

Ernest Hubbell  
Obituary

Ernest Hubbell, 90, of Kansas City, Missouri, died Saturday July 2, 2005, in his home, surrounded by his family. Ernest was born in Trenton, Missouri on August 28, 1914 to Platt and Maude Irene (Ray) Hubbell. A fifth generation attorney, Ernest graduated from Georgetown University School of Law in 1938. Admitted before the United States Supreme Court in 1938, he then returned to Missouri to practice law with his father.

He was an Assistant Attorney General of Missouri from 1939 until 1942. On April 25, 1943, he was married to Nevada (Nevah) Smith by Missouri Supreme Court Justice George Robb Ellison. Ernest served in the USAAF from 1942 until 1944 and the US Army Judge Advocate General, attaining the rank of Captain from 1944 to 1946. He returned to Kansas City in 1947 to practice law.

Ernest was the founder of the firm of Hubbell, Peak, O'Neal, Napier and Leach, formerly Hubbell, Lane and Sawyer. He was a member of the American Bar Association, Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys, MATA, (President 1954), Lawyer's Association of Kansas City, Lawyer's Association of St. Louis, Kansas City Bar Association (President 1963-64), recipient of the Kansas City Bar Association first annual Litigator Emeritus Award 1974, founder and Trustee of the Legal Aid and Defender's Society of Greater Kansas City (1964-73), Missouri Bar Association, first Chairman Bench and Bar Commission, 16th Judicial Circuit Court Kansas City (1964-69), 16th Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission 1970-75, Law Foundation and Trustee of UMKC Law School, and Chairman of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (1966-76). In 1976, President Carter appointed him to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals Nominating Commission of which he was chairman until 1980. Ernest was a member of the Archeological Institute of America, Sons of the American Revolution (Order of Cincinnati), Society of Fellows at the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art, **and co-founder of the Hubbell Family Historical Society, of which he was President from 1981 until 1985.** In a speech announcing Mr. Hubbell's retirement, United Transportation Union President Thomas DuBose said, "It would be tempting to say that Mr. Hubbell inherited the ingredients of his success; that it was something within his bloodlines, but instead it is the sum total of merit, and hard work, and especially, the choice that he alone made for himself that determined the direction that his life would take. This is the light you cast for those who looked to you for help in their darkest moments, the light that led so many who pursued the American expectation of justice, the light that now serves as a guiding beacon for those who follow in your wake." Mr. Hubbell was formerly a member of the Rockhill Tennis Club, the Carriage Club, and the Kansas City Club. He was a Democrat and an Episcopalian. He leaves his wife, Nevah, his son, Platt, Platt's wife, Kelley, and granddaughters Clare and Ann Hubbell.