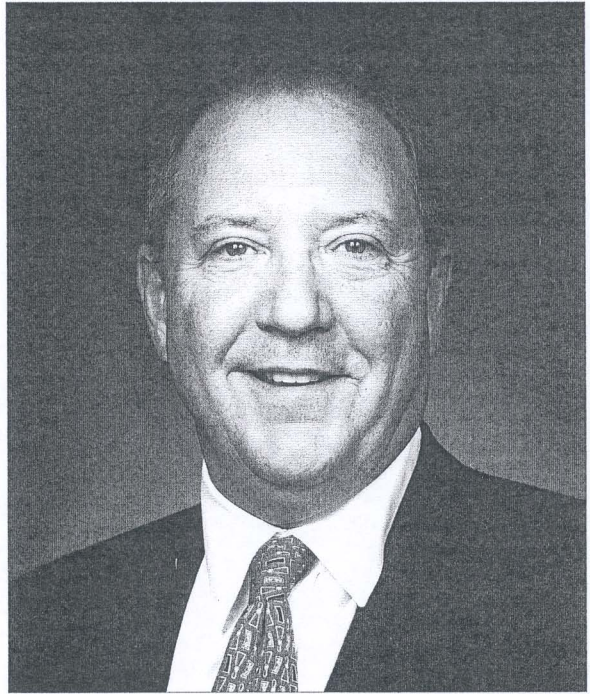


William F. Grace Jr.

Position: general partner, Chaffe McCall

Family: wife, Anne; sons, William III, Robert; daughter, Anne

Education: bachelor of arts, Tulane University; juris doctorate, Tulane University Law School; masters degree in taxation, New York University



The first case of William Grace's career caught him a little by surprise as he was thrown to the legal wolves, so to speak.

"I did all the grunt work and worked a case up for trial, but I never anticipated I would actually appear in this multi-million dollar case as a lawyer in the courtroom."

In his first year of practice, Grace and Harry McCall Jr. defended Ford Motor Co. and Ford Motor Credit Co. in an antitrust/breach of contract lawsuit.

"During our walk to court on the morning of trial, McCall turned to me and asked if I had my opening statement ready. Fortunately, I had played out every conceivable scenario so I was prepared to defend either parties' interests."

Grace said the case ended with both clients being granted a directed verdict at the close of plaintiff's evidence.

Grace began practicing law in 1976 as an associate with Chaffe McCall. His encouragement to pursue the legal profession came from two old family friends, he said.

"Harry McCall Jr. and Earnest Carrere, two very prominent and outstanding trial lawyers, inspired me to the legal profession," Grace said. "I admired both these gentlemen who were also active civic leaders. And after listening to many of their stories over many

years, I gravitated to the legal profession."

Grace said his concentration at Chaffe McCall is state and local taxation and litigation.

"I love litigation," Grace said. "And with a strong substantive background in tax, the combination works well for me, almost as a niche market."

Early in his career, Grace had the opportunity to argue before the U.S. Supreme Court, but he chose to flip a coin with a younger partner instead. Grace explained that his firm was representing D.H. Holmes, which was fighting a use tax imposed by the Louisiana Department of Revenue. He said the young partner he flipped with had handled part of the case as a young associate.

"I probably could have gone ahead and argued the case because of seniority, but I thought flipping a coin was more equitable," Grace said. "I lost the flip, which may not have been too terrible if we had won the case, but we didn't."

Grace serves on the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board, the boards of WYES-TV and the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce. Grace is also a member of the Audubon Park Commission, and chairman of the Mayor's Mardi Gras Advisory Committee.

— Robin Shannon