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THE MARITIME LAW ASSOCIATION  
OF THE UNITED STATES

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**MEMORIAL OF ESMOND PHELPS**

By JOHN W. SIMS

The sudden passing of Esmond Phelps, senior partner of the firm of Phelps, Dunbar, Marks & Claverie, on October 18, 1950, was a heavy loss to his friends and to the City of New Orleans as a whole. Born May 21, 1888, he was educated in New Orleans and was graduated with high honors from Tulane University, where he earned his academic degree in 1907 and his law degree in 1909. Shortly thereafter, he became an associate of the firm of Howe, Fenner, Spencer & Cocke, and later became a member, continuing as a partner of successor firms.

He attained a high position at the Bar, as a counsellor and as an advocate in all fields, receiving appointments as general counsel and as director of organizations influential in the area. He was not concerned solely with those phases of professional activity which afforded remuneration, however, but was interested in Bar Association and other activities conducive to the improvement of the profession. At one time he held office as President of the Louisiana State Bar Association.

He can be said to have earned and enjoyed more than an ordinary share of civic honors, perhaps the most outstanding being his long service as President of the Board of Administrators of Tulane University, the governing body of the institution. He received national recognition for his strenuous and continued efforts (made at considerable self sacrifice) in behalf of good government, during the period when the State of Louisiana was in the grip of a notorious political dictator.

As he made his way through life, he was known not only as a person of achievement and a leader among his associates, but also as a jovial companion and friend. The void left by his passing will not soon be filled.

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\* This memorial is printed separately as it was not received in time to be included with those set forth in Document No. 360.