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## JOSEPH S. LEVINE

*By Norman Seidel*

his parents moved to Easton, Pennsylvania, where he was educated in the elementary schools and was later a graduate of Easton High School in the class of 1921. He was graduated born in New York City on November 14, 1903, the son of the late Jacob Levine and Millie Levine. While still a young boy

Joseph Sherman Levine was admitted to practice before the Northampton County Bar on October 16, 1929. He was from Lafayette College in 1925 and later attended the Law School of the University of Pennsylvania and Temple University School of Law, of which latter institution he was a graduate in the year 1929. After admission to the Bar he served as Assistant District Attorney under the late William A. Frack from 1936 to 1940 and in 1935 became associated in the practice of law with John B. O'Brien under the firm name of Levine & O'Brien. This association continued until 1951 when, because of reasons of Mr. Levine's ill health, the firm was discontinued.

Throughout his career at the Bar of Northampton County, Joseph Levine exemplified the independence, clarity of purpose, perseverance and courage that was to stand him in such good stead when called upon to fight the long sieges of illness he was forced to undergo. That, amidst a busy practice, he devoted his energies in the defense of those whose espoused unpopular causes, gives further evidence of his devotion to the true spirit of the "American Lawyer". In a larger sense, Joseph Levine's very devotion to these ideals gave him a sense of mission, to do his small part to make this a better place in which to live.

Nor were his interests and activities limited to the purely professional sphere, for Joseph S. Levine gave of himself in communal activities and in the sphere of religious organizations as well. He was active in Jewish and Civic affairs, was one time President of the Easton County of B'nai B'rith, President of the Middle Atlantic Section of the Jewish Welfare Board, a Vice-President and member of the Board of Governors of the Easton Y. M. H. A., now the Jewish Community Center. At the Bar, he was chairman of the committee

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on unauthorized practice of the local bar association, local counsel of the American Civil Liberties Union, and a director of the Planned Parenthood Association. As a member of the Pennsylvania and Northampton County Bar Association, as well as the Commercial Law League and Lawyers Guild, Mr. Levine showed an intense interest in his profession and was always in the forefront of programs designed to improve the standing of his profession.

Joseph Levine was an able advocate and a worthy opponent. He endeavored by every fair means to win his points and his case and was a man of firm opinion that did not yield easily. He was generous and understanding, however, he respected the other person's viewpoint even when he could not agree with it.

Unfortunately for the bar, his friends, and this, his community, Joseph Levine was stricken with a dread disease, at the height of his legal career, from which he never recovered. Nevertheless, his thoughtful consideration for others, his genial personality, his sincerity and honesty, his undying respect for the Court, his professional industry and integrity will continue to live in these Courts and will serve as an inspiration for all who knew and loved Joseph S. Levine.