

1 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

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5 PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

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7 M E M O R I A L S E R V I C E S

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9 for

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11 LEON SHAMPAIN

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13 BRADY J. VRADENBERG

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15 T. HAMMOND WELSH, JR.

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Wednesday, November 19, 1986

Penny L. Comeau
Official Court Reporter
P.O. Box 401
Upper Marlboro, Maryland

PROCEEDINGS

2 . . . The Court convened en banc at three o'clock
3 p.m., there being present Honorable William H. McCullough,
4 and Honorable Albert T. Blackwell, and Honorable Jacob S.
5 Levin, Associate Judges . . .

6 JUDGE MCCULLOUGH: It is always a privilege for
7 me to preside at the annual memorial service for departed
8 brothers, Leon Shampain, Brady J. Vradenberg, and T. Hammond
9 Welsh. I will now recognize the President of the Bar
10 Association, Mr. Jim Kenkel.

11 MR. JAMES KENKEL: May it please the Courts sitting
12 specially en banc and friends and family of the members we
13 are honoring here today and my colleagues. Eighty years ago,
14 a few lawyers in Marlboro and Hyattsville gathered to form the
15 Prince George's County Bar Association, an association that
16 numbered nearly one thousand members, lawyers and judges and
17 taken its rightful place as a professional organization in
18 this county dedicated to the advancement of jurisprudence.

19 In addition to that, we pause literally to take
20 care of our own and to recognize during the year those who
21 have made special achievements and then in November of each
22 year, sometime between Veterans Day and Thanksgiving, it has
23 become a tradition of the Bar Association to pause and recog-
24 nize our colleagues who have died during the past year.

25 For more than one half of the Bar Association's

1 existence, for nearly forty years our Chair of this afternoon's
2 program has been actively practicing here in Prince George's
3 County. J. Edwin Hutchinson of College Park, Maryland has been
4 a lawyer for forty years. In 1963 he was appointed as the first
5 full-time juvenile master of the Circuit Court for Prince
6 George's County, and it was in that year '62-'63 that he served
7 as president of the Prince George's County Bar Association.
8 He has graciously chaired the Association's Memorial Committee
9 and he has annually taken the lead in arranging this service.
10 He has also given of himself, Your Honors, as you know on a
11 voluntary basis to the Association's other activities including
12 arbitration activities for the prompt resolution of minor
13 disputes. He is active in his civic and church affairs,
14 particularly with the University United Methodist Church and
15 actively participates with his wife in Meals on Wheels programs.

16 I am pleased to present as the Chair of this
17 ceremony this afternoon J. Edwin Hutchinson.

18 MR. J. EDWIN HUTCHINSON: Judge McCullough,
19 Associate Judges of the Circuit Court for Prince George's
20 County, Maryland, Judges of the District Court who are present,
21 Judges of the Orphans Court, distinguished guests, and family
22 and friends of our deceased members who we are honoring here
23 today. As you have heard, it is the custom of the Prince
24 George's County Bar Association through its Memorial Committee
25 and the judges of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County

1 to gather one afternoon during the month of November in this
2 courtroom to honor and memorialize the members of our Associa-
3 tion who have departed this life during the last year. At
4 this time we take a few moments to reflect and briefly review
5 the years that these departed members were with us.

6 We have known these attorneys here in the courtroom
7 and at meetings of the Bar Association, in the conduct of our
8 business as lawyers and advocates in the courts of our state
9 and county, in service clubs, in church and social club
10 activities.

11 To those of us who knew and associated with these
12 men, I know that we all feel that as lawyers they enriched
13 the practice of law and, as men and friends, they have enriched
14 the lives of us who were privileged to work and associate with
15 them.

16 The gentlemen we are honoring today are Leon
17 Shampain, Brady J. Vradenberg, and T. Hammond Welsh, Jr. The
18 plants that you see on the trial table today are to be given
19 to the wives and families of those men we are honoring today.
20 Thank you.

21 I would like to introduce to the Court and those
22 present here this afternoon Judge Jacob Levin who will speak
23 to us regarding Leon Shampain.

24 JUDGE LEVIN: May it please the Court. Leon
25 Shampain was born in New York City on July 21, 1926. He

1 attended City College of New York. He then attended the
2 University of Miami Law School where he graduated with a
3 degree of bachelor of law in 1951. He then attained the degree
4 of master of law at George Washington University Law School.

5 In the late fifties, he worked for the Defense
6 Department while he was attending school at G.W. He served in
7 the army during World War II. In 1960 he came out to our
8 county at the behest of Judge McCullough sitting on my left
9 when there was an opening with a lawyer that practiced in the
10 Mount Rainier area named Vance Vaughn. Many of you will
11 remember Mr. Vaughn. He entered private practice with Mr.
12 Vaughn. The firm became known as Vaughn and Shampain.

13 Leon kept that name until his death, but he moved
14 from Mount Rainier over to U.S. 1 and we all remember the
15 building that is located on U.S. 1 at the intersection of
16 East-West Highway. It says, "The Shampain Building" if you go
17 north on U.S. 1 past University Boulevard on the right hand
18 side.

