

Anoka

Seaman walked off clam boat into practice of law (and he's successful)

by Joe Perrin
Staff writer

Fred Soucie walked off a clam boat in Ocean City, Md., and into a law office.

Soucie traded a life as a deck crew member aboard ship for the legal profession to raise his two teenage brothers.

He enjoys practicing law, but he has never forgotten his work on that clam boat on the Atlantic Ocean.

"Bending my back and working on the deck of that clam boat was probably as important if not more important than all of my school work combined," he said this week.

"It taught me what it means to go out and earn a living with back-breaking work."

Soucie grew up in Elgin, Ill., and attended St. Thomas College in St. Paul, where he graduated magna cum laude in 1973. He went on to the University of Minnesota Law

School, where he was editor of the law school newspaper and graduated cum laude in 1976.

Following law school, he signed up for duty on the clam boat, where he was to spend the next year. He liked the sea and his companions and the pay was excellent, but he was needed elsewhere.

He started practicing law in Anoka in 1978 and has developed into a civil trial specialist practicing solely in the area of personal injury and wrongful death law.

He was elected to the board of governors of the Minnesota Trial Lawyers Association, served on the executive committee of the Trial Lawyers Association and was also a chairman of the Litigation Support Committee for the Trial Lawyers.

Soucie frequently lectures to other attorneys on various topics associated with the practice of personal injury and wrongful death law and has written various articles that have been published in association with his lectures and in legal journal.

He was invited to become a master

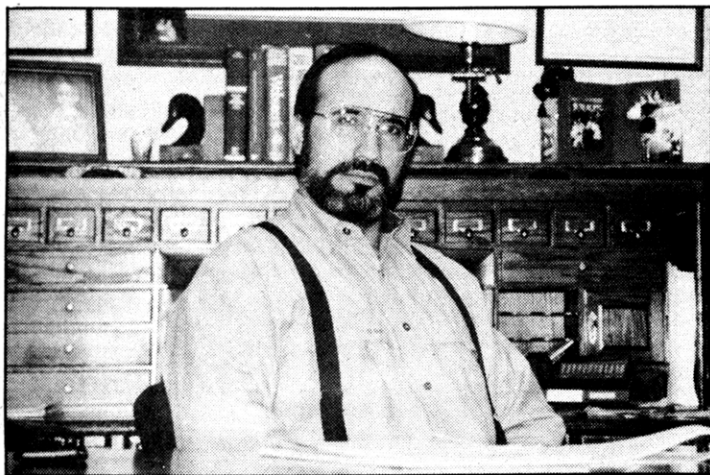
member of the Judge Ahmdahl Inns of Court, an organization devoted to developing excellence and civility in trial practice.

Soucie was recently recognized as a certified member of the National Board of Trial Advocacy. Meeting those requirements officially recognizes him as a lawyer who practices in the area of civil trial law and is identified as a board-certified civil trial specialist, the trial advocacy board said.

The advocacy is a not-for-profit organization which seeks to improve the quality of trial advocacy and to aid clients in choosing experienced legal representation. It was founded in 1977 by noted trial attorney Theodore I. Koskoff.

The trial advocacy board certifies attorneys in the speciality area of civil and criminal trial law. Certification by the advocacy is voluntary. It is similar in philosophy to the medical profession. Most medical doctors are board certified in a specialty area.

For Soucie, it has been a long but educational and varied journey from Illinois to the Sea Quest clam boat to a law office in Anoka.



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