

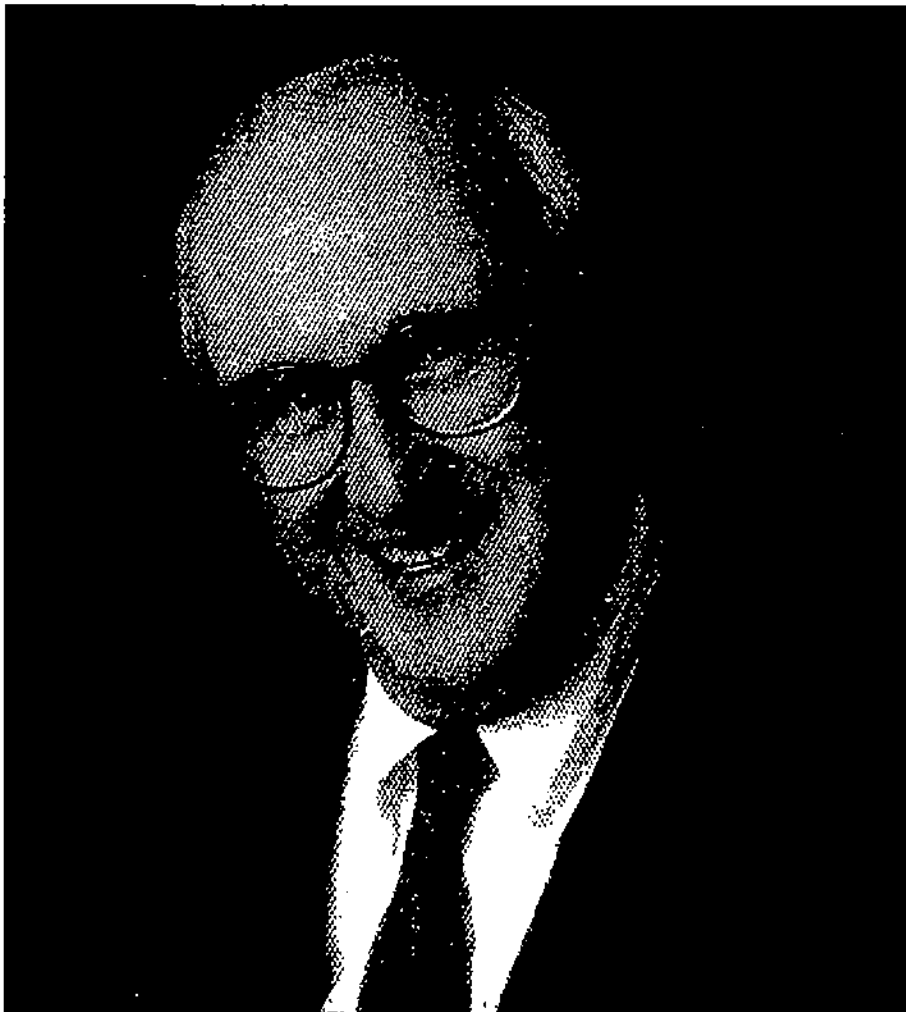


AKRON BAR ASSOCIATION
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1998 Professionalism Award Recipient
BRADFORD M. GEARINGER



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PROFESSIONALISM DINNER

To Honor Bradford M. Gearing

Akron Bar Association Past President Bradford M. "Buck" Gearing is the 1998 recipient of the Professionalism Award. Attorney Gearing was the unanimous choice from among 11 nominations for this year's award.

Buck was born in Pennsylvania, received his undergraduate degree from University of the South in 1962, and received his J.D. degree from Vanderbilt University in 1965. He was admitted to practice in Tennessee that same year, and was admitted in Ohio in 1969, after serving three years in the United States Marine Corps. He began his practice of law in Akron with the firm of Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs, and in 1979 he co-founded with Tim Scanlon the firm of Scanlon & Gearing, where he remains a shareholder. Buck represents plaintiffs in personal injury, products liability and medical malpractice litigation.

Buck is a member of the Akron, Ohio and American Bar Associations, and served as the President of the Akron Bar Association for the 1988-1989 membership year. He is also a member of Scanlon Inn of Court, Ohio Academy of Trial Lawyers, the American College of Trial Lawyers and the Association of Trial Lawyers of America. Buck is a Fellow of the International Society of Barristers, the American Bar Foundation and the Akron Bar Association Foundation.

Buck lives in West Akron and is married to Paula. Buck has two children and recently became a grandfather.

While Buck's *Examiner* columns during his term as Bar President may be remembered best for being the most entertaining and well written columns in recent memory, he often addressed the issue of professionalism and, in several columns, made a "Plea for Civility," recounting experiences with other lawyers, both positive and negative. He wrote, "Civility is defined as implying a refrain from rudeness; a politeness suggesting a more positive observance of etiquette; a courteous suggesting a still more positive and sincere consideration of others that springs from an inherent thoughtfulness...Perhaps merely reviewing matters such as this will give us all pause in our daily activities, to consider whether or not there is an



Bradford M. Gearing

alternative means of accomplishing a justifiable end, which may be as effective but perhaps a bit more civil."

In another column Buck wrote about a case where he represented a person who had been injured in a car accident.

After the initial settlement demand had been made his client informed him of an additional injury which the client thought would respond to treatment, but had not. Buck sent the client back to the doctor, obtained a supplemental report and sent it to the insurance carrier, expecting an increased settlement.

Before the case went to trial, however, and instead of springing it on Buck in trial before a jury, counsel for

the insurance carrier voluntarily disclosed to Buck that the additional injury was actually pre-existing, that it had been the subject of a personal injury action some years before and, in that case, the insurance carrier had actually been represented by Buck! He wrote, "Can you imagine what would have happened to me before a jury if [opposing counsel] had kept that information to himself and had presented it, for the first time, in the courtroom? The jury not only would have thrown my client out of the courtroom but would have recommended my permanent disbarment, if not jailing, for being party to a fraud. At the least, as a result of the embarrassment, I would have left town before the next sunrise."

The identity of the opposing counsel who acted professionally and spared Buck the calamity? Last year's Professionalism Award Recipient, Sam Nukes.

Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend this year's Professionalism Award dinner honoring Buck Gearing, which will be held Tuesday, October 8th, 1998 at the Rosemont Country Club. Invitations will be mailed to all Akron Bar Association members or you may fill out the reservation form provided in this month's *Examiner* if you do not receive an invitation. A program is planned which will focus on professionalism and, knowing Buck, the evening should also prove to be very entertaining.

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