19 He was not only a member of our Bar Association.
20 He was a member of the District Bar Association and the Mary-
21 land State Bar Association. Leon was active in our Municipal
22 Police Association and served as a member of the Board of
23 Directors of the Cynthia Warner School.

24 He is survived by his wife Jeannette and three
25 children. Some of you may remember Jeannette. Jeannette,

1 before she married Leon, used to work in the Assignment Office
2 in the Circuit Court for Montgomery County. They had three
3 children, one of whom is a student at Johns Hopkins. Another
4 is in nurse's training. The last one is a ninth grader at the
5 Bullis Prep School.

6 Leon died on October 30, 1985 of congestive heart
7 failure. The trial of any lawsuit is a traumatic experience,
8 not only for the litigants, but it is a traumatic experience
9 for the witnesses. It is a traumatic experience for the lawyers,
10 and it is a traumatic experience for the jury and the judge.

11 Leon Shampain during his legal career was a lawyer,
12 a trial lawyer who enjoyed trying lawsuits because it gave him
13 a chance to display his sharp wit and his wonderful sense
14 of humor. Leon had a gimmick or a method that he would use
15 during the course of any trial to impart to the jurors in some
16 manner a humorous name that he would give to the trial of the
17 particular case that they were listening to, such as mystery
18 writers do. He would tell the jurors you are going to hear
19 the case today of the missing hubcap or the broken yoyo or the
20 case of who had the red light.

21 Leon had the God-given ability to make people laugh
22 during the course of a trial. He was a wonderful person to be
23 around, and the jurors all loved him. We shall miss him during
24 the years that lie ahead of us.

25 Judge McCullough, I respectfully request that we

1 adjourn in memory of Leon Shampain.

2 JUDGE MCCULLOUGH: Thank you, Judge Levin.

3 MR. J. EDWIN HUTCHINSON: Your Honor, I make a motion
4 that these remarks be made a part of the permanent record of
5 this Court and a copy of the same sent to the wife and family
6 of Leon Shampain.

7 JUDGE MCCULLOUGH: Your motion is granted, Mr.
8 Hutchinson.

9 MR. J. EDWIN HUTCHINSON: Thank you, sir.

10 We will now hear from Mr. Sam Ianni, a Hyattsville
11 lawyer, regarding Brady J. Vradenberg.

12 MR. SAMUEL IANNI: May it please the Court. Brady
13 J. Vradenberg was born in Saint Paul, Minnesota on March 11,
14 1904. He attended public school in Saint Paul and, while in
15 school, took and passed the civil service examination. As a
16 result, he went to work for the Federal government and worked
17 for the Federal government from 1923 to 1942 for various
18 agencies. Among them were the Department of Agriculture, the
19 Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the General Accounting Office.

20 While working for the Federal government, he attended
21 school and received an undergraduate degree from Georgetown
22 University and a law degree from National Law School which is
23 now a part of George Washington University.

24 In 1942 he entered into the military service and
25 served in the military service from 1942 until 1962, was

1 discharged with a rank of lieutenant colonel. While in the
2 military, he served at posts in Italy, Korea, Texas, Virginia,
3 Louisiana, and New York. It was while during his tour of duty
4 in Korea that he was awarded the Distinguished Service Award.

5 Following, he was admitted to the bar of Maryland
6 on December 30 of 1949. Following his discharge from the
7 military service, he also served as a member of the United
8 States Marine Corps Reserves and the District of Columbia
9 National Guard.

10 He entered private practice in Mount Rainier in 1962
11 and continued to practice here until 1981. Part of that time,
12 he served in a partnership with Floyd Mathias, Floyd B. Mathias.
13 His wife of 37 years, Nancy, predeceased him in 1981. He is
14 survived by two children, Sue M. Johnson of College Park,
15 Maryland and Catherine Hoover of Hickory, North Carolina,
16 and one granddaughter, Rebecca Hoover.

17 Mr. Vradenberg had the type of a practice that
18 quite often represented the very poor and he always did good
19 justice. He served this country with honor, and he served our
20 Association with honor.

21 In addition to being a member of the Maryland Bar
22 Association, he was also admitted to practice in the District
23 of Columbia. Thank you.

24 MR. J. EDWIN HUTCHINSON: Thank you, Mr. Ianni. I
25 make a motion in this matter that the remarks be made a permanent

1 ent record of this court and a copy of the same sent to the
2 family of Brady Vradenberg.

3 JUDGE MCCULLOUGH: Your motion is granted.

4 MR. J. EDWIN HUTCHINSON: Is anyone here from the
5 Leon Shampain family? Ms. Sue Johnson is here, one of the
6 daughters of Mr. Vradenberg.

7 I would like to now introduce to the Court Mr.
8 Richard Bland who was associated in the practice of law with
9 T. Hammond Welsh, Jr., the third party we are honoring here
10 today.

11 MR. RICHARD BLAND: May it please the Court.
12 T. Hammond Welsh, Jr., a most prominent lawyer, civic and
13 business leader of Prince George's County passed away this past
14 October 7. Hammond was born in Prince George's County on
15 December 11, 1911, was educated in local schools, receiving
16 his Bachelor of Arts Degree and his L.L.B degree from the
17 University of Maryland. At the time of his death, Hammond
18 resided in Montgomery County, Maryland, having moved there in
19 the mid seventies.

