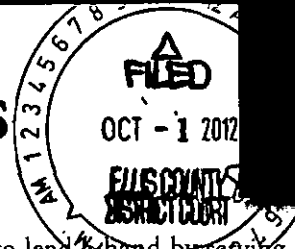




Empty Hallways



Is there a person in your courthouse that always seems to be there and that you look forward to seeing each trip you make to the building? If not the courthouse, maybe someone in your office building, gym, church, store, or other place you frequent. You know that person I'm talking about, the one that always has a smile for you and makes you feel welcome. Many years ago, one of my favorite TV shows was "Cheers." If you were acquainted with that sitcom, the opening song referenced a place, "where everybody knows your name and they're always glad you came." The characters in the show were at the bar so often that they sort of resembled a family and that is the way they treated each other. Norm was my favorite and every time he entered the bar his name was yelled out with great enthusiasm and welcome.

Many of us are in the courthouse so often that the people we encounter there begin to feel like family. These individuals, whether they are court clerks, security officers, probation officers, court reporters, or even judges, make us feel welcome and brighten the day. As I walk up the courthouse steps, they often greet me with a smile and show a genuine interest in how I am doing. One of the members of my courthouse family, who I always looked forward to seeing, is now gone. He was taken from us far too early, a victim of cancer.

He was a lawyer. He did not achieve great fame by winning million dollar verdicts or arguing cases dealing with novel areas of law. He served as a contract attorney in our area, representing juveniles, misdemeanor defendants, families in child in need of care cases, and people subject to mental illness and alcohol petitions. In private practice, he was the lawyer that

was always ready to lend a hand by serving as a guardian ad litem or covering a hearing if a lawyer had a conflict. He never required compensation when assisting a fellow lawyer and would simply ask that the favor be returned in the future. He left us being owed a lot of favors. He labored somewhat in obscurity and his contributions in the courtroom did not make the front pages. He was not what one would call a high-profile lawyer, but to his clients and the people he touched in the courthouse, he was a giant.

When the cancer was discovered, he faced it bravely and with a smile. He was reluctant to ask for any accommodation from opposing counsel and forged ahead, day after day, representing his clients and improving their lives. I do not know whether he was aware of the inspiration he gave to those around him. He carried himself with dignity and made all of us proud to be his fellow lawyer and friend. It seemed as if every time I went to the courthouse, he was there smiling, which made me smile. Even when he was opposing counsel, he was a welcome sight. These days, we no longer have the joy of seeing him in the hallway. Our courthouse seems empty and less inviting.

If you are fortunate enough to know someone like the person described above, do not take the smiles for granted. We have all heard the saying, "stop and smell the roses." The lesson I learned from the loss of my friend is to stop and enjoy the smiles. The people that populate our courthouses make our practice of law more enjoyable and enrich our lives. Take a moment and let them know how important they are; you may not get another chance and be reminded of that when you notice the empty hallway. ■



Ellis County Courthouse, Hays

Glenn Braun may be reached by e-mail at grbraun@haysamerica.com, by phone at (785) 625-6919, or post a note on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ksbar.

CLINKSCALES ELDER LAW PRACTICE, P.A.

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September 24, 2012



William W. Jeter
Jeter Law Firm, LLP
1200 Main Street, Suite 202
P.O. Box 128
Hays, KS 67601

Re: *In the Matter of Willis K. Musick, an Ellis County Attorney*

Dear Bill:

I first met Willis Musick in law school, but it was not until I moved to Hays that Willis and I bumped into each other in the courthouse. That is when we first really got to know each other.

Our families intertwined through the years. Willis' wife, Micki Armstrong, became a very close friend to my wife Barbara. His son Nathan and my son Josh are friends, and each bears scars from the activities that they had with each other. His daughter Saree and my son Dan were fast friends and remain so even today.

Through the years, both as a prosecutor and as an able general practitioner, I grew to respect and admire Willis' approach to practice. At all times, he was a gentleman (though there were moments when he could get excited on behalf of his client). I always thought he was fair and reasonable. You cannot say that about everyone. He was always accommodating. Again, you cannot say that about everyone.

There were times in some hotly contested divorce cases where Willis would be appointed as guardian *ad litem* for the children. I can truly say that I always felt he did a great job in representing the children – he would really look out for their best interests, exercising good and prudent judgment. I knew that if the circumstance ever developed where my children needed a guardian *ad litem*, it would have been Willis that I wanted to represent them.



MEMBER
LIFE CARE PLANNING LAW FIRMS ASSOCIATION

September 24, 2012

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I really cannot think of any other attorney that was more a part of the courthouse scene than Willis. Whether it was having coffee with you and some of the others, or whether it was sitting through every docket call, like on motion day, Willis was there. It was always easy to get ahold of Willis – he was at the courthouse.

It has really been different not having Willis around. I am proud to see so many of our young attorneys pick up the slack resulting from Willis' absence. I think that in part they were inspired by his example.

