

## MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR JUDGE CLINTON E. SHAEFFER

Delivered by Justice James H. Carter  
at the regular meeting of the Iowa Judges Association  
Held in Des Moines, Iowa, on June 21, 2000

Mr. Chairman at this time I ask the members of this association to remember Judge Clinton E. Shaeffer of Cedar Rapids, who died on November 16, 1999, at age 90. Judge Shaeffer served as a district judge from June 1970 until June 1981, when he attained the mandatory retirement age. Prior to his district court service, he had served several years as a judge of the Cedar Rapids Municipal Court. While on the municipal bench, he was the first judge in Linn County to serve exclusively as a juvenile court judge.

Judge Shaeffer was born in Fraser in Boone County and attended the public schools there. He attended Drake University as an undergraduate and received his LLB degree from that university in 1930, when he was only 21 years old. He practiced law in Des Moines and Marshalltown before coming to Cedar Rapids in 1939, where he collaborated with attorney Marvin Klaas in the publishing of attorney practice manuals. Shortly thereafter, he joined the late Milo Hanzlik in the practice of law in Cedar Rapids. Later, Judge Shaeffer practiced for many years with the late Warren Ackley in a firm that eventually included Judge Shaeffer's son-in-law, Eugene Kopecky.

Judge Shaeffer was a fine lawyer, an excellent judge, and took great pride in his membership in both of those provisions. On the bench, he possessed an imposing presence, which, with no particular effort on his part, commanded the attention and respect of those who appeared in his courtroom. Although seemingly gruff when he spoke, he was at all times judicious, fair, open-minded, and respectful of all who came before him.

He worked very efficiently, accomplished much, and was never intimidated by a difficult situation. During most of Judge Shaeffer's judicial career there was no rule 200 report. Had there

been one, he would never have had any cases on the list. He made his decisions promptly and did not look back.

During the time that I served with Judge Shaeffer on the district bench, the judges in our district took turns in presiding over a juror indoctrination ceremony at the beginning of each trial session. Judge Shaeffer always performed this task better than anyone else. He would deliver an eloquent speech about the importance of the judicial system to a free society and the importance of the juror's role within that system. I occasionally would borrow Judge Shaeffer's text when it was my turn to indoctrinate a jury panel, but I never delivered it as well as he did.

Judge Shaeffer was a delightful lunch partner, providing his companions with a mixture of sharp social commentary and dry humor. He was extremely skillful in commanding the attention of the waitresses with a combination of flattery and friendly jesting. As a result, his coffee cup was never allowed to be empty for more than a few moments. It was the good fortune of those who lunched with him to share in the benefits of the fine relationships he developed with our servers.

Although Judge Shaeffer gave much of himself to the law, the primary focus of his life's activities was always on his family. He and his wife, Gladys, who died in 1998, were married for 58 years. When he was not working or playing golf, he loved to spend his time with her and their daughter, Sally, and her family. Judge Shaeffer often remarked that, to be in his family, one either had to be a lawyer or married to a lawyer. That has proven to be correct because his only child, Sally Shaeffer Kopecky, is married to a lawyer, three of her four children are lawyers, and the fourth is married to a lawyer.

Judge Shaeffer was a charter member of All Saints Catholic Church in Cedar Rapids and served on the committee that approved the design for the church when it was constructed in 1965. He served on the first board of directors for Regis High School when that school was opened and was deeply involved in many other activities in his parish.

He was an avid golfer both prior to and subsequent to his retirement. He continued playing the game until he was past 88 years of age. He liked to start early in the morning. He would register for the earliest available tee time and usually show up and tee off prior to that time, paying his greens fees on the completion of the round because there often was no one there to collect them when he commenced play. In his later years, he was frequently joined by his grandson in those early morning golf outings.

Judge Shaeffer was a fine man and a dedicated public servant. I considered it a pleasure and honor to have served on the bench with him.

Mr. Chairman I ask that my remarks be included in the permanent records of the association and that a copy be provided to Judge Shaeffer's family.