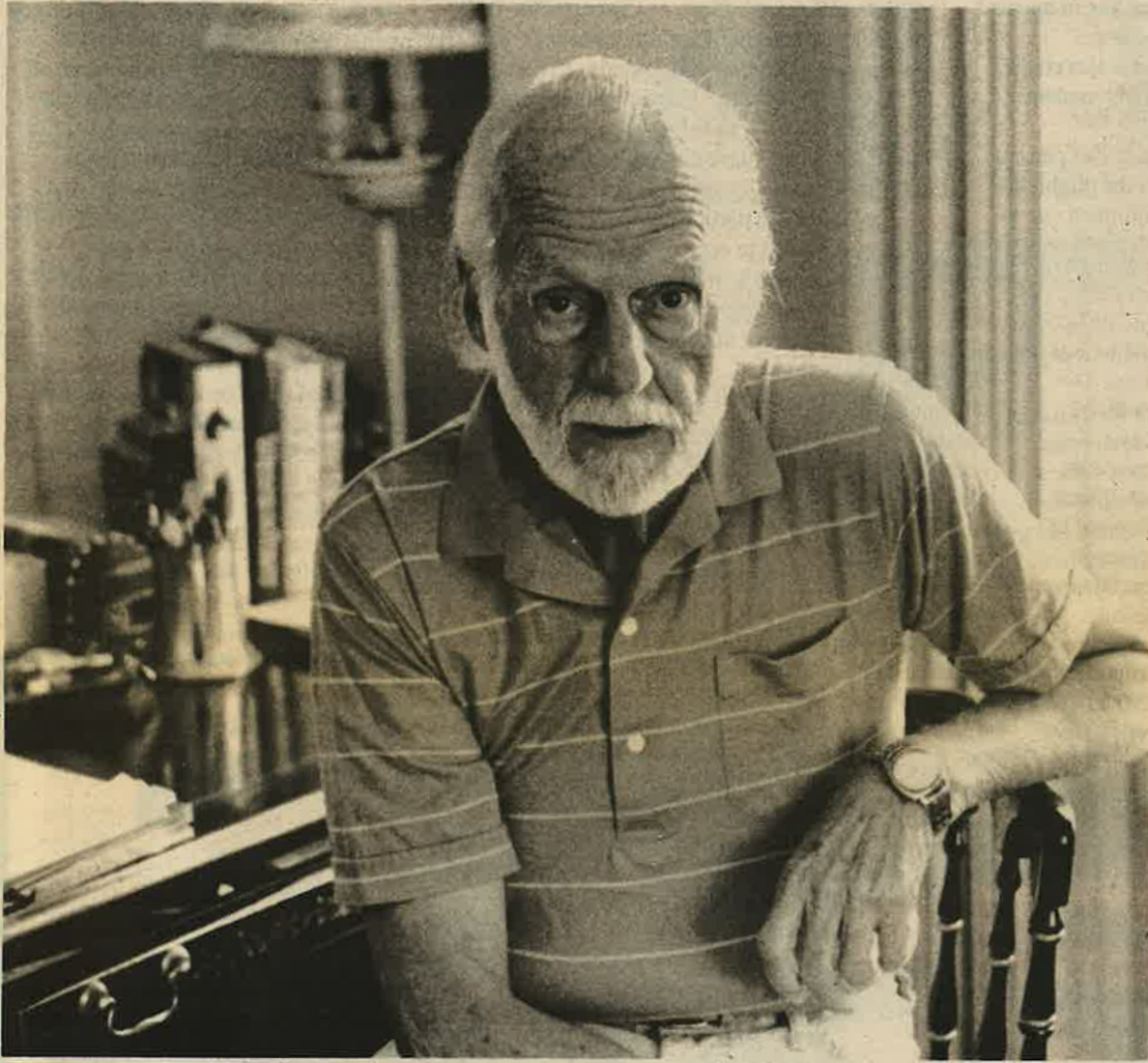


1987 Distinguished Alumnus

Archie G. McClintock



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By Marty C. Padilla
Alumnews Editor

Archie G. McClintock's legal career spans more than half a century and has earned him some of the most prestigious positions and accolades any attorney could hope for. McClintock has served as Justice on Wyoming's Supreme Court, as Wyoming's Attorney General; and for numerous years, he has been one of the state's most successful attorneys.

It seems appropriate that in the year McClintock will receive the University of Wyoming's highest honor which it can bestow on one of its graduates, the Distinguished Alumni Award, he will return

to the College of Law to begin teaching a class. McClintock has made major contributions to the academic vitality of the UW Law College through his lectures and his willingness to preside over mock trials and appeals. The insights he has shared with students and his never diminishing commitment to young people have opened new vistas for generations of Wyoming's young attorneys.

McClintock and the law have been synonymous since A.G. or "Archie," as friends call him, embarked on his legal career in Cheyenne, in 1935. The Sheridan native

said he and his family have been part of Wyoming's history since the early 1900's.

Following graduation from Sheridan High School in 1927, McClintock said higher education plans were postponed due to a lack of financing.

"I had already decided to be an attorney, and I knew that I would realize my aspirations...someday," he said. "There was a point in my life, however, when I did not think I would enter law." One summer McClintock worked at a Sheridan bank and began to strongly consider the financial world. "I started to waiver...just a little; but

I have never regretted my choice," he said.