20 During his 74 years, Hammond's life can best be
21 broken down into the following four categories; his business
22 and financial career, his community and civic responsibilities,
23 his role as an attorney, and Hammond as the person.

24 In the business and financial world, Hammond served
25 as General Counsel, Director, President and Chairman of the

1 Board of Maryland Federal Savings and Loan Association. At
2 the time of his retirement, he was the Chief Executive Officer
3 and, upon retirement, he was granted the title of Chairman
4 Emeritus.

5 In addition, Hammond served as Chairman of the Board
6 of the Building, Savings, and Loan Association Commissioners
7 of Maryland and was a past president of the Maryland League of
8 Building, Savings, and Loan Associations. He was also a
9 former director of Citizens Bank and Trust Company of Maryland
10 and Suburban Trust Company.

11 In the community and civic world, he was a retired
12 Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Saint Mary's College
13 of Maryland, a past president of the Prince George's County
14 Chamber of Commerce as well as past president of the Kiwanis
15 Club of Prince George's County. In addition, he served as
16 treasurer of Saint Luke's Episcopal Church of Bladensburg,
17 Maryland for many years.

18 As a member of the Bar of the State of Maryland,
19 Hammond had the reputation of being an outstanding, brilliant
20 lawyer which is demonstrated by the numerous positions that he
21 held in the legal forum. As I mentioned, he was past president
22 of the Prince George's County Bar Association, was a Fellow of
23 the Maryland Bar Foundation, and a Fellow Emeritus in the
24 American College of Trial Lawyers. In addition, he served as
25 Chairman of the Trustees of the Client's Security Trust Fund

1 of the Bar of Maryland.

2 During a lawyer's career, there is usually one case
3 that stands out above all of the others by which a lawyer will
4 be best remembered. Mr. Welsh in the middle fifties became
5 Maryland Counsel to Levitt and Sons, a national home builder.
6 He represented Levitt and Sons in setting aside a previous sale
7 of the Belair property located in Bowie, Maryland and then con-
8 tinued as Levitt's attorney and representing him as the
9 successful bidder at a subsequent sale of the Belair property.
10 For years thereafter, Hammond handled Levitt's construction
11 business in Maryland. Through this representation and the
12 activities of Levitt and Sons, the face of Prince George's
13 County underwent a tremendous change.

14 When we come to Hammond as the person, he in my
15 opinion was a perfectionist and drove himself accordingly.
16 Hammond likewise expected an equal performance from his partners
17 and associates. No task was too small, none too large, and he
18 always gave 110 percent effort in completing a matter on a
19 client's behalf.

20 Hammond's hobbies consisted of boating and hunting
21 on the Chesapeake Bay and the tributaries. He has a deep love
22 and respect for the outdoors and all of the beautiful aspects
23 of outdoor living. I personally had many occasions to hunt
24 water fowl with Hammond and, in the course of being in the wild
25 for many hours, soon realized his devotion to nature and

1 respect that he would show towards a fellow hunter and the
2 sport itself.

3 Last but not least by far, Hammond was a devoted
4 family man. He is survived by his wife, Mildred and two
5 children, Milly B. Welsh and Thomas H. Welsh, III. While I
6 know there are not words to express their feelings over the loss
7 of a husband and father, they certainly do not stand alone in
8 his passing. There are multitudes of friends and business
9 associates who likewise feel this loss.

10 Your Honor, this concludes my remarks concerning
11 T. Hammond Welsh, Jr. Thank you.

12 MR. J. EDWIN HUTCHINSON: Thank you, Mr. Bland. I
13 make a motion that the remarks made by Mr. Bland be made a
14 part of the permanent record of this Court and a copy of the
15 same be sent to the family of Mr. Welsh.

16 JUDGE MCCULLOUGH: Your motion is granted, Mr.
17 Hutchinson.

18 MR. J. EDWIN HUTCHINSON: Your Honor, this concludes
19 our program except for the fact that we would like to have
20 some remarks from the Court, and then we will adjourn at your
21 disposal.

22 JUDGE MCCULLOUGH: Mr. Hutchinson, Mr. Kenkel,
23 and ladies and gentlemen. All of the judges of the Prince
24 George's Circuit Court are very grateful to the Prince George's
25 County Bar Association and the members of this committee on

1 memorials for the presentation of these memorials today and in
2 making arrangements for this ceremony. It is a very fine
3 tradition that we have maintained in Prince George's County
4 for many years, that we pause from the usual adversary matters
5 taking place in this courtroom to honor our departed brothers
6 and pay tribute to their memories. So, the Court, all of
7 whose members have enjoyed a very pleasant and warm personal
8 relationship with those who have been memorialized today will
9 direct that the memorials presented will be spread upon the
10 permanent records of this Court and that copies will be sent
11 to the families of those colleagues we are honoring today.

12 Mr. Bailiff, in honor of our departed brothers, you
13 may now announce the adjournment of this Court:

14 (The proceedings were concluded

15 at 3:25 p.m.)

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