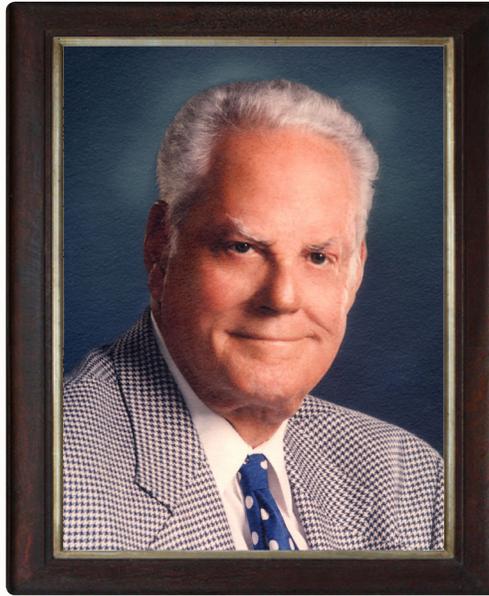


JOE TONAHILL



1913 - 2001

Joe Tonahill was a larger-than-life legal giant who, coming from humble beginnings, made it his life's work to be a "people's lawyer" - through earning international acclaim along the way.

Joe Tonahill was born in Hughes Spring, Cass County, Texas. Tonahill eventually moved to Beaumont and then to Port Arthur, where he graduated from high school. After graduating from high school, he worked three years in the oilfields. When he was 18, a fire erupted on a discovery well, and he sustained severe burns on his face and hands, that impacted his view of life. In 1935 Tonahill enrolled at the University of Texas to study law, but graduated in 1941 from the American University College of Law. During World War II, Tonahill served in the Navy. After the war, he moved to Jasper to start a law practice with Joe Fisher. He practiced law in Jasper more than half a century, but tried cases across the country, including his highly publicized presence on the Jack Ruby defense team.

Tonahill distinguished himself as a co-founder of the American Trial Lawyers Association and went on to co-found the Texas Trial Lawyers Association, which he served as President, as well as the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, International Academy of Trial Lawyers and International Society of Barristers. He also was a pioneer in worker protection, product liability and juror reform and in other areas.

"Joe was an unusual lawyer, one of a rare breed who could try almost any type of case. There were no limits on Joe's practice or imagination."

Richard Hile
(Joe Tonahill's son-in-law) Partner Dies & Hile

"He worked hard on his cases and seemed to take them very personally. He lived the law and breathed it."

Joe Tonahill Jr.