

1953

## In Memoriam Dean Ignatius M. Wilkinson

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### Recommended Citation

*In Memoriam Dean Ignatius M. Wilkinson*, 22 Fordham L. Rev. 232 (1953).

Available at: <http://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/flr/vol22/iss2/6>

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IN MEMORIAM  
DEAN IGNATIUS M. WILKINSON  
1887-1953

Ignatius M. Wilkinson, Dean of the Fordham University School of Law, died on June 22, 1953. To his memory we dedicate this issue of the FORDHAM LAW REVIEW. We express our pride in Dean Wilkinson's brilliant career as a lawyer, as a public servant, as the Dean of our Law School, and as a fine gentleman. We record our sorrow at the loss of his guiding hand, his wisdom, and his inspiring example of integrity as the leader of our School for thirty years.

Dean Wilkinson was born in New York City on January 6, 1887. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1908 from the College of St. Francis Xavier and then entered Fordham Law School from which he received the degree of LL.B. *summa cum laude* in 1911. One year earlier, in 1910, he had taken and successfully passed the bar examination and was admitted to practice. Immediately after his graduation from the Law School he became a member of its faculty, was promoted to Associate Professor of Law in 1915, to Professor in 1919, and became Dean in 1923. Thus for all but five years of its existence and for forty-four years of his own life, Dean Wilkinson was associated with Fordham Law School as student, teacher and Dean. His term of thirty years as Dean doubtless constitutes one of the longest terms ever filled as dean of an American law school.

Although Dean Wilkinson made service to our Law School the cornerstone of his career, he unselfishly gave his talents and ability to the service of his profession, his city, and his state throughout his life. He was a hard-working member of many committees of the New York County Lawyers' Association, of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, of the New York State Bar Association and of the Guild of Catholic Lawyers. He was President of the New York County Lawyers' Association

from 1944 to 1946 and a member of the Executive Committee of the Association of American Law Schools in 1942. In 1943 the Dean was chairman of the committee appointed by Mayor LaGuardia to study labor relations on the transit system of the City of New York, following which he served as Corporation Counsel of the City from 1943 to 1945. At the close of his public career he served as member and Vice-Chairman of the New York State Crime Commission from 1951 to the date of his death on June 22, 1953.

To generations of Fordham men, Dean Wilkinson will be remembered and honored not only as an exceptionally able administrator of scrupulous fairness and impartiality but also as one of its greatest teachers. In the course of his years on the faculty the Dean taught many subjects. Equity and Evidence, however, were his favorite courses and during the latter part of his teaching career he concentrated his attention on them. Shining through the brilliance of his teaching was his integrity of character which made a deep impression upon those who sat before his teaching desk. In his teaching and in his life, the Dean was absolutely uncompromising in any matter of principle, whatever the cost might be to him.

Dean Wilkinson was passionately devoted to the political and legal institutions of our country. He realized and taught that the increments of learning, and particularly of wisdom, which have attached themselves to the body of our law and to our institutions should not be lightly cut off and cast away. Do not, was his advice, scorn our traditions and the great fabric of our common law as merely hampering survivals of a bygone age. Remember, he said, that our political organization and the fundamental principles of our law are the fruit of the thinking of many great political and moral philosophers and great judges who built upon the accumulated wisdom of the centuries.

The recollection of Dean Wilkinson's great ability as a teacher, his wisdom and the integrity of his character constitutes his imperishable memorial in the hearts of his thousands of students.

THE EDITORS.

STATE OF NEW YORK

*In Senate*

Albany, June 25, 1953

By Mr. Wicks:

WHEREAS, the Legislature has learned with deep regret of the death of

IGNATIUS M. WILKINSON

on June 22, 1953, and

WHEREAS, he served for 40 years as a member of the faculty of Fordham University and as dean of its law school for nearly 30 years, and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed a brilliant career in his chosen profession of law and endeared himself to all his colleagues and co-workers with whom he came in contact, and

WHEREAS, at the time of his death, he was performing outstanding service as a member of the State Crime Commission and played a prominent part in the drafting of remedial legislation which is before this session, even to the extent of foregoing hospital treatment until the Commission's report was completed,

—————Now, therefore, Be It—————

RESOLVED, (if the Assembly concur) that when the Legislature adjourns today it do so out of respect to the memory of Ignatius M. Wilkinson,

—————And Be It Further—————

RESOLVED, (if the Assembly concur) that copies of this resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to his sister, Mrs. Perce B. Collison, and to his brother, Peter A. Wilkinson.

In Assembly  
June 25, 1953

By order of the Senate

Concurred in without amendment  
By order of Assembly

ANSLEY B. BORKOWSKI  
*Clerk*

WILLIAM S. KING  
*Secretary*