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MINUTE BOOK _____ PAGE _____

R.B.J. CAMPBELLE, JR.

1923 - 1989

Trial attorney, legal scholar, author, educator, civil rights pioneer, churchman, family man, and Christian gentleman, are apt and befitting labels to describe the life and career of Dr. R.B.J. Campbelle, Jr. Following his death, in a lead editorial entitled "A Man Who Led a Balanced Life" - the Nashville Tennessean described Attorney Campbelle as that rare individual whose excellence in his private life matched his competence in the public arena.

Courage and quiet determination - qualities of excellence in private affairs - marked the beginning of R.B.J. Campbelle, Jr.'s career in law. In June 1956, he was the first Afro-American to have graduated from the law school of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. This historical distinction significantly aided the removal of artificial barriers against the admission of African-American students in other law schools throughout the State of Tennessee, including Vanderbilt University Law School which admitted two (2) black law students in its first year class in September 1956. Attorney Campbelle's pioneering spirit and perseverance in the face of a hostile environment became a beacon of hope and a model of emulation for many African-American students, including Frank M. Ennix of Nashville, who became the second Black graduate of the University of Tennessee Law School. Julian W. Blackshear, Jr. of Petway and Blackshear, who likewise

followed in the footsteps of Attorney Campbelle, became the third Black graduate of the University of Tennessee Law School.

His experience as a "first", undoubtedly, led him to play a pioneering role in modernizing the laws of juvenile justice in the State of Tennessee. Dr. Campbelle was widely recognized as one of the State's leading authorities on juvenile court procedure. Dr. Campbelle authored two (2) books and various other publications on procedural law in the juvenile justice system. His scholarly work in the field was cited frequently by the Tennessee Code Annotated and was a model and precursor to the Tennessee Rules of Juvenile Procedure.

Dr. Campbelle's scholarly interest in juvenile justice was initially developed when he served as one of the first staff trial attorneys for Legal Services of Nashville, and subsequently served as the first juvenile justice Public Defender for the Davidson County Juvenile Court. He recognized early that there appeared to be a lack of uniform procedural guidelines in the administration of juvenile justice. This recognition led him into developing a body of private writings on the subject. His writings gradually led him away from the practice of law into academia. He, thus, became one of the four founders of the Criminal Justice Department at Middle Tennessee State University at Murfreesboro in 1973, with his teaching specialty being in juvenile justice. While a professor at Middle Tennessee State University, he authored Tennessee Juvenile Court Jurisdiction, Venue, and Procedure in 1977

and Juvenile Justice Administration in 1988. Because of his authoritative work in the area, he was asked by Judge Robert Corlew of the Juvenile Court of Rutherford County to serve as the Juvenile Referee for Rutherford County Juvenile Court.

While his career in law and education were very important to him, he acquired his greatest joy from his family, church work, and civic activities. For indeed, he was a man who led a balanced life. R.B.J. Campbelle, Jr. was a native of Union City, Tennessee. He was the son of Mrs. Margaret Rose Campbelle, who survives, and the late R.B.J. Campbelle, Sr., one of the pioneer Afro-American attorneys who practiced in Nashville during the 1950's with the late Z. Alexander Looby, the famous civil rights lawyer. Attorney Campbelle practiced law with his father for several years prior to proceeding into public service. He and his wife of 42 years, Marjorie Holmes Campbelle, who also survives, were the proud parents of three (3) lovely daughters, Jeanne Campbelle-Kennedy, Margaret Campbelle-DuGard, and Teree Campbelle McCormick, for whom they worked tirelessly to provide each with a college education. He also was blessed with five (5) beautiful granddaughters.

Perhaps his most noble work - one which will affect the lives of Nashvillians for many years to come - was being one of the founders of the Edgehill United Methodist Church. This church, pastored by Reverend Bill Barnes, is now famous for its compassionate philosophy of unrestricted service to all who need help, from the AIDS victim to the homeless and destitute. This

church is further distinguished by the fact that it was founded and designed to be one of the truly integrated congregations in Nashville, being approximately fifty (50%) percent Black and fifty (50%) percent White.

Attorney Campbelle's love of people, regardless of circumstances or station, and his intense interest in education were recognized by his faculty colleagues at Middle Tennessee State University through their Faculty Senate Resolution in memorializing his life and death. That resolution reads in part as follows:

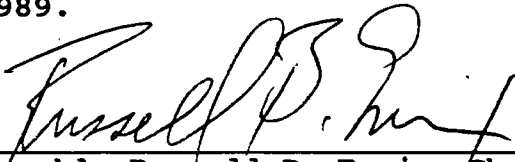
"Dr. Campbelle served as Chairman of the Bi-racial Committee at MTSU and was highly regarded by those who served with him. He took an honest interest in his students. Though he was a Black man, race meant nothing to him . . . He was a warm human being, a great family man - a father figure you want to emulate. His interest in others, his strong character and moral standards made him loved and respected by those whose lives he touched."

