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## GARY RAY PRICE



Price, 78, of Brownwood, died August 10, 2015. He received his law degree from Baylor Law School and was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1965.

Price was county attorney of Brown County from 1969 to 1972 and district attorney of the 35th Judicial District from 1973 to 1980. He was a life fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation and a member of the Brown County Bar Association. Price served as a sergeant in the Texas National Guard. He is remembered for helping to create the Tuition Equalization Grant Program that has enabled more than 100,000 students to attend private colleges and universities. Price is survived by his wife of 57 years, Jarene; sons, Kent and Waren; brother, Dale; sister, Kay; and four grandchildren.

## RICHARD WAYNE KENNEDY



Kennedy, 55, of Tyler, died May 14, 2015. He received his law degree from South Texas College of Law and was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1991.

Kennedy was a prosecutor for the Smith County Criminal District Attorney's Office from 1991 to 1996, an attorney with the Law Offices of Richard W. Kennedy from 1996 to 2008, and first assistant district attorney for Rusk County in Henderson from 2008 to 2015. He is remembered as an avid golfer and for his love of fantasy football and lifelong interest in reading and history. Kennedy is survived by his wife of 17 years, Hon. Christi Kennedy; son, Kevin; parents, Richard and Shirley; and brothers, Craig and attorney Tom.

## HARRY A. DEFORD II



DeFord, 74, of Garland, died August 21, 2015. He received his law degree from Baylor Law School and was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1966.

DeFord was senior vice president of and general counsel to Oak Cliff Bank and Trust, where he established one of the first official legal departments for a bank in Texas. He then was general counsel to Republic Bank Oak Cliff and First Republic Bank Oak Cliff, official counsel to 11 of the First Republic Banks in Dallas, senior vice president of and assistant general counsel to NCNB, and assistant general counsel and assistant secretary of NationsBank and Bank of America. DeFord served in the U.S. National Guard from 1965 to 1971. He is remembered for his bald eagle figurine collection, knack for creating slideshows with music, and love of spending time with his family at the lake house he built with his father. DeFord is survived by his wife of 33 years, Suzanne; stepson, Jason Pilgrim; mother, Emogene; and brother, John.

## PHILLIP JORDAN



Jordan, 64, of Amarillo, died August 11, 2014. He received his law degree from Oklahoma City University School of Law and was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1976. Jordan was an attorney who focused on criminal law. He also enjoyed being a pilot, riding Harleys, and collecting stereo equipment. Jordan is survived by his wife, Liz; daughters, Jennifer Akerman, Heather Baker, and Amy Wolfle; and eight grandchildren.

## CONNIE MOORE



Moore, 59, of Galveston, died August 24, 2015. She received her law degree from the University of Houston Law Center and was admitted to

the Texas Bar in 1986. Moore was a solo practitioner with Connie Moore & Associates in Houston from 1986 to 1988 and a partner in Moore & Hunt in Houston from 1988 until her death. She received the 2008 Founder's Award from the LGBT Section of the State Bar of Texas and the section's 2012 Judge Norman W. Black Award. Moore is remembered for her advocacy for LGBT family law clients, her love of traveling the world, and her time spent playing saxophone with the Houston Pride Band. She is survived by her wife of 29 years, Debra Hunt; daughter, Andrea Vasquez; stepdaughter, Lina Hollis; sisters, Jerrilynn Thompson and Gail Mire; and six grandchildren.

## PHILIP GATES



Gates, 90, of Columbus, died October 19, 2015. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1943 to 1946 and later received his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law. Gates was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1948. He practiced law in Columbus for more than 60 years, joining the firm that became Hodges, Moore and Gates, which is now Gates, Stein, Gillespie & Trefny. He also served as city attorney for Columbus from 1954 to 1995. Gates enjoyed photography, golfing, and bird watching. He is survived by his daughters, Leigh and attorney Ellen; and sister, Prudence Kantz.

**JAMES W. MAYS**

Mays, 91, of Dallas, died November 29, 2014. He served as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. Mays later received his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law and was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1952. He was a petroleum landman for California Co. from 1951 to 1953, president of Evans Production Co. from 1954 to 1964, and a solo practitioner from 1964 to 2014. He is remembered as a walking oil business encyclopedia, and he also enjoyed spending time with family, traveling, and horse racing. Mays is survived by his wife of 63 years, Carol; son, attorney James Jr.; daughter, Kay; sisters, Mary Justice, Bennie Monzingo, Rebecca Risinger, and Ann Hollingsworth; and two grandchildren.

