

Remembering Fred Dolt, Law Partner, Mentor, and Friend

The death of KATA Past President, Frederick C. Dolt, Sr. last month left me profoundly sad. Fred was my law partner, mentor, and friend. He was a genuinely nice person and a great trial lawyer.

On a personal level, Fred was probably the least pretentious person I have ever known. Fred's ability and achievements earned him the respect of his peers, yet he never changed or tried to be anything other than who he was. His choice of attire, be it his lucky suit, clip on ties, or lime green socks, were always a source of amusement around the office. Although Fred was a serious person, he had a vast library of jokes and always had one for the occasion, reminding us to take time to relax, laugh, and be comfortable. Over the years, the comment I heard repeatedly after the mention of Fred's name was, "What a great guy."

On a professional level, Fred was a product of the remarkable University of Louisville Law School class of 1952 that produced Fred Dolt, Charles Leibson, Frank Haddad, Bill Mulloy, Tom Speckman, and so many other fine lawyers. Fred was a sharp debater, a formidable negotiator, and a tireless laborer on behalf of the injured victims he represented. He was a patient mentor to the many young lawyers who were fortunate enough to learn from him. He always said you could over try a case but you could never over prepare one, and he prided himself on working harder on behalf of his client than the lawyer on the other side.

In addition, Fred was a legal scholar who loved the law and the order and stability it brought to our communities. He recognized the importance of free and open access to the courts in fostering a just

society. Fred believed the law was the great equalizer, whereby the poor, the weak, and the infirm could hold accountable even the most wealthy and powerful people, corporations, and governments. He believed the right to trial by jury was sacred and inviolate.

Fred Dolt spent the greater part of his life helping the less fortunate in the courtroom. He strongly believed individuals should have their day in court and their case decided by a jury of their peers. I hope Fred smiled a bit on Friday (February 18), when Senate Bill 1, which sought to take away the right to trial by jury and cap damages on the most severely injured victims of medical negligence, was voted down in the Senate. I think Fred would have been proud.

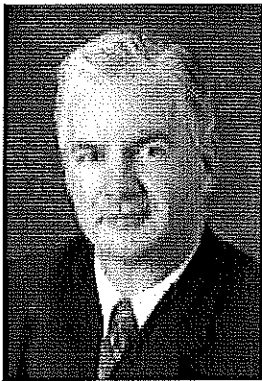
Fred Dolt, Honorary Lifetime KATA Member Dies

Frederick C. Dolt, Sr., 75, was a well-respected and exceptionally gifted trial lawyer. He worked tirelessly for his clients for more than 50 years. Fred passed away on Saturday, January 22, 2005, at his home in Ft. Myers, Florida.

He was a graduate of Louisville Male High School, a U.S. Army veteran, a 1952 graduate of the University of Louisville School of Law and a proud member and past president of the U of L Law School Alumni Association.

After his law school graduation, he became associated with Morris and Garlove from 1952-1959. He then became a sole practitioner until 1970, when he entered into partnership with Charles M. Leibson. In 1990, he formed Dolt, Furkin & Thompson, PSC, and in 2002, became of counsel to the successor firm of Dolt, Thompson, Shepherd & Kinney, PSC.

He was a member of the Louisville Bar Association, Kentucky Bar Association, American Bar Association, and Association of Trial Lawyers of America, serving as ATLA State Committeeman from Kentucky (1967-69), and a member and past



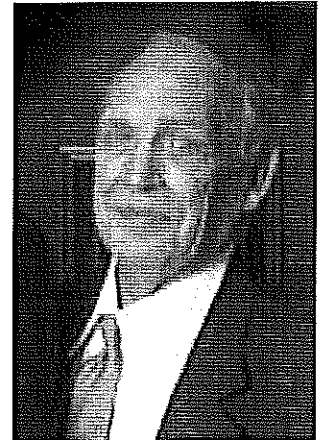
By Tyler S. Thompson
KATA President

Tyler Thompson, Barrister's Club member, is a partner in Dolt Thompson Shepherd & Kinney, located in Louisville, Ky.

president of the Kentucky Academy of Trial Attorneys.

Fred was listed in "The Best Lawyers in America" and "Who's Who in American Law." In 1980, he was invited to become a member of the prestigious organization known as the Inner Circle of Advocates, which is limited to 100 attorneys who have extensive trial experience and have distinguished themselves in the courtroom. He also received appointments to advise and serve the Kentucky Commissioner of Insurance in 1970, as a committee member to revise Federal Rules of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Kentucky from 1979-1980, and as a member of the Kentucky Supreme Court's Advisory Committee for Civil Rights.

Fred should also be remembered for his rich, full life as a family man and great friend. His hobbies included reading, gardening, traveling, and playing bridge. He was an avid golfer and a founding member of Wildwood Country Club in Louisville and a member of The Vines at Estero Country Club in Ft. Myers. Friends, family, and colleagues will also fondly remember him for his vast library of jokes and his expert style of delivering them. Fred was preceded in death by his wife of 42 years, Lucy M. Voelker Dolt. He is survived by his son, Frederick C. Dolt, Jr.; a stepson, Jerry L. Schade; four grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. ⚖️



Fred C. Dolt, Sr.

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