

Resolution and Memorial
for
Robin L. Hinson
April 30, 2009

Your Honor, with the Court's permission, I will address both the Court and the audience as I, on behalf of the Mecklenburg County Bar, present this Resolution and Memorial honoring the life and memory of my dear friend and law partner, Robin Ledbetter Hinson.

Robin was born in Rockingham, North Carolina on May 26, 1931. He died peacefully on October 13, 2008, after a brief illness and still in the full flourishing of his distinguished legal career for more than half a century. In fact, he had been selected to give the principal address at the annual 50-year lawyer luncheon of the North Carolina State Bar in Raleigh, which was held only ten days after his death,

Robin graduated from Davidson College *magna cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa in 1953, and married his childhood sweetheart, Frances "Sis" Garrett, with whom he shared 54 wonderful years until her death just a year before Robin's.

After serving as an officer in the United States Navy, Robin attended the University of North Carolina School of Law, from which he graduated in 1958 with highest honors, was Editor-in-Chief of the North Carolina Law Review and was inducted into the Order of the Coif and the Order of the Golden Fleece. Upon graduation, he accepted the special and unusual invitation from the faculty of the Law School to join them as an Assistant Professor and an Assistant Dean. In 1961, he left Chapel Hill and entered the private practice of law in his native Rockingham with the firm of Leath, Bynum, Blount & Hinson. Subsequently he served as Associate General Counsel for the Carolina Power & Light Company in Raleigh; Vice President and General Counsel for Hanes Corporation in Winston-Salem, and then Senior Vice President and General Counsel for First Union Corporation in Charlotte. In 1978 he reentered private practice with the firm of Robinson, Bradshaw & Hinson, P.A. in Charlotte.

Robin has been one of the most distinguished and best-known lawyers in the State. For more than twenty years beginning in 1959, as the founder and teacher of the North Carolina Bar Review Course, he helped a whole generation of lawyers gain admission to practice in North Carolina by preparing them for the State Bar exam on a full range of subjects. Also, among his many other contributions to the legal profession, he served as a member of the North Carolina General Statutes Commission, a member of the State Constitution Study Commission, a member of the Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference, a director of the UNC Law Foundation, and a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. In 1992 he received the UNC School of Law Distinguished Alumnus Award, the highest honor the School bestows on an alumnus.

His contributions to the community as a whole were likewise generous and varied, including service on the board of Foundation for the Carolinas, and as its chairman in 1991-94, and on the boards of Charlotte Speech and Hearing Center, Crisis Assistance Ministry, The United Methodist Foundation for Western North Carolina, and the North Carolina Public Television Foundation.

Robin was an enthusiastic fisherman, with his friends, and especially with his sons up until the end of his life. He also enjoyed tennis, golf, chess, cooking and playing bridge. He combined an intense competitiveness with a humble and gracious demeanor, and his life was marked by a deep and steadfast devotion to his family, to his friends, and to his profession. He is survived by his sons Robin Jr. of Asheville, Reid of Charlotte, Minor and his wife Tiffany of Charlotte, and by his four grandchildren, Garrett, Gray, Minor, and Sara Frances Hinson, all of Charlotte.

After his death, I read a speech by Robin that is especially appropriate for the presentation of this Resolution and Memorial, here on the eve of Law Day. Robin delivered it to this Bar as the Law Day

Address on May 1, 1974. It is entitled "Youth and the Law", which was the theme of Law Day that year. Like our present time, that was a time of deep troubles for our country and our profession – in the very midst of Watergate. In his speech, Robin, like Dickens during the French Revolution, characterized it as "the best of times" and "the worst of times". It was, he said, the worst of times because we faced, as he put it, quote, "a crises of confidence in the ability of our national institutions to function"; and as to lawyers he said, again quote, "we have not been notable in demonstrating to the nation that we are well trained, as a profession, in the moral foundations of the law". But he also said it was the best of times because our freedoms and our institutions are supported by lawyers and a legal system that are the best in the world. So, for potential new lawyers, he said, again quote: "It is a time to say to the best and most talented young people we have, that they have a unique opportunity to participate and contribute to the revitalizing of those institutions which have set this country apart from all others. For our young people, and for us, there is no higher calling." end quote.

We have been richly blessed to have had among us Robin Hinson, who, for more than 50 years in the law, answered that high calling so well as a prominent and shining light of excellence, integrity and professionalism to new lawyers entering the practice.

So, Your Honor, with a deep sense of friendship, admiration and gratitude for his life, we the undersigned respectfully move that:

1. The Court shall adjourn this day in memory and honor of Robin L. Hinson, and
2. This Resolution and Memorial shall be stamped filed and inscribed in the minutes of the court, with a copy kept in the Memorials of Deceased Attorneys in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court and copies made available to members of the family.

Presenter

President, Mecklenburg County Bar

Russell M. Robinson, II
N.C. State Bar No. 3735

John W. Lassiter
N.C. State Bar No. 9319

Chairman, Committee on Memorials

A. Ward McKeithen
N.C. State Bar No. 5063

So Ordered this 30th day of April 2009

Hon. Robert P. Johnston
Chief Judge, Presiding