



# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HON. STEPHEN LIMBAUGH, SR.

**Your former colleagues congratulate you on receiving the Spirit of Justice Award and thank you for your commitment to the rule of law.**

## **Hon. Stephen N. Limbaugh, Sr.**

Armstrong Teasdale  
Senior Counsel  
Former U.S. District Judge, Eastern District  
of Missouri

My father and brother were lawyers and I wanted to follow in their footsteps and become a lawyer since high school. After being discharged from the Navy in 1946, I enrolled at Southeast Missouri State University and earned 90 credit hours

attending school throughout two years. Veterans could attend law school in most universities after World War II if they achieved 60 to 90 undergraduate credits. Thus, in the fall of 1948, I entered the law school at the University of Missouri at Columbia.

I began practicing law on Sept. 1, 1951, as a member of my father and brother's firm in Cape Girardeau, Mo. I practiced law from 1951-1983 and was engaged in a

general practice with an emphasis on litigation. During that period, I served as prosecuting attorney for Cape Girardeau County for four years and as attorney for the City of Cape Girardeau for five years.

In the spring of 1983, President Ronald Reagan appointed me to fill a vacancy in the federal judicial system and on July 21, 1983, I took the oath of office to become a United States District Judge for both the Eastern and Western Districts of Missouri. I served as judge for 25 years and retired on July 31, 2008. My retirement was occasioned by the appointment of my son, Stephen Jr., as a member of my court. Father and son are unable to sit on the same court, so it was not only appropriate, but time for me to leave.

On August 1, 2008, Armstrong Teasdale graciously offered me a job and I resumed the practice of law, where I continue to work.

My father, Rush H. Limbaugh, was always my finest mentor. He was a virtuous, extremely able lawyer and a fine person. In addition, my late wife, Anne, was an inspiration, encouraging me to do well by her words and example.

I was motivated by them to engage in public service. As president of the Missouri Bar in 1983 and later as a member of the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association and as president of the St. Louis Bar Foundation, it continued to be obvious that lawyers owe a heavy duty, not only to be engaged in bar-related organizations and activities, but also in community service.

Lawyers can be great leaders and their work is vital in aiding the less fortunate. Lawyers must support those endeavors that ensure citizens receive access to legal services. We must support LSEM, which provides pro bono service to those who need a lawyer but are unable to afford one. We must support

the Missouri Coalition for the Right to Counsel, an organization Richard Scherrer started to furnish pro bono counsel to indigent defendants in criminal cases, and numerous other groups which make certain all persons can have the advantages our judicial branch of government affords. If lawyers are physically and mentally able, they have a duty to carry out these obligations, whatever their age and stations in life.