

## **J. William E. Mingo**

*C. M., Q. C., LL. M., LL. D.*

***Died at Halifax on Friday, November 25, 2005.***

Bill was born at Halifax on November 25, 1926. He was the son of Lt. Col. Edgar W. and Lila Theresa (McManus) Mingo. At the time of his death, Bill was preparing for a family dinner that evening to celebrate his 79th birthday. During his remarkable life, Bill received a wealth of personal and professional recognition for his dedicated and distinguished service to his profession, to business, to education and to his community, province and country. He received his early education at St. Thomas Aquinas and at St. Mary's Boys School. Bill graduated from Dalhousie University with a Bachelor of Arts in 1947 and a Bachelor of Laws in 1949. He was the Gold Medallist of his graduating law class. Following completion of a Master's degree at Columbia University, he returned to Nova Scotia and was admitted to the Bar in 1950.

At the time of his death, Bill was a partner in Stewart McKelvey Stirling Scales. He practised law with that firm and its predecessors during his whole career. In the early years of his practice, Bill was known as one of the ablest civil litigators in the province. Early in his career his practice changed to corporate and commercial law, for which he is best known. Quite apart from a career as an outstanding corporate lawyer, Bill was a leader within his firm. He served as managing partner for many years and was the driving force behind the merger that led to the formation of Atlantic Canada's first regional and largest law firm. He also applied his considerable talent to promoting legal education and research and advocating on behalf of low income Nova Scotians. He was instrumental in establishing the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia, which supports legal education, research and law reform, as well as court services for women and shelters for women and children who have been the victims of domestic violence. In addition, he is nationally recognized as one of the founders of legal aid in Nova Scotia. Bill's professional career included significant contributions to local and national law associations and committees. He served as president of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society and as a member on the Executive of the Canadian Bar Association.

Bill did not restrict his activities to law and was recognized as a significant and influential force in both the local and national business communities. He helped to put Halifax on the map as one of the world's leading ports as a long time member and chair of the Halifax-Dartmouth Port Commission. He was, for many years, counsel to the Provincial Government's industrial development program which attracted many businesses to Nova Scotia, including Michelin Tire. Bill also served as a trusted business advisor to many companies in Nova Scotia including Canning Investment Corporation, Crossley Carpet Mills Limited, The Maritime Life Assurance Company, Minas Basin Pulp and Power Company Limited, Oxford Frozen Foods Limited, The Great Eastern Corporation, Maritime Tel & Tel, Maritime Steel and Foundries Limited, National Sea Products Limited and Bowater Mersey Paper Company Limited, to name a few. Peter Newman in his book, *Titans*, described Bill Mingo as '... The lawyer with the wonderful white mutton-chop whiskers who is the Halifax establishment's unofficial gatekeeper (while holding down directorships in nearly every important Nova Scotia company...) '. Bill's reputation as wise

business counsel was not restricted to Nova Scotia but was recognized throughout the Canadian business community where his list of directorships reads like a who's who of Canadian business and includes companies such as Royal Bank of Canada, Bank of Canada, Onex Corporation, Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada and Petrofina Canada Inc., again to name but a few.

Bill was an active supporter of numerous educational institutions, particularly Saint Mary's and Dalhousie Universities from which he received honorary Doctors of Laws in 1981 and 1998 respectively. He served for many years as a member of the Advisory Board of Dalhousie University Business School as well as a trustee for the Forum for Young Canadians. He served as Atlantic Chair of the Dalhousie Capital Ideas Campaign and played a critical role in raising funds for the Purdy Crawford Chair in Business Law at Dalhousie Law School. He gave untold time and energy to Dalhousie Law School and provided tremendous support through its Legal Aid Clinic and to its fundraising initiatives. In addition, he found time to chair the Saint Mary's University Capital Campaign. Bill maintained a keen interest in politics and was an active member of the National Treasury Committee and the National Executive Committee of the Liberal Party of Canada. During his exceptional career, Bill has received was particularly proud that within the last year Canada, was inducted into the Nova Scotia designated Northwood Foundation Senior of the many honours and awards but he he was appointed to the Order of Business Hall of Fame and was Year.

In most recent years when his life afforded Bill more leisure time, he developed a keen interest in sports, becoming an avid skier and golfer, and also had time to savour his passion for fine wine and fine dining. In those years, Bill also savoured the ability to spend more time with Edith, his children and grandchildren. He enjoyed nothing more than their family gatherings at Grey Rocks for skiing, White Point Beach Lodge for golf and travelling the world for golf, music and dining experiences with his son, Charlie. Bill is survived by his wife of 52 years, Edith Peppard (Hawkins) and his children: Sarah Margaret (Jean Pierre Camus), Halifax, James Archibald (Jill Jeffery), Kingston, Johanna Elizabeth, Toronto, Nancy Sabina (Spencer OvergaardThomsen), Toronto, and Charles Hawkins, New York, and grandchildren Tristan and Sébastien Camus, Alexa and Iain Mingo, and Anne, Simon and Claire OvergarardThomsen. He is also survived by his brother, Peter (Pat), Victoria. The family will receive friends on Wednesday, November 30, from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. and from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at Snow's Funeral Home, 2666 Windsor Street, Halifax. A funeral service will be held on Thursday, December 1, at 2:30 p.m. in St. Matthew's United Church, 1479 Barrington Street, Halifax. A reception will follow at the Halifax Club, 1682 Hollis Street. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Dalhousie Law School, Symphony Nova Scotia or to a charity of choice.

Source: Globe and Mail <https://www.genealogiequebec.com/necro/avis-de-deces/988850-MINGO-J--William-E->