

Born in Cleveland, GA on June 10, 1922 Deceased May 8, 2016

William L. Norton, Jr. retired Bankruptcy Judge and noted author, died on Sunday, May 8, 2016 while a resident at The Holbrook, Gainesville, GA. He was the son of the late W.L. Norton and Eliza K. Norton and was known by many first names: Dub-L, WL, Bill, Judge, and Elmo, but was known to his family as a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He graduated from Gainesville High School in 1940; Oxford College at Emory, Emory College; and Emory Law School. He served as an officer in the Army during World War II, stationed on the Shemya Islands under the Alaska Command. After he returned from the war, he married Adelaide Gregory. Following law school, he was a law clerk to U.S. District Judge Frank Hooper of the Northern District of GA, a Trial Attorney and Special Assistant to the U.S. Attorney General, Tax Division, in Washington DC, and Assistant Attorney General & Chief Counsel for the Georgia Dept. of Revenue in Atlanta, GA. He returned to Gainesville to open a private law practice in 1957. During private practice he specialized in corporate and tax law and represented the Georgia Poultry Federation.

In 1971, he was appointed U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, where he presided over cases in Atlanta and Gainesville from 1971-86. As a bankruptcy judge he became a noted jurist and author. His was the author and Editor in Chief of *Norton Bankruptcy Law and Practice* (a 13 volume treatise by Thomson-Reuters), along with several other monthly and annual publications published by Thomson-Reuters. In 1983, Judge Norton created Norton Institutes on Bankruptcy Law, which sponsored national seminars on bankruptcy law and practice, and which over the past 30 years, have conducted over 100 seminars on bankruptcy law. Most notable, was the seminar at Jackson, WY in Teton National Park that he began in 1982 and held annually for over 30 years. As a bankruptcy judge, he also taught bankruptcy law at Emory University Law School and taught new bankruptcy judges at the Federal Judicial Center.

Throughout his career, Judge Norton was a principal founder of the following organizations: Richard B. Russell Foundation, Inc.; Board of Counselors of Oxford College; American Bankruptcy Institute; American College of Bankruptcy; Hall County Historical Society; Gainesville-Hall Trust for Historic Preservation; Head's Mill Trust for Historic Preservation and Christmas on Green Street. Other organizations that benefited from Judge Norton's leadership were The American Legion, Post 7 (Post Commander 1964); the Longstreet Society (Chairman 1978-2007) and the Bankruptcy Rules Committee of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges (Chairman 1979-86). In 2001, he was Editor in Chief of *Historic Gainesville and Hall County* (2001).

Awards given to Judge Norton include: 1972 Special Commendation and Appreciation Award given by the Georgia Poultry Federation; 1999 Lifetime Achievement Award given by the Emory Bankruptcy Developments Journal; 1999 Distinguished Service Award given by the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges; 2002 Distinguished Service Award given by the American College of Bankruptcy; 2003 Outstanding Alumnus Award given by Oxford College; 2004 Gainesville Rotary Club Man of the Year; 2005 Emory University Law School Distinguished

Alumni Award; 2006 R. Carl Chandler Award given by Oxford College; 2007 J. Pollard Turman Alumni Service Award given by Emory University. Most notably, he has two awards given annually in his name: William L. Norton, Jr. Judicial Excellence Award given annually at the Nat. Conf. of Bankr. Judges, and the William Norton Outstanding Alumnus/a Award given annually by Oxford College.

Judge Norton was predeceased by his parents and sister, Malissa Crenshaw Tubbs. He is survived by wife of 70 years, Adelaide Gregory Norton, his brother Frank K. Norton, and children William L. Norton III (Sallie) and Martha Norton. Hodge. Grandchildren: William L. Norton IV (Heather), Jameson K. Norton (Anna), Sarah Norton Ross (Adam), Savannah N. Hodge, Caroline G. Hodge, and Kathryn C. Hodge. Great Grandchildren: William L. Norton V, Charles E. Norton, Jameson E. Norton, John Kingsley Norton, Luke R. Ross and Claire L. Norton. The family wish to acknowledge the loving care from a special group of caregivers: Denise Case, Linda Patton, Tam Wade, Connie Dills, and Cathy Davis. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Northeast Georgia Hospice, The Longstreet Society, First Presbyterian Church and Emory at Oxford College.