

Life and Legacy of Mr. Edward Goldberg

For his first two years of law school, during the depths of the Great Depression, Edward I. Goldberg worked as an accountant during the day and attended Duquesne Law School at night. After his evening classes he worked in a movie theater until midnight to make additional money for his tuition. Before his third year of law school, he approached the dean, John P. Egan, and said that he wished to attend school during the day so that he could meet more of his peers, but financially he could not afford to do so. Dean Egan waived the tuition and said, "Go and buy your books, Edward. Repay Duquesne whenever you can." And, as Mr. Goldberg was fond of saying until his death in Nov., 2001, "I've been repaying Duquesne ever since."

Born of humble beginnings, he became an esteemed lawyer in Pittsburgh, PA, practicing law for almost 70 years and serving as trusted counsel to university presidents, corporate chairmen, family, friends and those who could not afford a lawyer. Doing the right thing, and for the right reason, were critical themes in his life. His word was his bond. Nor did he forget his roots, giving cheerfully and tirelessly to the legal profession and to the Pittsburgh community. He believed that community involvement was "a moral obligation, something you were supposed to do and expected to do."

Mr. Goldberg actively promoted interfaith relationships between Catholics and Jews and was extremely loyal to Duquesne University, beginning with that conversation with Dean Egan. In 1964 he became one of the first lay persons, and the first member of the Jewish faith, to serve on the Board of Trustees of Duquesne University. He remained active on the board for 30 years. In 1968 he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University, and in 1995 he received the McAnulty Service award as outstanding alumnus. In 1997, at Duquesne University's Red Mass, Cardinal Donald Wuerl presented him with the St. Thomas More Society's St. Thomas More Award, the highest honor given to a lawyer "who adheres to the principle of doing what is ethical and right."

In addition to his commitment to Duquesne, he was involved with numerous community charities, serving as President of the Allegheny County Bar Association and the Jewish Home for the Aged, and as a member of numerous Boards including the Pittsburgh Housing Authority and the Allegheny County Judiciary Committee. He was a giant in the legal, religious, and educational communities, a man of dignity, simplicity, and warmth, whose greatest legacy will be his enduring impact on the individuals and institutions he served.

Throughout his entire career he had the unwavering support and counsel of his remarkable wife Selma, and indeed Mr. Goldberg insisted that her name go first on the scholarship fund. The goal of the fund is to lessen the financial burden for law students who show great promise as community-minded servants.