

Order of the Coif Inductions

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MR. PRESIDENT:

In the Song of the Lord Chancellor by W. S. Gilbert, that august
functionary is heard to chant:

"The law is the true embodiment
of everything that's excellent
It has no kind of fault or flaw
And I, my lords, embody the law."

A law professor would naturally be loath to attribute such
perfection to the law; and, rarely, if ever, could he with either truth
or sincerity single out an individual as the embodiment of all that is
best in our profession; but, Mr. President, in presenting the distinguished
leader of the bar who is to be inducted into honorary membership in The
Order of the Coif this morning, I find that we closely approach that
point at which to those who know him best any lesser characterization
may appear not to do justice to the subject. It gives me unusual
pleasure to present this man to you; a man of great intellect, of
sterling character and of high ideals; a leading lawyer especially noted
for the breadth of his scholarship; a man whose personal qualities and

professional attainments truly exemplify the noblest ideals of the law and of this Order. I present Charles Cecil Bird, Jr. of Baton Rouge.

Upon the occasion of the 1931 meeting of the Louisiana State Bar Association of which he was then the President, the Baton Rouge State-Times published these interesting facts concerning Mr. Bird:

"Mr. Bird's father, his maternal grandfather, and three of his great-grandfathers have practiced law in the East Baton Rouge court, where the names of Bird and of Herron have been prominent for generations. Cecil Bird began his career as a lawyer in this same court, and here he has practiced continuously since his graduation from the University of Virginia in 1907.

"Cecil Bird was born in Baton Rouge, the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Bird, whose union had linked two of the oldest and most prominent Louisiana families. He was named for his father, and thus is the second C. C. Bird in direct descent to practice in the East Baton Rouge court. The elder Bird, who died a number of years ago, was long identified with the political life of the city and parish, as well as with the legal profession. Cecil Bird's grandfather was Maj. T. J. Bird, an officer in the Confederate Army, who was a leader in state and parish affairs. He served as sheriff of East Baton Rouge parish, and also as state commissioner of agriculture.

"On his maternal side, Cecil Bird is the grandson of Maj. Andrew S. Herron, also an officer in the Confederate Army, and a brilliant lawyer. He was highly honored by his state, which he served as attorney general. Later he was elected as representative from this district in the national congress.

"It was in the East Baton Rouge court that Major Herron rose to fame in the legal profession, and there it was also that three of Cecil Bird's great-grandfathers brought their fine talent in dealing with the intricate Louisiana law.

"Cecil Charles Bird, who upholds the family traditions in his own practice of the law in Baton Rouge, was born in this city, and was educated in the schools here. He was graduated with honors from Louisiana State University in 1904, during the presidency of Col. Thos. D. Boyd*****. He then entered the University of Virginia, where he received his degree in law in 1907. He returned to Baton Rouge to become affiliated with his father in the firm of Bird and Bird, and after the death of the senior partner he continued the practice of his profession alone."

To gain appreciation of the wealth of professional service and experience reflected in his career of active practice at the bar of this State, one need only point to the fact that the year Cecil Bird was

admitted to the Louisiana bar the first law class was graduated from the Louisiana State University Law School. His practice in this City has actually spanned the entire history of our Law School. To the University and to the Law School, he has ever been generous in lending of his time and of his great abilities. For years he served unselfishly as an unofficial legal adviser in connection with University matters. His entire career has marked a life, useful and rich in the service of the law. As a lawyer he so merited the confidence and respect of his associates as to cause them in 1930-1931, in recognition of his attainments, to confer upon him the highest professional honor within their power to give, the Presidency of the Louisiana State Bar Association. Despite the numerous demands from his busy legal practice, Cecil Bird has been most active in significant movements for the improvement of the law. He has served as a member of the Council of the Louisiana State Law Institute since 1944 and as a Vice-President of the Institute since December of 1947. In this work he has been one of the faithful, always dutifully shouldering a major portion of the tasks at hand; never

refusing a request made in the public interest calling upon him to work for the betterment of the law. Instances might be multiplied of his leadership in significant public movements. If one were to attempt a catalogue of the important litigations in which he, as counsel, contributed greatly to the moulding of our law, it would lengthen this citation beyond bounds of all propriety.

