

Lunch with Legends

K. GREGORY HAYNES

Cassie Chambers Armstrong

I learned a lot during my lunch with K. Gregory Haynes, not just about him but also about the practice of law.

Mr. Haynes began his practice in 1971 as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Eastern District of Virginia. He told me about some of his first trials as a federal prosecutor, describing how he learned to try cases by doing just that: trying cases. "The best way to learn is to do it," he told me, "there is no substitute for that."

Mr. Haynes soon had to learn another role in the legal system, as he was reassigned to Washington, D.C. to work on what he thought would be a short assignment. That assignment, as it turned out, would grow into Watergate. He assisted the lead White House counsel on the matter for approximately six months before he returned to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

A few years later, Mr. Haynes and his wife returned to Kentucky. He joined Wyatt Tarrant & Combs and continued his active trial practice. I was awed listening to him describe the amount of courtroom experience he gained during his first years of practice. "There are certainly fewer trials today than there were when I started practicing," he said, "I enjoyed getting to be in the courtroom so often."

Mr. Haynes' active trial practice has continued throughout his career: to date, he has tried almost 100 cases in front of a jury. Many of those cases were high stakes, highly technical cases; his peers ranked him the number one lawyer in Kentucky through Super Lawyers in 2015 in recognition of his skill as a litigator.

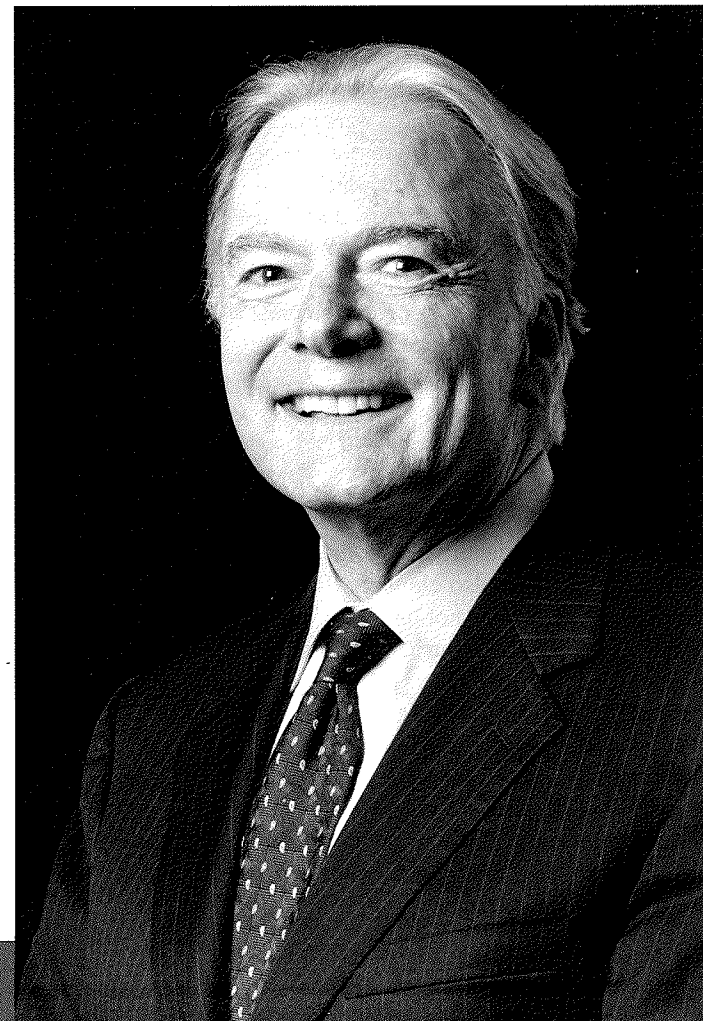
Mr. Haynes and I also spoke at length about his involvement in the community. He has found his career in Louisville rewarding not just because of his accomplishments as a lawyer, but also because of the ways he has been able to make a difference in the community. He has been a chairman of the Housing Authority of Louisville, a past director of the Louisville Metro Parks Board, a past director of the Louisville Zoo Society, and is a current director for the Kentucky Opera. "That's the

great thing about Louisville," he told me, "you can really get involved in the community if you want to."

These days Mr. Haynes is committed to teaching the next generation of lawyers how to litigate. He is adjunct faculty at the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law, where he teaches a trial practice class. When I asked him what advice he gives his students about the practice of law, he emphasized the importance of being courteous and respectful to all of the parties to a dispute. He also spoke about the importance of being prepared, noting that "a little bit of nervousness before a court appearance can be a good thing—it means you care about your case and it will motivate you to be fully prepared."

Mr. Haynes has given a lot to the legal profession over his career: he is a past president of the Louisville Bar Association, a past Master of the Brandeis Inn of Court, and a former director of the Kentucky Bar Foundation. His willingness to participate in the Lunches with a Legend program is another way in which he has shown his willingness to give back. On behalf of the Young Lawyers Division of the Louisville Bar Association, I thank him for the many ways he has positively influenced the practice of law in our community.

Cassie Chambers Armstrong is a Skadden Fellow at the Kentucky Equal Justice Center. Her practice focuses on access to justice issues in rural Kentucky. ■



Are you a "legend" or experienced Louisville attorney who wants to spend a lunch hour with a member of the Young Lawyers Section? OR, are you a member of the Young Lawyers Section that also likes lunch? Please contact the 2018 Chair of the Young Lawyers Section, Dwight Young at dyoung@stites.com, for more information on how to participate in the next "Lunch with Legends."