

IOWA JUDGES ASSOCIATION
MEMORIAL TO THE HONORABLE
JUDGE PAUL E. HELLWEGE

JUDGE PAUL E. HELLWEGE
Boone, Iowa
July 3, 1912-January 28, 2010

Judge Paul E. Hellwege died on January 28, 2010 at the age of 97.

Judge Hellwege was born July 3, 1912 in Boone County, Iowa, the first child of Frank C. and Ida (Shadle) Hellwege. He attended country school for the first four grades. The balance of his secondary education was at Boxholm where he graduated in 1930. In the fall of 1932 he enrolled in the University of Iowa and earned a BA degree in 1936 and JD degree in 1938. After graduating, he returned to Boone and began his law practice. In 1959, he formed a partnership, known as Hellwege & Bergren. In 1939, he married Phoebe Benson in Iowa City and in 2005 they celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary.

Shortly after coming to Boone, he became active in Democratic politics. In 1942, he was elected County Attorney of Boone County, an office he held for six years, and was the first Democrat to do so. On two occasions, he was a member of the State Democratic Central Committee.

Judge Hellwege was twice appointed as District Court Judge. In 1958, he was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the death of H.C. Nichol – and he became the first Democratic judge since 1894 in the then 11th Judicial District. His first appointment was before the implementation of the Missouri plan and to retain a judgeship, the judge had to be re-appointed by the Governor. Unfortunately, for

Judge Hellwege his democratic politics did not serve him well in the re-appointment process. However, in 1964 he was again appointed District Judge to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of John M. Schaupp. He served as a District Court Judge until 1981, including a short stint as the Chief Judge; and he served as a Senior Judge until 1991.

Judge Hellwege was a member of the Boone Rotary Club since 1948. He was a Past President of the Boone club, a past District Governor and received several awards, including Rotary's Harris Fellow, the Citation for Meritorious Service, and Rotary's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award.

Judge Hellwege was active in many areas of service to his home community, including serving on his church council for 30 years. He was an avid reader and his hobbies included flower gardening and stamp collecting, specializing in first day covers. Judge Hellwege and his wife Phoebe also established an endowed need based scholarship in their name at the University of Iowa College of Law. Preference for the scholarship is to be given to a student from an Iowa farm family who plans to practice law in Iowa. If you knew Judge Hellwege, it may also help to be Democratic and Swedish.

Judge Hellwege was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Phoebe; his son, David; his daughter, Janice; his parents; and a baby sister. He is survived by a sister and several nieces and nephews.

Judge Hellwege's love was the law. His fellow judges described him as "an able and respected judge". The Iowa Supreme Court in affirming a criminal case presided over by him observed, "Trial court throughout displayed that patience and insight which characterizes competent management of criminal cases."

Judge Hellwege had an aversion to say "that reminds me of a story" and he often would then proceed to educate us all about a case he once presided over. At the age of 97, Judge Hellwege could still proudly summarize, and provide you with the Northwestern cite, of an Iowa Supreme Court ruling affirming his opinion on parole evidence. The case was *Hamilton v. Wosepka*, 154 N.W.2d 164 (Iowa 1967). It remains good law to this day.

Mr. President, I move that this memorial be spread across the pages of this association and a copy sent to his family.

(Presented by David R. Danilson, Judge, Iowa Court of Appeals)