

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE W. HOMER DRAKE, JR.

INTRODUCTION

Every year, the *Emory Bankruptcy Developments Journal* honors an individual who has made a significant impact on the field of bankruptcy law with the Distinguished Service Award for Lifetime Achievement. Past recipients of the Distinguished Service Award include the Honorable William L. Norton, Jr. (1999), Kenneth N. Klee (2000), Frank R. Kennedy (2001), Harvey R. Miller (2002), the Honorable David H. Coar (2003), Gerald K. Smith (2004), the Honorable Conrad B. Duberstein (2005), and Senator Dennis DeConcini (2006). At our annual banquet on March 29, 2007, we had the privilege of giving the Ninth Annual Distinguished Service Award to Judge W. Homer Drake, Jr.

Judge Drake has served the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Georgia almost continuously since 1964, serving as Chief Judge from 1968 to 1976. He is one of the nation's leaders in the field of bankruptcy. His many accomplishments include being a Past President of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, and a former member of the Judicial Conference's Committee on the Administration of the Bankruptcy System. For his tremendous contributions to the fields of bankruptcy law, bankruptcy education and to his community, the *Emory Bankruptcy Developments Journal* honored Judge Drake at our Annual Banquet.

To mark the occasion, Judge David S. Kennedy gave a tribute to Judge Drake. Both Judges have given the journal permission to include revised versions of both Judge Kennedy's tribute and Judge Drake's acceptance speech. Please join us in celebrating the life and accomplishments of the 2007 Distinguished Service Award Honoree, The Honorable W. Homer Drake, Jr.

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