

LAPRADE

A Tradition of Arizona Attorneys

By Alison Stanton

When Zachary LaPrade engages in case law research as an attorney for his longstanding Phoenix-based firm, Warner Angle Hallam Jackson & Formanek, he often sees his surname appear in the cases.

The LaPrade family goes back several generations in Arizona. Fernando T. LaPrade migrated to Winslow, Arizona in 1886. Eight LaPrades have chosen a career in law starting with Arthur T. LaPrade, Sr., in 1920 through Jenna LaPrade, who is currently attending Harvard Law School. Zachary said he enjoys being part of a family with such a strong history in the Arizona legal community.

"It's kind of an ice-breaker for me," Zachary said. "When I meet other lawyers, I'll talk about how long my family has lived in Arizona, and how many of us are attorneys. People find it to be pretty interesting because there are not a lot of families like that. It certainly does not make me a more qualified attorney, but as I said, it's a good ice breaker".

"Another result of the tradition is that I take pride that the founding members of Warner Angle Hallam Jackson & Formanek shared the courtroom with my relatives, and that the LaPrade name will continue to appear on pleadings in the Arizona judicial system. I truly love Arizona, its geography, history and people; it fits me like an old t-shirt. And I know that all my relatives that have practiced law in Arizona shared and share the same appreciation."

Zachary recalls one of many stories told by his father Larry LaPrade, who once went to a toy store as a boy and didn't have enough money to purchase what he wanted. The shopkeeper asked Larry if he was related to LaPrade, Sr., and when Larry replied in the affirmative, the shopkeeper told him that he did not have to pay for the toys. The shopkeeper said he owed the LaPrades a favor because at one point in his life, that shopkeeper was homeless and sleeping on a park bench. A police officer came along one day and roughed up the man and arrested him. The shopkeeper and the officer both appeared before "The Judge," as LaPrade, Sr. was known, who took them into his chambers, scolded the police officer for his cruelty, then gave some money to the homeless man to get back on his feet.

"That story has always stuck with me. It represents a system not just based on written rules, but the principles of right and wrong. That is what I have learned from the LaPrades that have practiced in the tradition of the law," Zachary said.

KELLY LAPRADE

Zachary's wife, Kelly, graduated from San Diego State in 2002 and Whittier Law School in 2006. From 2006-2007 she worked as a clerk for Honorable Lawrence Winthrop in the Arizona Court of Appeals. Judge Winthrop married Zachary and Kelly in 2006. Kelly is presently a Maricopa County Assistant Attorney General.



MARTIN D. LAPRADE

Paul's son graduated from Arizona State University in 1974 and Southwestern University Law School in 1978. Martin is a well respected family law attorney in the Valley.

ARTHUR T. LAPRADE, JR.

Son of "The Judge," attended New Mexico Military Institute and graduated in 1948 from Stanford Law School. After practicing law for a short time, he became a real estate developer and co-founded Westcor, a large Arizona real estate developer.



JENNA LAPRADE

Daughter of Martin, graduated from George Washington University with honors, taught "Teach America" 4th graders for three years, is in her first year at Harvard Law School and will likely carry on the tradition of Arizona attorneys when she graduates.



ZACHARY L. LAPRADE

Great-grandson of "The Judge," Zachary graduated from Arizona State University in 2003 and Loyola Law School in 2006. He has worked at the Phoenix law firm of Warner Angle Hallam Jackson and Formanek since 2006. In the photo, Zachary is seated next to Sandra Day O'Connor, former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United

States. Zachary said he met O'Connor when he received an award for pro bono work. "She told me that 'my family is remembered well,'" Zachary said, adding that she had been on the bench with Paul W. LaPrade.



JULIE JOHNSON

A granddaughter of "The Judge," graduated from Arizona State University College of Law in 1983 and was formerly employed with Phelps Dodge Corporation as Senior Counsel.

PAUL W. LAPRADE

Son of "The Judge," graduated in 1948 from University of Arizona and earned his law degree in 1953. Thereafter, he worked for the Maricopa County Attorney and commenced his own law firm, Whitney LaPrade, in 1957.

He served as a Judge of the Superior Court from 1968 to 1986. In the third photo, Paul, left, is on a bicycle along with Jerry Angle, a founding partner at

Zachary's law firm. In the second photo, "The Judge" is shaking hands with his son Paul in 1953, after Paul passed the bar.



ARTHUR T. LAPRADE, SR.

The patriarch of the LaPrade attorneys was raised in Winslow, Arizona. The LaPrade family is credited with building the Winslow Opera House where silent films were shown. Arthur graduated from University of California at Berkeley in 1917 and University of California Berkeley Law School in 1920. In 1923 he was Assistant Maricopa County Attorney and in 1925 he was appointed Maricopa County Attorney. Between 1933-1935 he was Arizona Attorney General and from 1939-1945 he was a Superior Court Judge. This position resulted in LaPrade, Sr. being referred to as "The Judge" for years to come. He served on the Supreme Court from 1945-1957 and was Chief Justice a couple of times. LaPrade, Sr. had four children. Two of them, Arthur T. LaPrade, Jr., and Paul W. LaPrade, went on to become attorneys. LaPrade, Sr.'s influence as a judge spanned for decades. In the photo, LaPrade, Sr. is with his father, Fernando T. LaPrade at his law school graduation.