"Law in many respects is a psychological exercise," McClintock said. This school of thought lead him to study psychology as an undergraduate.

"Fairly early in my freshman year I went to work for the registrar's office. Ralph McWhinnie was leading that office at the time," he recalled. Later he worked in the dormitories, as a way to earn his money to pay for school. "I had some very rough financial times during my school days," he said.

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While at the University, McClintock was a member of the tennis team for four years. He was also a member of the Sigma Nu Fraternity; Psi Chi Fraternity, the sophomore honorary; Iron Skull; and Phi Kappa Phi, scholastic honorary.

Upon graduation from UW in 1935, McClintock took a job doing legal research for the state engineer. "I worked part-time while studying for the Bar. I distributed cigarettes to local vendors as another way to supplement my income," he said.

After passing the Wyoming Bar Examination, McClintock began to put in more hours in at the state engineer's office. It was at this time he approached a Cheyenne attorney, C.R. Ellery about working with him. McClintock told Ellery that he would not work for a salary. "If my work was worth anything to the firm I would receive payment, if not the firm took no loss. I worked on that basis for approximately two years," he said.

It was not until 1937 that McClintock went to work full-time for Ellery for \$100 a month. In 1939 McClintock and Ellery formed their first partnership. "He seemed to like me and thought I showed promise ... the rest is history as they say."

McClintock joined the Naval Reserve, and left the firm until 1946. When he returned from his tour of duty in the Aleutians, he was engaged in private practice in Cheyenne continuously until July 1, 1973, when he was appointed by Governor Stanley K. Hathaway to serve on Wyoming's Supreme Court.

During his tenure on the court, McClintock is credited with writing legal opinions which have helped pilot the course of Wyoming law. One of the landmark cases which McClintock heard while on the high court was the equalization of funding for Wyoming's schools. McClintock was the first justice appointed to the Wyoming Supreme Court when the number of justices was increased from four to five, and he was also the first justice appointed pursuant to the constitutional plan for filling judicial vacancies in Wyoming which became effective in December 1972. He served on the Wyoming Supreme Court until March of 1981 when he at age 70 was required by law to step down from the high court.

It was not a long retirement however. When others would be planning leisure activities-- he embarked on another major project. McClintock began preparing for the highly competitive California bar exam. Not only did he pass the rigorous three-day examination but he was one of 25 percent of those taking the exam to do so. His plans for semi-retirement in California however were interrupted by yet another call to serve the state of Wyoming.

McClintock recalled one day at a Cheyenne restaurant when then Governor Ed Herschler spied him having lunch. "The governor was having trouble finding a new attorney general and approached me about taking the job," he said. I formally accepted the job on November 30, 1982, spent one day with the outgoing Attorney General and officially took over the office on December 1. At age 72, McClintock accepted

the arduous assignment as Wyoming's Attorney General and continued in that capacity until January 5, 1987.

Today, McClintock continues his contribution to the University of Wyoming Law School through the Archie McClintock Student Assistance Fund. Some time ago, McClintock donated a portion of his personal stock to the Law School to distribute to students on a case by case basis. "If there is a student who needs a hundred or two hundred dollars to help complete his or her tuition or needs additional money, for books they can turn to the assistance fund for help," he said.

"When I was a senior in law school I received a \$250 grant from a New York City attorney. It turns out that this gentleman's son had come to Wyoming to attend law school and while he was here the boy contracted pneumonia and died. Following his son's death the New York attorney set up the grant to help students who were in need. "I was the sole recipient that year," he said.

Later that year, McClintock had the opportunity to attend a symposium in Boston, and he made a point to meet the attorney face to face to thank him. "He was a little startled at first to see a young man standing before him who needed a grant for school, but who was able to visit Boston. I assured him that all my expenses were being paid by the school."

Remembering how much he appreciated and needed the grant at that point in his life, McClintock established a similar assistance fund in his own name. "I want to

provide the same opportunity to some needy student that was provided to me." According to McClintock the fund is distributed at the discretion of the law school.

Throughout his career he has been noted for having advised, counseled, chided and reinforced young attorneys who are entering practice. His wisdom has inspired many young attorneys and his entire career has given other attorneys a model on which to base their achievements.

McClintock is also noted for his commitment to advancing the state's cultural heritage. He has made art and monetary contributions of significance to the University of Wyoming Art Museum and the Cheyenne Civic Center. He has also been actively affiliated with organizations such as Patrons of the Dance and the Wyoming Arts Foundation.

He married Jean Robinson of Thermopolis in 1939 and the couple had three children, Ellery, Jeffrey and Kathleen. Mrs. McClintock has been deceased since 1974.

It is a truly constant source of pride to know that McClintock earned both his bachelor's degree and law degree at UW. McClintock has had not one distinguished career but three or more. His near forty years of distinguished practice before the Bar in the State of Wyoming which included a term as president of the Wyoming State Bar, his distinguished service on the bench of the highest court of the state of Wyoming, the Wyoming Supreme Court, and his subsequent service as the chief legal officer of the State of Wyoming, attorney general. In each of these capacities, any one of which represents a truly notable achievement and culmination of a career, he served with exceptional integrity, guided only by the highest values and principles. □

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