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DONALD MEWHORT

"Seek first to understand, then to be understood,"—Steven Covey



Q: When were you at Shumaker and what was your position/practice area?

A: I started with Shumaker as a summer clerk/intern in 1964, became an associate in 1965, and was promoted to a partner in 1971. I spent my early years with the firm as a trial lawyer defending railroads, insurance companies' insureds, and other corporate entities. An exception to my defense work was representing families of individuals who were killed in the crash of a Lake Central Airlines flight over Marion, Ohio. My senior lawyer, Jack Hackett, and I sued the airline and General Motors, Allison Division, in federal court in Toledo for negligence in the manufacture of the engine pistons and in failing to discover the defective piston. We obtained the then largest verdict in that federal court for two families that lost their husband/fathers in the crash. In 1971, I was asked to develop an employment/ labor law practice for the firm. I led that practice for the next 36 years until my retirement in 2017.

Q: What are you doing now?

A: I am now fully retired but still miss (a little bit) the excitement and competition of the practice in which I engaged.

Q: What did you enjoy most about your career?

A: Trial work and the labor law practice were demanding and exhilarating and the source of real enjoyment, much like competitive sports.

Q: What is your favorite memory of your time working at Shumaker?

A: My best memory of Shumaker is working as a member of a team with Jim White, Jim Tuschman, and Norm Hartsel in acquiring, planning, and building the Toledo office structure.



Q: *What is your greatest accomplishment?*

A: I guess my greatest accomplishment professionally was being selected as one of the Best Lawyers in America for all the years since the publication started until my retirement. Personally, I am proud of having shared with my wife of almost 60 years, Martha, the raising of three very successful children and being a part of the lives of eight grandchildren and, so far, one great-grandchild.

Q: *What news would you like to share about your personal or professional life?*

A: The only news that I want to share about my personal and professional life is that 52 years in the practice was enough, and retirement is terrific!