

Thomas H. Barkdull Jr. (1925 - 2010)

Thomas H. Barkdull Jr. passed away on July 13, 2010.

He was born in Miami, Florida on August 15, 1925. He was a graduate of Miami Senior High School and served in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II. He was a graduate of the University of Florida and the University of Florida College of Law.

He began his legal career in Dade County in 1949 with the late Marion E. Sibley and the late Darrey Davis. He practiced law until 1961 when he was appointed by the governor to the Third District Court of Appeals. Judge Barkdull served as Chief Judge of the Court for several terms from 1963-1976. After 1976 he declined to be considered for Chief Judge again. In 2000 the Florida Legislature recognized his many accomplishments by designating the courthouse in which the Third District Court of Appeals sits as The Thomas H. Barkdull Jr. District Courthouse.

During his tenure on the Court, Judge Barkdull also served as chairman of the Florida Conference of District Court of Appeals Judges. He was a member of the Judicial Qualifications Commission for twenty-five years, and served as its chair. Judge Barkdull was the only person to be appointed to each of the last three Constitutional Revision Commissions, having been nominated by the Florida Supreme Court to the Constitutional Revision Commissions of 1967-1968 and 1977-1978, and serving as the appointee of the governor from 1997-1998.

Judge Barkdull was a founding member of the American Inn of Court at St. Thomas University. He had been a guest lecturer at the University of Florida College of Law, the University of Miami School of Law, Stetson University College of Law and the Law School at Yale University. Among his many honors, Judge Barkdull received the Florida Bar Foundation's Medal of Honor for distinguished service as a lawyer and appellate judge in 1994. Judge Barkdull retired from the Third District Court of Appeals in 1996. Thereafter he served as Florida's solicitor general and as senior general counsel to the attorney general. He had a deep respect for the law and love for the State of Florida and its people.

He was a devoted and loving husband, father and grandfather. He is survived by his wife of 58 years Bettie, his son Thomas H. Barkdull III and wife Jayne, and granddaughters Savannah and Charlotte.

A memorial service is to be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Hospice of Palm Beach County or The Florida Bar Foundation.

Read more: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/herald/obituary.aspx?n=thomas-h-barkdull&pid=144091327#ixzz0tqlrtoC9>