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## Dedication of W. E. Bondurant, Jr.

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## DEDICATION

It is fitting that this issue of the New Mexico Law Review be dedicated to W. E. Bondurant, Jr. As a practitioner he exemplified all of the qualities we try to instill in our students: scholarship, devotion to his profession and clients, and perhaps of greatest importance, a concern for his fellow human beings born of an appreciation of history and literature.

His will provides that his bequest, which will be close to a million dollars:

shall be used to establish a fund to be known as the W. E. Bondurant and Hazel J. Bondurant Scholarship Fund to be awarded to one or more deserving students attending said Law School. Said award shall be based primarily upon the need, potential and scholastic ability of the recipient, and, if possible, it shall be awarded in all instances to bona fide residents and students from the State of New Mexico.

Mr. Bondurant's gift is one of the most generous ever made to any law school in this country. It establishes a scholarship fund at this school in excess of those existing at all but a handful of other schools, and allows us to both reward students whose work and ability should be recognized and to assist those who need financial aid. It is clear that Mr. Bondurant's generosity will affect substantially the capacity of this school to offer high quality education. It is our responsibility to insure that the income from the fund be used wisely to effectuate his ultimate goal: the betterment of our profession.

In accordance with Mr. Bondurant's wishes, the scholarships will be named in memory of his parents, but we at the law school wish to express our appreciation to Bill. We do so through the dedication of this issue of our law review, and we shall continue to remember him as both our friend and our benefactor.

FREDERICK M. HART\*

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\*Dean, University of New Mexico School of Law.



W. E. BONDURANT, JR.  
JUNE 20, 1913-OCTOBER 8, 1972

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

W. E. Bondurant, Jr. was widely known and respected by members of the New Mexico Bar. Born in 1913, he came to New Mexico with his family in 1922. Attending the Roswell Public Schools and New Mexico Military Institute, he went on to college at the University of Colorado, obtaining his Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1935. After working for the Roswell Production Credit Association for seven years, he enrolled in the University of Colorado School of Law where he earned his Bachelor of Laws degree in 1943. The same year he was admitted to practice in both Colorado and New Mexico. As a law student, he was editor of the Rocky Mountain Law Review and was a member of the Order of the Coif.

Upon graduation, Bill Bondurant became an associate of the Roswell firm of Hervey, Dow, Hill & Hinkle, and remained with that firm throughout his professional life. At the time of his death, the firm's name had been changed to Hinkle, Bondurant, Cox & Eaton. He was a member of the American, New Mexico, and Chaves County Bar Associations and served a term as president of the Chaves County Bar. In 1968 he was appointed a member of the New Mexico Board of Bar Examiners, and at the time of his death he was Chairman of the Board. As Chairman, he effectuated many changes adding to the openness and fairness of the admissions process in this state.

Bill engaged in a variety of community activities, serving for many years as a member of the Roswell Library Board, including a term as its president. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Roswell. Bill remained a bachelor throughout his life. Although he devoted practically all of his time to the practice of law, he was also an astute business man. He was an avid reader and an active member of the Great Books Club, and he found great satisfaction in his support of the Little Theatre group in Roswell.

As his law firm grew and new associates were added, Bill became a "teacher" spending much of his time supervising and instructing the new lawyers. His scholarly approach to the law, and his dedication to the profession, helped make him a fine teacher, and many attorneys became indebted to him for the work he did in continuing their education. It is for these efforts that he will be long remembered.

CLARENCE E. HINKLE\*

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\*Senior Partner of Hinkle, Bondurant, Cox & Eaton.

## TRIBUTE

It is a deeply appreciated privilege to participate in this tribute to Bill Bondurant. I hope that in this short space I can convey something of the kind of man he was, so that the reader may have for Bill's memory the same respect and admiration I have always felt for him.

Bill Bondurant was a many-faceted person. In his life he exhibited both great expertise in the law and substantial business acumen. Beyond this, and perhaps more importantly, he had a genuine interest in other people. Moreover, he was a man whose habits of mind were young. He never developed that rigidity of position which can characterize the thinking of one who has attained his goals in life and wants to maintain the status quo. These are aspects of his life, I believe, that illuminate his character and reveal a person of substantial merit who made a difference in the lives of those around him.

Bill's approach to the law was always scholarly. It was his lifelong habit to study, and, while others fished or golfed on weekends, Bill read and analyzed cases. Regularly, when he came to Albuquerque on business, what spare hours he had were spent in the law school library. In part because of his devotion to the law and in part because of his substantial intellectual ability, he was truly a lawyer's lawyer, as well as an outstanding specialist in oil and gas and real estate title law. He also possessed outstanding business judgment, and as his significant bequest to the law school demonstrates, he amassed a sizeable estate through wise investments.

As a person, he was without pretension. A big bear of a man, he was modest in his manner and his style of living, but he was not a recluse. Indeed, he was excellent company with his delightful sense of humor and ready laugh. His interests were universal, and his conversation about them informed. This was due in part to his continual study of great literature.

All of these attributes combined to make up what I consider to be the most important legacy left by Bill to those who knew him. I am speaking of his willingness and ability to educate those around him. With young lawyers, he was glad to share ideas, to be candid with them and to correct their mistakes. He certainly furthered the education of the young lawyers in his own firm, and he was equally generous with his time and knowledge to other lawyers throughout New Mexico. I know that I learned more from my association with him while I was a member of the firm than from any other I have had.

Bill's agile mind refused to harden with the passing years. That his peer group held a given position on any issue rarely influenced him.

He remained mentally youthful and receptive to new ideas and changing circumstances. Perhaps one recollection will best illustrate this trait. A few years ago I tried a lawsuit in Roswell involving a school in southeastern New Mexico. It was an emotion-charged case, with the student body and young faculty members arrayed philosophically and physically against the older faculty members and the school administration. The courtroom was filled to overflowing, with youth seated exclusively on the left side of the aisle and what, for lack of a better term, could be called the establishment seated exclusively on the right side of the aisle. The generation gap stood publicly revealed by the seating arrangements. Bill had come by the courthouse to listen for a time to the evidence. He entered the courtroom and instinctively and without hesitation sat to the left of the aisle.

It is most appropriate that an issue of a scholarly legal publication honor Bill Bondurant, for he was first and foremost a scholar and student of the law. Based on my years of association with him in the practice of law and our long personal friendship, I am sure that he would have appreciated it and would have felt honored by it.

HOWARD C. BRATTON\*

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\*Judge, United States District Court for the District of New Mexico.