



Thomas Henry Freeland III

May 10, 2012

Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford

Thomas Henry Freeland, III, 82, died at home Thursday, May 10, 2012, in Oxford, MS.

Born in Brookhaven, MS, Mr. Freeland lived in Oxford for 58 years. He practiced law for more than a half century. He mentored generations of attorneys, first as a part-time law professor and later by hiring promising law students as clerks. His practice included precedent-setting cases in civil rights, commercial litigation, and libel law. In 1988, a case he argued before the U.S. Supreme Court forced Mississippi to reform century-old inequities in public school finance for the state's northern 23 counties. He was a founding member and past president of the North Mississippi Chapter of the American Inns of Court. Mr. Freeland served as a lieutenant in the United States Navy and was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Oxford, MS. He was a life-long quail hunter, avid fly-fisherman, master of the occasional well-placed cuss word and devoted teller of courthouse yarns and family stories, some of which were true.

Visitation will be held Monday, May 14, 2012, 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. at Coleman Funeral Home in Oxford, MS. Funeral services will be held Tuesday, May 15, 2012, 2:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Oxford. Interment will be in the

Oxford Memorial Cemetery. Coleman Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Survivors include his wife, Judith H. Freeland of Oxford, MS; two sons, Tom Freeland and Hale Freeland, both of Oxford, MS; one daughter, Lee Freeland Hancock of Tyler, TX; 6 grandchildren.

Memorials may be made in memory of Hal Freeland to the University of Mississippi Foundation, Innocence Project at the Ole Miss Law School, P.O. Box 249, University, MS 38677.

Online condolences may be left at www.colemanfuneralhome.com.