Willis left us as a good, quiet and honest man who deeply loved his family. He made our bar association a better place.

We should not, nor will we, forget him.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'J' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that ends in a small loop.

J. Randall Clinkscales

JETER LAW FIRM, LLP
EMPRISE BANK BUILDING
P. O. BOX 128
HAYS, KANSAS 67601

Norman W. Jeter (1912-2009)
Joseph W. Jeter
William W. Jeter



Telephone 785-628-1376
Fax 785-628-1376

September 28, 2012

Ellis County District Court
P.O. Box 8
Hays, KS 67601

Re: In the Matter of Willis K. Musick, An Ellis County Attorney

TO WHOMEVER IT MAY CONCERN:

I first met Willis Musick in the mid 70s when he was an undergraduate student at Fort Hays State University and a bartender at Smoky Hill Country Club. After Willis graduated from law school, finished his practice in Steward County and moved to Ellis County, we established a friendship that continued from that point forward. He was not only an adversary, but also a personal friend who you could truly say was liked and respected by all of his acquaintances.

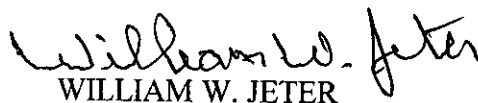
Other than his time serving the public in the Ellis County Attorney's office, Willis had an active law practice representing people in need of his services regardless of their financial resources. He provided a service to the community by accepting appointments as guardian ad litem for hundreds of juvenile offenders and children in need of care which service is sorely missed by the legal community.

I was informed of Willis' death by e-mail in my office immediately prior to a client appointment. My client could tell that I was upset and the next day I received the following note from her:

"Dear Mr. Jeter. I just came from your office and was told at work that Willis Musick passed away. I did not hear the name you mentioned in your office and didn't want to be intrusive. I am so sorry to hear that. Willis will be missed by so many people in the community. He has helped both of my sons many times throughout the years and I have always appreciated him so much."

I miss Willis. Whether it's a phone call discussing a legal issue, attending a Fort Hays State basketball game or having coffee. He was a true gentleman and a good friend.

Respectfully submitted,


WILLIAM W. JETER

Willis K. Musick

By

**Edward E. Bouker
Chief Judge, 23rd Judicial District**



I am honored to present this as part of the memorial to my friend and fellow lawyer, Willis Musick. This is part of a tradition of the Ellis County Bar, which pays tribute, in open court and in the court record, to those of our colleagues who have passed.

Willis had been an assistant county attorney in Seward County, but moved to Hays in the early 1980's. I was a defense attorney, and quickly came to know him well. Willis later served as County Attorney of Ellis County and then entered into private practice.

Soon thereafter, our district judges, Judge Flood and Judge Scott, decided to change the way the county hired and paid for attorneys to represent those who qualified for appointed legal services funded by Ellis County. The state furnishes representation for those charged with felonies and entitled to an appointed attorney, while the county must pay for such services in misdemeanor, juvenile and several other types of cases.

At the time, attorneys were appointed on a case-by-case basis and paid by the hour. The judges decided to contract with two attorneys to provide all these services for a set monthly fee. In a bidding process, Willis and I were selected. We served as the two contract attorneys until January of 1993 when I was sworn in as District Judge. Willis continued to serve. Soon, the contract program grew to four attorneys, with occasional changes of the attorneys serving in three of the four spots. Willis was the only constant. While I am not certain of the exact month and year the contract program commenced, I am confident that Willis was part of it for more than 20 years, from its inception until his death in August 2010.

Willis also handled felony appointments and had private clients. Despite this demanding practice, he made the decision not to employ a secretary. He was one of the few people organized and disciplined enough to do it all himself, managing his phone calls (with the help of the answering machine), copying, filing, mailing and tackling the multitude of other tasks required to operate a law practice.

Those are some facts about Willis and his career, but they fail to do justice to Willis as an attorney and as a person. He was a gentleman in every sense of the word. He was an accomplished attorney and a zealous advocate, but he was quiet and reserved. He could do his job well without being unpleasant or angry. He knew that the law was

his profession, and he was dedicated to it. But he seemed to also understand that it was not his identity – that other things in life were equally, and in some cases, more important.

He was a man of unquestioned honesty. I never saw him lose his cool, in court or out. I never saw him hold a grudge. Yet that did not mean he was a pushover. Willis was able to hold his own in and out of court. Over his career, he appeared in countless hearings, tried hundreds of cases from city court trials to felony jury trials, and appeared in numerous appeal matters. He prosecuted and defended. He represented felons and misdemeanants in criminal cases. He represented children and parents in juvenile court. Through all this, he upheld the highest ideals of honesty, integrity and civility.

Although reserved, Willis had a quick wit. His one-liners sometimes stopped complaining clients in their tracks. On one occasion, a client, much to his chagrin, was told to stay away from his girlfriend until further order of the court. As Willis walked with him out of the courtroom, the client was heard to say, rather loudly: "That's crap! Who does he think he is?" Willis replied: "He thinks he's the judge. And he's right."