Mr. President, of the many splendid personal qualities of Cecil Bird, may I then briefly mention three which seem to me especially characteristic. The first concerns his prodigious scholarship. It was Sir Walter Scott who wrote that "a lawyer without history or literature is a mechanic, a mere working mason; if he possesses knowledge of these he may venture to call himself an architect." With characteristic modesty, Cecil Bird would never refer to himself as an architect of the law, but we of Louisiana know him for what he is - a master architect whose erudition is so phenomenal as to become a legend among his associates at the bar. His learning is such that he truly brings to the calling of law the very quintessence of those qualities whereof Scott was speaking. The second refers to that remarkable keenness of intellect which is the

characteristic of the truly great legal mind. To Sir Edward Coke is attributed the statement "reason is the life of the law; the law the perfection of reason." By the sheer power of his intellect, exhibiting that ability with the logic of reason which is the life of the law, Cecil Bird has earned for himself an enviable place among the greatest legal minds our State has yet produced. The third is a quality of generosity to his fellow members of the bar. Is a young lawyer in doubt as to the correct procedure? To be certain - as Mr. Bird. Does an older practitioner need a bit of history to round out an important mosaic of facts not to be found in the record? Cecil Bird would know what is needed. Is the reason for a legislative act obscure in the light of its equally obscure language? Mr. Cecil would remember the circumstances. Is the strategy of the case soundly planned? We must consult Mr. Bird. In a myriad of ways too numerous to mention he, by his professional generosity with the fellow members of the bar has richly earned the title of "counsellor" by which he is widely and affectionately known.

Mr. President, I could speak at length of other qualities, of his courteous and gentlemanly consideration of other persons, of his wit and fellowship, of his contributions to the jurisprudence, of his wise counsel, of his calm judgment and of numerous other qualities which place Mr. Bird in an unique category and at the very pinnacle of our profession, but I may best sum it up by saying: I know of no member of the bar who more richly deserves our praise and honor or who more thoroughly exemplifies the ideals of this Order. In electing him to honorary membership in The Order of the Coif, the Louisiana State University Chapter not only honors Mr. Bird but also confers an honor upon the organization of which he is now to become a part. I take sincere pleasure in presenting Mr. Cecil Bird.

Citation by Dean Paul M. Hebert
of Mr. Cecil Bird, Jr., on the
occasion of his induction into
the LSU Chapter, The Order of
the Coif.
Spring, 1949.

CITATION - ADRIAN G. DUPLANTIER
FOR
HONORARY MEMBERSHIP IN
THE ORDER OF THE COIF
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL

APRIL 6, 1972

Mr. President, members of the Louisiana Chapter of the Order of the Coif, ladies and gentlemen:

The late Arthur T. Vanderbilt, a president of the American Bar Association, Dean of New York University School of Law, and subsequently Chief Justice, largely responsible for reorganization of the judicial system of his State of New Jersey through a new constitution in which his work had great influence in its drafting and adoption, once wrote of the role of the lawyer in terms of Five Functions (see 40 A. B. A. J. 31, 32, 1954). He said:

"These five - counseling, advocacy, improving his profession, the courts and the law, leadership in molding public opinion and unselfish holding of public office - are the functions of the great lawyer. Education in these five functions of the lawyer is partly the province of the college,

partly the duty of the law school, but in large measure it is the responsibility of the individual lawyer not only while in the law school but throughout his working years. This is practicing law in the grand manner - the only way it is worth practicing."

Mr. President, it is a privilege to have been asked by the Chapter to cite Adrian G. Duplantier, who has more than met this responsibility, for Honorary Membership in The Order of the Coif. His career as a lawyer might be summed up simply by saying that, although his work has by no means reached its zenith, his accomplishments in more than generous measure embody the true fulfillment of the Five Functions of the Lawyer so aptly depicted by the learned Chief Justice from whom I have quoted. In selecting Senator Duplantier for this honor, the L.S.U. Chapter, appropriately and in timely manner re-emphasizes the roles of professional responsibility which should be the goals of men of the law and you thereby single out for recognition values in the life of a man who has achieved so much that the pattern he has set may be held forth for others of our profession to emulate.

Born in New Orleans only 43 years ago, Adrian Duplantier, as student, scholar, practitioner, lecturer, counselor, participant in and advocate for law reform, as civic leader, as supporter of education and social welfare, as a writer and draftsman in difficult areas of the law, as dedicated public servant who has not shunned the mantle of public office with its exacting demands upon time for leadership, as the servitor of innumerable causes in the public interest - bears the stamp of leadership in our profession. For that leadership we have reason to be thankful and reason also to share the inner satisfaction that he himself should feel if he only had the time to pause and reflect upon some of the numerous achievements he has managed to pack into his always busy life, for many and varied have been the calls upon his unusual ability - calls matched only by the seemingly limitless energy with which he responds in superb performance.

