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Why Expert Witness?



Arrie Lee Johnson Portrait from 1971 with his Grandson
Charles McGilvary Johnson, PSP, FCP

Arrie Lee Johnson (1903-1983) was my hero, and my Grandfather. I only knew him for 13 years, but he was a larger-than-life character in my family hometown of Milton, FL. He was known as "Judge AL" by all in the area. I was raised in SC, but when I would visit as a young boy it seemed everyone knew my Grandfather. I asked my mother, "who is this "Judge AL" they were speaking of"?

He was the eldest of 18 children, yes eighteen, born to a farmer in Evergreen, Alabama. From what

we can tell they grew Sorghum, Corn & Cotton on a large tract of land. Today, Evergreen is still a 1 or 2 red light town in South Alabama in the heart of Conecuh County, where it's known for sausage. He excelled in school and made his way to the University of Florida in Gainesville, FL in 1921 at the age of 18. The trip from Evergreen, AL to Gainesville, FL in the early 1920's had to be one that took weeks. He graduated in 1925 or 1926 (we are waiting on a copy of his Diploma) with a Law Degree and since there was no Bar Exam in those days, he immediately started practicing law.

He married a young lady, Mary Burnham, from Bushnell, FL (not far from the present-day development known as The Villages). After graduation they settled in Milton, FL and started a family. He was a member of the Florida Bar Association (#39674) from 1932 until his passing in 1983, over 50 years! He also served as Santa Rosa County Judge from 1933 to 1944.



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For years we have heard stories from friends and distant relatives about how helpful he was to people in the community and family members, whether distant or close. It was not unlike him to provide free legal services, even bartering at times with local shop owners or farmers. He was also generous with his money, for those that were truly deserving and humble. I suspect this had to do with his upbringing in Evergreen on a farm with 17 siblings where things were... not plentiful. His heart was big, but he was stern and demanded you behave, especially a grandchild of his. I can still hear his rich/thick South Alabama/Northwest Florida accent. If you know it, you know it.

He had a dry sense of humor, a very thick sarcasm, but we knew we were loved, even though he never said it. They didn't in his time.

"Judge AL" Johnson is why I have chosen to dedicate myself to providing Expert Witness services to my clients. My Grandfather helped people, from all backgrounds, whether you were able to pay for his services or those less fortunate who couldn't pay. I have learned a lot in my 30+ years in the Security Industry, and this is the closest opportunity to emulate him and provide my knowledge and assistance to those involved in a **Negligent Security, Personal Injury** or **Premises Liability** claim or lawsuit.

I hope "Judge AL" is proud, I know I am.

Charles McGilvary Johnson, PSP, FCP

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