

## BOOK REVIEW

### THE LAW AS A WAY OF LIFE

Law students are often uncertain as to whether or not they have correctly undertaken a career in Law as their true professional life destiny. Uncertainty and perplexity exists even more frequently among students in political science or other pre-law courses. Lawyer parents tend to consciously or sub-consciously "steer" their children (and these days sometimes the spouses of their married children) to enter law school and hopefully pursue law as a profession. Uncertainty and doubt are also found even among some of those who have completed their professional training and been admitted to the bar.

George E. Allen, of Richmond, Virginia, has contributed mightily to the clarification of the doubts, misgiving and uncertainty by his charming book, *THE LAW AS A WAY OF LIFE* (subtitle *Memoirs of George E. Allen, 1910-1970*), published by the G. E. Allen Publishing Co. of 1809 Staples Mills Road, Richmond, Virginia.

This outstanding trial lawyer, by a blend of his memoirs, philosophy and experiences points out many facets of the privilege and duty of those engaged in this profession. The examples of cases by him tried of diverse sorts, sets up a challenge to others engaged in the practice and simultaneously stimulates the imagination of those who erroneously feel that law is at a standstill, rather than in a constant state of re-examination of the correctness of the rule of law and its applicability to changing times. While somewhat critical of court-made changes in basic law by interpretation and re-interpretation, he nonetheless cites examples of ingenuity by counsel in spreading the applications of prior interpretations to the changing fact patterns that seem to be our way of life.

An extra bonus is found in the personal and family memoirs of this most distinguished descendant and continuing founder of "southern gentility" at its best, intertwined with philosophical, moral and ethical guidance by example. Of George E. Allen in the field of Legal Ethics, it has been attributed to him to have informed an inquiring young attorney "If you have to wonder or inquire whether or not it is ethical, it probably isn't."

Leon L. Wolfstone\*

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