



CAMDEN COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION

HON. RALPH W.E. DONGES MEMORIAL AWARD



Ralph Waldo Emerson Donges – May 5, 1875 – September 21, 1974 –age 99 – was born in Pennsylvania and resided in Camden, Collingswood and Oaklyn, New Jersey. In his late twenties he studied law with a lawyer, read for the bar and commenced practice in Camden. Following in his doctor father's footsteps, he became interested in community affairs and politics. Donges served as legal aide to Woodrow Wilson prior to his election as president. The year 1913 saw him as presiding officer of the Loyal Order of Moose, he

was a Freemason, and member of Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, in addition to various bar memberships.

As World War I approached, he became a member of the Camden City Draft Board and the Public Safety Committee. In 1918 he joined the Army and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. From 1920 he served the state's judicial system as a Circuit Judge until 1930 when he was named an Associate Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court. After the Constitutional Convention of 1948, which changed the New Jersey Court system, he became a member of the Camden County Superior Court. In business, he was a founding member of the South Camden Trust Company and served as its first president in 1921.

In recognition of Ralph W.E. Donges' service, subsequent to his death, Camden County Bar Association established the Ralph W.E. Donges Memorial Scholarship Award to be given annually to an evening student attending Philadelphia Metropolitan area and New Jersey area law schools. In response to changing demographics, in 2008 the committee redefined the criteria from "evening student" to "part-time student".

SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA

A scholarship of \$1,000 to be given to a part-time evening student at any of the following law schools: Rutgers-Camden, Rutgers-Newark, Penn, Seton Hall, Temple, Villanova, or Widener. Applicants must show a bona fide intention to practice law in Camden County. Applicants should also demonstrate genuine financial need as well as scholastic achievement.