Senator Duplantier was educated at Jesuit High School and at our sister Law School of Loyola University from which he was graduated cum laude at age 20 in 1949, meriting the Faculty's Award for the

highest scholastic average. Even then he could look back on other honors including his service as member of the Editorial Board and Editor-in-Chief of the Loyola Law Review and service as a lecturer in the English Department of Loyola when he was still in Law School and at age 19. Entering the private general practice in New Orleans in 1950, he was called upon to assist in the extensive research work of the Louisiana Law Institute in revising the Code of Civil Procedure. This work in law reform was sandwiched into a growing and busy law practice. It spanned a period of at least ten years between 1950 and 1960. In the latter year he was one of the four distinguished lecturers who toured Louisiana under a post-admission legal education project of the Louisiana State Bar Association, consisting of a series of seminars for practicing attorneys on the subject of Louisiana's then new Revised Code of Civil Procedure. As one who heard him frequently in these programs, I can personally testify that the organization and clarity of his presentations were unexcelled. To him the bar and bench freely acknowledged their indebtedness.

Meanwhile, your honorce became attracted to the criminal law. For two years, 1954 to 1956, he served as First Assistant District Attorney in Orleans Parish. Here he gained additional valuable experience as a trial lawyer and by the time he was 26 he had already successfully argued three cases on behalf of the District Attorney's Office in personal appearance before the United States Supreme Court. In 1956 he resigned from the public prosecutor's office to devote "full-time to his private law practice" - but "full-time practice" to Adrian Duplantier has meant many things. It meant continuing his lecturing at Loyola University Law School in such subjects as Civil Procedure, Criminal Procedure and Contracts. This activity, begun in 1952, continues even to the present and he has found time to lecture on Dental Jurisprudence at both Loyola and L.S.U., and to participate in the guest lecturer series of the L.S.U. Law School. "Full-time practice" also meant for him accepting and serving for 4 years from 1962 to 1966 as one of the Reporters for the Code of Criminal

Procedure Revision; it meant other tours throughout the State under the auspices of the Louisiana Bar Association and the Law Institute, lecturing on the Revised Code of Criminal Procedure; "full-time practice" for Adrian Duplantier has meant a subtraction of the time he has served at personal sacrifice as a member of the State Senate. He was first elected in 1960, at age 31, and has just been reelected to his fourth consecutive term - no small achievement in a year characterized by the slogan "throw the 'ins' out". To recount what he has done in the Legislature would trespass on your patience, for many have been the Committees on which he has served - or perhaps I should say "on which he has slaved". It will suffice to note that he has been in the forefront in advocating improvement in the legislative process and he has even been courageous enough to serve by proxy (from the Senate President Pro Tem) as member of Louisiana's not-uncontroversial Dome Stadium Commission. Recently it was my privilege to gain first-hand insight into Senator Duplantier's

effective leadership with a legislative committee performing the difficult task of investigating organized crime in Louisiana. He provided for me a liberal education in how legislators work and his discharge of his responsibility left no doubt in my mind that the head of the table was exactly where "McGregor Duplantier" sat.

I suspect, however, that the reform legislation for the Law Institute which Senator Duplantier has piloted through the Senate for many years is one of his greatest sources of professional satisfaction.

In a life with activity on so many fronts, I could go on and on in recounting his work and speak of the humility with which he so becomingly bears the honors that come his way. I could speak of his work as member of the Council of the Law Institute, as member of the Board of Governors of New Orleans and State Bar Associations; of his work as delegate to significant national Seminars and Conferences on problems of great magnitude facing our entire Nation; I could dwell on

his human interests of the heart reflected in work with charitable, religious, educational, social and welfare organizations; I could speak with pride of his membership in the L.S.U. Foundation, of his work with Louisiana's Commission on Law Enforcement; I could refer to special awards from his fellows of the bar and from his colleagues in the public service; I could speak of the intrinsic merit of his scholarly contributions to the literature of the law - but all of this I must forego as time does not permit.

I could speak of our honoree as an exemplary family man blessed with six children and with a lovely wife whose devotion and patience have made his achievements to date - an earnest of things to come - a living reality.

Shakespeare wrote: "Life every man holds dear; but the dear man holds honor far more precious dear than life." Such a man is Adrian G. Duplantier whom I now present for conferral of the highest honor this Chapter has to confer in this year of 1972. Senator Duplantier.

Citation delivered by
Paul M. Hebert, Dean
Louisiana State University Law School
April 6, 1972
In presenting Senator Adrian C. Duplantier
For Honorary Membership in The Order of the Coif.