**RICHARD COOK GAFFNEY**

Gaffney, 84, of Kingwood, died October 28, 2015. He received his law degree from Duquesne University School of Law, was admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar, and was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1985. He also was registered to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Gaffney was a patent attorney for Gulf Oil Corp. in Pittsburgh and Houston from 1961 to 1985, when he was lead attorney on the SRC-2 project, which was described as "the most ambitious international energy project ever." He then was managing patent counsel to Chevron Corp. in San Francisco, California, from 1985 to 1992. Gaffney loved family, gardening, and good humor. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Virginia; sons, attorney Richard Jr., Charles, and Robert; daughters, Kathleen Neff, Virginia Herrington, and attorney Eileen Gaffney; 13 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

**STEVEN W. KENG**

Keng, 64, of Giddings, died June 15, 2015. He received his law degree from Texas Tech University School of Law and was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1976. Keng was an attorney with Simmam and Keng from 1976 to 1980, a justice of the peace of Lee County from 1978 to 1982, an attorney with the Law Office of Steven W. Keng from 1980 to 1984 and again from 1996 to 2007, county attorney of Lee County from 1984 to 1996, and an attorney with Keng and Keng from 2007 to 2015. Keng is remembered for also having been a singer and musician, his love of motorcycles and bicycles, and his restoration of the antique hobby horses at Fireman's Park in Giddings. He is survived by his wife of 23 years, Mary; sons, Wesley and Jeremy; daughter, Stephanie; mother, Arline; sisters, Judy Keaghey and Kathy Ray; and three grandchildren.

**GEORGE ROYALTY "ROOK" EDWARDS**

Edwards, 89, of Houston, died July 8, 2015. He served in World War II from 1944 to 1946 and later received his law degree from Baylor Law School. Edwards was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1949. He was an attorney with the Law Offices of Clint Breeding in Waco in 1949; an officer with the U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps in San Antonio during the Korean War from 1951 to 1952, retiring as a captain; an attorney with Edwards, Ressler, Horner & Lebowitz in Waco from 1953 to 1962; an assistant district attorney of McLennan County from 1958 to 1964; a contracts attorney with Columbia Financial Services in Houston from 1970 to 1976; and a private practitioner in Houston from 1986 to 1992. He was also a businessman working as a self-

employed commercial real estate developer in Houston from 1964 to 1969 and a self-employed oil well promoter in Houston and abroad from 1977 to 2015. Edwards became board certified in oil and gas law in 1991; was a member of the Texas Bar College from 1989 to 2007, having served on its board and received its award for two consecutive years; and helped found and served multiple terms on the State Bar of Texas's Agricultural Committee. He is remembered for his love of being a commercial pilot of single and multi-engine aircraft, for his initiation of the Karem Shriners temple in Waco in the early 1950s, and for his zest for life. Edwards is survived by his wife of 57 years, Marlene; son, attorney David; daughter, Deborah Davenport; and two grandchildren.

**DEE J. KELLY**

Kelly, 86, of Fort Worth, died October 2, 2015. He served as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War from 1951 to 1953. Kelly later received his law degree from George Washington University and was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1954. Kelly was a legal examiner in the oil and gas division of the Texas Railroad Commission for 18 months and then was a private practitioner for 14 months, before becoming general counsel to Moncrief Oil Interests, where he remained until 1963. He then returned to private practice, handling cases for the daughter of late pioneer oilman William Fleming, famous Fort Worth boot maker John Justin, and Bass Brothers Enterprises Inc. In 1979, Kelly, Mark Hart, and Bill Hallman formed the firm of Kelly Hart & Hallman, where Kelly primarily practiced business litigation, oil and gas work, and business transactions. He received numerous awards throughout his career, including the Horatio Alger Award and the Blackstone Award, and in 1999, the *Fort Worth Star-*

*Telegram* named him one of the 10 most influential leaders in Tarrant County during the second half of the 20th century. Kelly served on the board of several organizations, including the Jane and John Justin Foundation, the Van Cliburn Foundation, and the Sam Rayburn Foundation. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Janice; daughter, Cynthia Lynn Barnes; sons, Dee Jr. and Craig; and seven grandchildren.

