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10/13/2025

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Clark Partington Mourns the Passing of Founder William (Bill) H. Clark

Pensacola, FL — The attorneys and staff of Clark Partington Attorneys at Law mourn the passing of William (Bill) H. Clark, who died on October 10, 2025.

As one of the firm's founding partners, Bill helped lay the foundation for what Clark Partington represents today — a deep commitment to integrity, service, and excellence in the practice of law. His intellect, leadership, and integrity continue to shape the character of the firm and the community he so faithfully served.

Bill's distinguished career spanned decades of impact, particularly in First Amendment and media law.

"If there is one legacy of Bill, that I think he would want to be remembered for it is his deep belief in the importance of the First Amendment to the US Constitution that provides for Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Press," said Donald H. Partington, fellow firm founder and Bill's longtime friend.

"He was a preeminent First Amendment, Freedom of the Press attorney in Pensacola and statewide. He successfully defended the Pensacola News Journal from attacks and gave excellent advice on how to preserve Freedom of the Press. His files at the firm were jewels of prepared memos ready to be filed when instant response to efforts to curb the press was required. I have seen him approach the closed door of the Courtroom, slip his "open this hearing" memo under the door and wait for the closed hearing to open as Bill's checkmate memo required!"

Don continued, "Bill's strong belief in the First Amendment reached the University of West Florida. For 11 years, in the evenings he trekked out to the University to teach Media Law as an adjunct professor. If you want to honor Bill, honor the First Amendments, Freedom of Speech and Freedom of the Press."

Beyond his advocacy, Bill's influence was instrumental in shaping both the local legal community and the city of Pensacola itself. He served on The Florida Bar's Board of Governors, as President of the Pensacola Chamber of Commerce, and was a trusted counselor to countless clients and colleagues.

Reflecting on their partnership, Bruce Partington recalled:

"In late 1975, Bill walked into my father's office at what was then Harrell, Wiltshire, Bozeman, Clark & Stone and said, 'I just told Joe Harrell we quit—let's go look for offices.' He and my father had been friends in law school and moot court partners. They opened the offices of Clark and Partington at 21 S. Tarragona, with Martha Clark as bookkeeper and my mother as receptionist. About a year later, Bob and Chris Hart joined them, forming the firm we know today as Clark, Partington, Hart & Hart. A local businessman once said that 'overnight, it became the best law firm in Pensacola.' And the story goes on from there."

Above all, Bill believed that true growth stemmed from trust, friendship, and ethical practice. Reflecting on the firm's evolution from just four partners to nearly a hundred colleagues, he once said: "It grew because a bunch of good lawyers who were good friends, and who presented themselves to their clients as ethical people worthy of respect."

Shareholder Scott Remington reflected on Bill's enduring impact:

"Bill's charm, wit, and integrity were not just admirable qualities; they leached into the very fabric of the firm. When we walk the streets of our community or step into a courtroom, he is one of the primary reasons our reputation precedes us. His example continues to set the bar by which we measure ourselves every day."

Bill is survived by his beloved wife Martha, and daughters Mary Ellen, Ginny, and Peggy, along with their families.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 18, 2025, at First Presbyterian Church, Pensacola.

About Clark Partington

Clark Partington is a preeminent Gulf Coast regional law firm, serving the comprehensive legal needs of individuals and businesses as trusted advisors and counsel, with offices in Pensacola, Destin, Santa Rosa Beach & Tallahassee.

We stand on the shoulders of the founders who forged the success of our Firm, we are shaped by our respect for their legacy, and propelled forward by a quiet confidence born of almost 50 years of excellence.

More information about the firm's practice, its attorneys, staff and recognitions may be found at www.clarkpartington.com.