

## **JIMMY ROBERTSON: A DISTINGUISHED LAWYER AND FRIEND**

*Virginia S. Gautier\**

In my early years of my law practice, I joined the firm of Wise Carter Child & Caraway, PA. I soon learned that my office would be situated in close proximity to former Mississippi Supreme Court Justice Jimmy Robertson which was a bit intimidating to a young lawyer. He practiced law in one of the big corner offices which was filled with books, family photos and memorabilia from his days on the bench. From my nearby vantage point, I often observed lawyers entering Jimmy's office to seek his wisdom and insight on the law as they analyzed complex legal issues in their cases. Jimmy delighted in working through a complicated matter without legal precedence and his wealth of knowledge was highly regarded in the firm.

Over the years, Jimmy and I developed a friendship. We bonded over our shared deep love of running and we enjoyed discussing upcoming local races, as well as participating as part of a Wise Carter team in the unbearably hot Watermelon Classic 5K race held in Jackson, Mississippi on July 4<sup>th</sup> each year. Jimmy enjoyed running in races when he traveled, particularly if it was in a city where one of his sons lived and I loved to hear his Monday morning reports after those races.

---

\* Shareholder, Wise Carter Child & Caraway, PA in Jackson, MS. University of Mississippi, J.D. 1996 *magna cum laude*.

I developed a deep respect for Jimmy by watching this senior partner in our firm treat everyone with kindness and respect. His Delta roots were evident in that he was the quintessential Southern gentleman lawyer and his example was an important one for young lawyers in our firm to observe. His character was also evident in the way that he spoke with such respect and admiration for his wife, Linda Robertson, an administrative judge with the Mississippi Workers' Compensation Commission.

After Jimmy retired, I moved into his office where I continue to practice law. I often think of the responsibility that I have to practice law with wisdom, kindness and respect for others while being a zealous advocate for my client. I had a great lawyer to observe and emulate. We should all be so fortunate to have had a Jimmy Robertson in our careers.