

Allan J. Conkle

Allan J. Conkle was born on a sunny Easter Sunday, March 31, 1918, in Hardin County, Ohio, to Lyman Conkle and Marie (Kraft) Conkle. When Allan was three years old, his father, a farmer in Hardin County, died. Following his father's death, Allan, with his mother and younger brother, Louis B. Conkle, moved to East Ohio Street in Kenton, Ohio. Allan's mother worked as a night nurse in the maternity ward of the local hospital to support herself and two sons. Allan learned early the meaning of poverty and sacrifice.

After graduating from Kenton High School in 1936, Allan attended and graduated from The Ohio State University in 1941 with a bachelor's degree in accounting. Following graduation, Allan worked as an accountant for Chevrolet in Flint, Michigan before accepting a commission in the U.S. Naval Reserve in 1942.

Allan served as a naval officer on Guadalcanal from 1943 to 1944. Following service in the South Pacific, Allan was transferred to the United States Naval Postgraduate School in Annapolis, Maryland where he received further training in communications. He was ordered to the USS Vicksburg in the summer of 1945 as Communications Officer and sailed with the Vicksburg in the western Pacific covering approaches to Tokyo Bay prior to and during the formal Japanese surrender on September 2, 1945.

While at Annapolis, Allan met and married Martha Jean Jessen of Peabody, Kansas. Allan and Jean remained married for 67 years, having three sons, Bill, John and Tom, all of whom followed in their father's footsteps and became lawyers. Allan cherished his family. He

especially relished the time he spent with his nine grandchildren and was always interested in their education and accomplishments.

Following World War II and his discharge from the Navy, Allan was persuaded by his brother Louie to take advantage of the GI bill and attend law school. Allan and Jean moved to Columbus and Allan attended the Ohio State University Law School where he became Editor of the Law Review, was elected to the Order of the Coif and ranked third in the graduating class of 1948.

Upon graduation, Allan and Jean moved to Toledo where Allan was hired by Harry S. Bugbee. In 1951, Harry Bugbee and Allan formed the law firm of Bugbee & Conkle, LLP, where Allan practiced for more than 55 years. Allan represented businesses and individuals in the areas of probate, estate planning, business formation and succession, profit sharing and employee benefit plans, taxation and workers' compensation. Allan was able to make clear and concise evaluations and effectively execute them for his clients. His legal documents were always drafted accurately and thoroughly and could be relied upon to accomplish his clients' best objectives. Allan was a lifelong member of the Toledo Bar Association, Chairing the Grievance Committee for many years and serving as the TBA's President in 1975 – 1976. Allan's legal career was exemplary. He consistently demonstrated thoughtfulness, patience, caring and expertise to his clients and those with whom he dealt.

In 1949, Allan and John Yaeger, two newly minted Toledo lawyers, began having weekly lunches. Later that year, they expanded the lunches to include other new lawyers. Over time, membership grew to 12 lawyers including the likes of John Potter, Andy Anderson and Bob Rowley to name a few. They called themselves the Lake Erie Bar Association and prided themselves on the fact their Association had no dues, no officers and no agenda. In addition to their weekly lunches, members would meet once a month to play poker. Allan never missed a

game. With the exception of Allan and Bob Rowley, both of whom were Ohio State graduates, the remaining members of the Lake Erie Bar Association had all graduated from the University of Michigan. Despite decreasing membership over the years, the surviving members of the Lake Erie Bar Association continued to meet weekly for lunch for more than 55 years.

Allan was devoted to Ohio State football, holding season tickets for more than 60 years. Beginning in the early 1950's, Allan and Jean travelled to Columbus on Saturdays in the fall to watch the Buckeyes and made car trips with friends to Buckeye away games. Their trips to the "Horseshoe" continued up until 2009 when age and its resulting infirmities no longer permitted them to make the pilgrimage.

Despite his accomplishments and stellar legal career, Allan remained a humble man. He was modest and unpretentious, never boasting or being full of himself. Allan had no sense of entitlement and realized that one must earn his way in this world. Allan was a gentleman in the best sense of the word. Dignified, considerate and respectful. Most importantly, Allan was a man of truth, honesty and integrity. Allan was comfortable with who he was and his words and actions were a true reflection of the man. He would not compromise himself to gain favor with anyone or to gain advantage in any situation. Allan's honesty, integrity and courage to live life according to his own compass brought comfort to his family and friends.

Allan died on the sunny morning of October 3, 2012. Allan was a credit to his family, his community and the legal profession. Allan will be missed but never forgotten.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gregory Denny
Thomas Conkle
Andrew Anderson
Jerry Robison