

## THE JACK ALTON FUND

Jack R. Alton was born in Columbus, Ohio in 1925. He was raised by his mother and grandmother after his father left when he was six months old. Jack was valedictorian of the South High School class of 1943. Jerome Schottenstein and Richard J. Solove were among his classmates.

Jack served in WWII – yet still graduated from Ohio State University Law School the day before his 24<sup>th</sup> birthday. He began his legal career in Columbus, Ohio at the law firm of Wiles & Doucher. At age 25 he was the Democratic nominee for Columbus City Attorney, but lost the race to Republican Russell Leach.

In 1953 he formed with Max Robins and Richard Metcalf the law firm of Robins, Metcalf & Alton. In 1957 he and Collis Gundy Lane formed the law firm of Lane, Huggard & Alton. Until then Jack Alton had primarily been a plaintiffs' lawyer. Based on his reputation as a trial lawyer, Jack Alton was inducted into the International Association of Defense Counsel in 1957 at the age of 31.

In the 1960s and 1970s Jack Alton's reputation as a trial lawyer continued to increase. He was inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers in 1968. Shortly thereafter the name of the law firm changed to Lane Alton & Horst. In 1969 Jack Alton served as President of the Columbus Bar Association.

I had the opportunity to work with him at Lane Alton & Horst from 1977 to 1994. The law firm ultimately grew to 35 lawyers. Jack Alton received numerous honors and awards throughout his career, the last of which was the Columbus Bar Association Professionalism Award in 2001.

In 2008 I was approached by the Columbus Bar Foundation to establish a fund in honor of Jack Alton while he was alive. Because he was economically disadvantaged as a child and was always sympathetic and empathetic with those in similar situations, I established the Jack Alton Fund for the educational benefit of economically disadvantaged children in the Central Ohio area. In addition, because he was the best trial lawyer I have ever seen, I instituted the Jack R. Alton Lifetime Achievement Award in Trial Advocacy which was given to Rick Marsh in 2009 and Brad Hummel in 2010.

Jack Alton died on February 14, 2011.

**John M. Alton**