#### **TOM RUSH MOODY JR.**



Moody, 85, of Trappe, Maryland, died November 5, 2015. He received his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law, was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1956, and also was a member of the District of Columbia Bar. Moody was an associate of Baker, Botts, Andrews, and Shepherd in Houston from 1956 to 1961; and a partner in Stubbeman, McRae, Sealy, Laughlin & Browder in Midland from 1961 to 1971. He then moved to the Washington, D.C., area, where he was a commissioner for the Federal Power Commission from 1971 to 1975; special counsel to Gov. Dolph Briscoe from 1975 to 1977; a partner in Baker & Botts from 1977 to 1978; a partner in Vinson & Elkins from 1977 to 1981; a partner in Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld from 1981 to 1989; and managing partner in Andrews Kurth from 1989 to 1996. Moody served in the U.S. Air Force Reserve from 1954 to 1964. Upon retirement, he enjoyed growing corn and soybeans at Trappe Landing Farm as well as serving as a president of Chesapeake Chamber Music Inc. and as a member of the Talbot County Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Ann; sons, Tom III, M. Bradford, and Stephen; daughters, Catherine Eshelman, Sarah Mariani, Lisa Breslin, and Emily Moody; sister, Marilyn Pickard; 12 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

#### **STEPHEN ALAN WAKEFIELD**



Wakefield, 74, of Atlanta, died October 12, 2015. He received his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law and was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1965. Wakefield was an associate of Baker & Botts in Houston and in 1970 was appointed to Richard Nixon's administration in Washington, D.C., where he was special assistant to the general counsel of the Federal Power Commission, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, assistant secretary for energy and mineral affairs at the Interior Department, and assistant federal energy administrator for International Programs. In 1974, he returned to Baker Botts as a partner and later served in the administration of President George H.W. Bush as general counsel of the Department of Energy. He then worked for Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld and was most recently senior vice president and general counsel of Southern Co. from 1997 until his retirement in 2005. Wakefield was an avid reader and a disciplined exerciser before his primary lateral sclerosis diagnosis. He and his wife were active with the MD Anderson Cancer Center and the Muscular Dystrophy Association's Night of Hope. Wakefield is survived by his wife, Pam; children, Melissa Hawley, Tracy Southwick, Stephen Wakefield, Selby Sullivan, Tricia Swen, and Mark Wakefield; sisters, Anne Dews and Sally Drechsel; brother, John; and 17 grandchildren.

#### **MORRIS ATLAS**



Atlas, 88, of McAllen, died October 4, 2015. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1945 to 1946 and later received his law degree from the University

of Texas School of Law. Atlas was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1950. He was an attorney with Ewers, Cox Port, Bentsen & Toothaker from 1951 to 1953. In 1953, he co-founded a firm now known as Atlas, Hall & Rodriguez in McAllen, from which he retired in 2006. He was a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, a recipient of the Texas Bar Foundation's 2001 Outstanding 50 Year Lawyer Award, and a past president of the Hidalgo County Bar Association. Atlas is remembered for his high standards of integrity, his philanthropic and community endeavors, and his fanatic support of the Texas Longhorns. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Rita; son, attorney Scott; daughters, Debra Atlas, Lauren Silverblatt, and attorney Lisa Genecov; and five grandchildren.

#### **JOHN ROBERT WHITE**



White, 42, of San Antonio, died September 30, 2015. He received his law degree from Baylor Law School and was admitted to the Texas Bar in 2005. White was an attorney with Holland & Knight from 2005 to 2006; Bell Nunnally & Martin in Dallas from 2006 to 2010; Espey & Associates in San Antonio from 2010 to 2011; Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart in San Antonio from 2011 to 2014; and in-house counsel at InGenesis in San Antonio from 2014 until his death. He is remembered for having been a loving husband and amazing father, for his ability to make people laugh, and for the orphan care ministry he started with his wife at Churchill Baptist Church. White is survived by his wife of 18 years, Amy; son, Asa; daughters, Maya and Eila; parents, Kristine and Hayden; and sisters, Mandie, Ashley, and Krista. **TBJ**