On another occasion, Willis explained the appellate process about as succinctly as possible to a complaining client, who asked, with reference to the judge: "Can he do that?" To which Willis responded: "He can until a bigger judge tells him he can't."

In summation, it was my great honor to have known Willis. I miss him still. I can truly say that if I were asked for examples of what a lawyer should aspire to be, Willis would feature prominently on the list.



Partners: Robert F. Glassman (1922-2005)
John T. Bird, Gregory A. Schwartz, Carol M. Par
Associate: John Curtis Brow.

October 2, 2012

Hon. Edward E. Bouker
District Court Judge
Ellis County Courthouse
1204 Fort Street
P.O. Box 8
Hays Kansas 67601

12.CV.108



RE: WILLIS K. MUSICK MEMORIAL FILE

Please include this letter in the Court's official file in this matter.

I had the privilege of practicing law at the same time as Willis K. Musick for almost his entire legal career. Willis was, as has been stated many times, a quintessential gentleman, first and foremost. I am proud to say it was always a pleasure to deal with Willis, whether he was working with me on a case, or was on the other side of the case. In either event, Willis was the kind of lawyer who I knew I didn't have to watch my back with, whose word was good, who I knew was always looking for a way to help the situation, while representing his clients in the best way possible. He was generous, sometimes too generous, as he represented people who really should have been paying fees but Willis's soft heart would not allow him to send them a bill. There were times when I asked Willis to represent my regular clients because a conflict of interest had developed and he never would send me a bill. I had to force him to accept pay for his services. When he had a client who needed services that he was not able to provide, he was always careful to make sure to find that client another attorney who would suit the needs of the client.

Willis was very proud of what he did and who he was, but his pride was the quiet kind, not boastful, and always gentlemanly. If he got the better of me in a case, he was always the first one across the room to shake my hand and congratulate me on doing a good job, and, if the situation were reversed, he did the same.

Willis was good for the legal profession. When he interacted with non-lawyers, they always came away with a positive impression of him, and I heard many people comment that they hoped that all lawyers were as nice as Willis Musick. We need more lawyers like him.

Willis was not a complainer. He took what life threw at him, and turned it into something positive, always. He liked sports, and to have Willis Musick as a fan of your team was to have a

October 2, 2012

Page 2

true fan. He followed Fort Hays State athletics closely, and was always ready to quiz me about the prospects for next year's basketball and football teams, and, conversely, any college kid, including athletes who might run afoul of the law around Hays, could usually find Willis willing to help out, quietly working with the "authorities" to minimize the negative impact of what was usually just a bad decision by a kid.

Willis Musick was completely and 100% color-blind. He never, ever, treated any person, of whatever race, differently or negatively because of their race. It was always refreshing for me to see a Western Kansas kid bond with athletes and students of diverse ethnic background, and know that Willis was helping them and working for them just as hard as if they were the Western Kansas farm kids he grew up with.

Willis Musick was also a devoted Democrat. I knew that anytime things were getting tough for the Democrats, nationally or locally, Willis was a person who I could talk to, get an opinion from, and who would lend his support to the cause of the party and the candidates of that party and, that he felt the importance of the issues of the people, in his heart and soul.

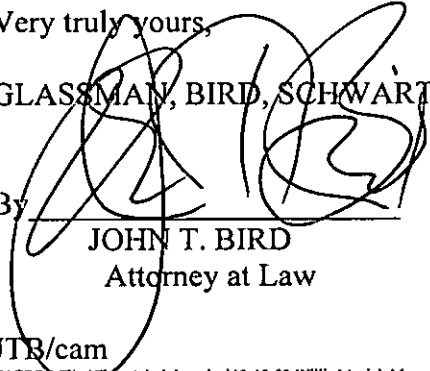
We all miss people who have passed on, especially those who die as young as Willis. However, the way in which we miss Willis Musick is more than just that. He has left us with the memory of a good and dedicated attorney-citizen, who took his oath of office to heart. As I write this letter, I am looking at the Law License that Willis, I, and thousands of other attorneys have been granted in this State. It says, in part, "He took an oath that he would support and bear true allegiance to the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Kansas, that he will neither delay nor deny any man his right, through malice, or lucre, or from any unworthy desire; that he will not knowingly foster, or promote, or give assent to fraudulent, groundless or unjust suits; that he will neither do nor consent to the doing of any falsehood in court and that he will discharge his duties as an attorney and counselor or the Supreme and inferior courts of the State of Kansas with fidelity both to the Court and to his cause; and to the best of his knowledge and ability."

Willis Musick lived that oath, and he is missed.

Very truly yours,

GLASSMAN, BIRD, SCHWARTZ & PARK, L.L.P.

By


JOHN T. BIRD
Attorney at Law

JTB/cam

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