R.B.J. Campbelle, Jr. closed the record of his service as a member of the Nashville Bar on Wednesday, May 31, 1989, closed his eyes and found eternal peace.


THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Nashville Bar Association that in the life and record of R.B.J. Campbelle, Jr., as a member of the Nashville Bar, we have been honored and blessed, and in his passing we have sustained a grievous loss which we deplore as one personal to all of us; that this Memorial and Resolution be placed in the permanent records of the Association and entered on the "In Memoriam" Minute Book of the Chancery Court of Davidson County,

and that copies be furnished to the members of Mr. Campbelle's family.

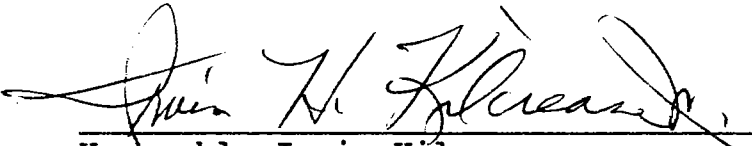
This 16th day of November, 1989.


 Honorable Russell B. Ennix, Chairman

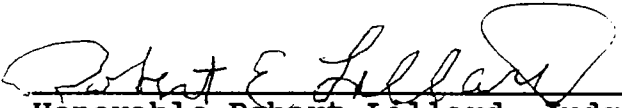
RESOLUTION ADOPTED
 NOVEMBER 16, 1989

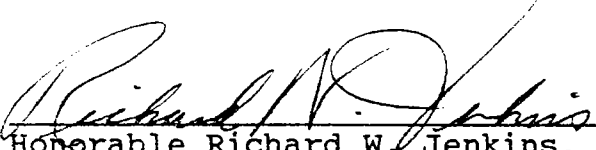

 Honorable A.A. Birch, Judge
 Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals

 SECRETARY


 Honorable Irvin Kilcrease
 Chancellor, Part I
 Chancery Court of Davidson County,
 Tennessee

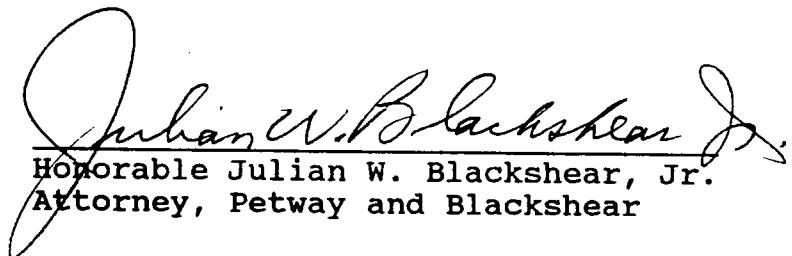
 PRESIDENT


 Honorable Robert Lillard, Judge
 Circuit Court of Davidson County,
 Tennessee, Retired

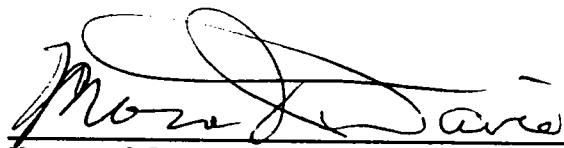

 Honorable Richard W. Jenkins, Judge
 Juvenile Court of Davidson County,
 Tennessee, Retired



Honorable Avon N. Williams, Jr.
State Senator



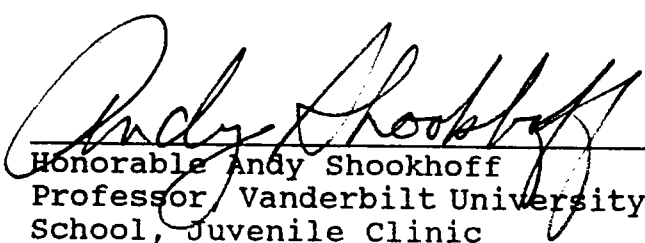
Honorable Julian W. Blackshear, Jr.
Attorney, Petway and Blackshear



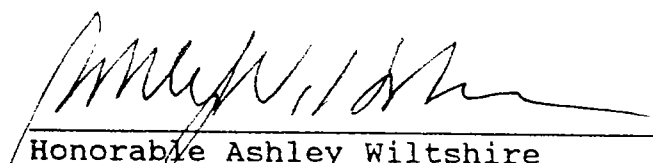
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Attorney-at-Law



Honorable Richard Dinkins
Attorney, Board of Directors,
Nashville Bar Association



Honorable Andy Shookhoff
Professor, Vanderbilt University Law
School, Juvenile Clinic



Honorable Ashley Wiltshire
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Legal Services of Nashville

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