



## **A RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE LATE J. ALBERT ELLETT**

WHEREAS, Mr. Ellett passed away at age 85 in Roanoke, Virginia on July 19, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the said J. Albert Ellett “Ab”, was a long-time resident of Virginia and was born in Roanoke, Virginia to the late Rufus Purdum Ellett, Sr. and Myrtle Hillsman Ellett; Mr. Ellett graduated from Jefferson High School in Roanoke, Virginia in 1941; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ellett attended two quarters at VPI before joining the Air Force shortly after Pearl Harbor and served in Europe as a USAAF pilot in Italy until the end of the war and shortly thereafter. In the immediate post war period, Mr. Ellett flew gold to Greece in support of the democracy movement there. Upon his return, Mr. Ellett obtained his undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia under the GI Bill and went on to T.C. Williams School of Law where he obtained his *juris doctorate* in 1952;

WHEREAS, Mr. Ellett began his law practice in the company of Alex Apostolou, John Apostolou and Warren Messick. Mr. Ellett became a partner with John D. Copenhaver in 1964 and remained active in the practice of law until his death. During his practice he mentored many young law clerks, such as the Honorable Joseph Bounds, Richard Lawrence, Charles O. Cornelison, and others.

WHEREAS Mr. Ellett was a member of the Virginia State Bar, and the Virginia Bar Association and served as President of the Roanoke Bar Association; was appointed one of the Commissioner of Accounts for the City of Roanoke; was a fellow of the Virginia Law Foundation, and was recognized for his 50 years of law practice by the Virginia State Bar; and

WHEREAS, during his active practice, Mr. Ellett was involved in many of the traditional activities and services of attorneys, but should be most recognized for those services that went unseen. Mr. Ellett represented and advised clients diverse in economic status and heritage often at greatly reduced or no fee. “Ab” could not be called someone who believed in the “majesty” or perfection of the law. To him it was a human system with all human foibles. However, “Ab” believed that, as a whole, the law was the very best attempt to peacefully solve differences and to try to “get it right”. His confidence in people, his interest in all, his practical approach and his profoundly social nature helped parties solve those tough problems for which the law often has difficulty in providing solutions.

WHEREAS, Mr. Ellett served on the Board of Directors of the former First Virginia Bank-Southwest, was a long time member of Second Presbyterian Church and served for many years as an elder of the church; and was the oldest active practicing member of the Bar Association at the time he passed away; and

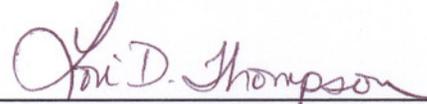
WHEREAS, Mr. Ellett is survived by his beloved wife of 59 years, Koiner B. Ellett, by sons Clai Ellett and Baker Ellett, granddaughter Nancy Ellett Hancock and her husband, B. J. Hancock and great grandson, Jeffrey Arland Hancock and numerous other family members and friends.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Roanoke Bar Association laments the passing of J. Albert Ellett, and holds his memory and his contributions to this Association, to this community, and to the cause of justice in high regard; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be furnished to the Circuit Courts of the City and County of Roanoke and the City of Salem and the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia, Roanoke Division, with motions that the resolution be spread upon the permanent common law order books of those courts; and that copies of this

resolution be furnished to J. Albert Ellett's family to communicate the esteem in which the Roanoke Bar Association holds "Ab" and his memory and the Association's sorrow at his passing.

GIVEN under the hands of the President and Secretary of the Roanoke Bar Association and the seal of the Association this 11th day of October, 2011.



Lori D. Thompson, President  
Roanoke Bar Association

TESTE:



Stephen W. Lemon, Secretary  
Roanoke Bar Association