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Keegan Federal was born in Charlotte, North Carolina, on August 10, 1943. His family moved to Columbus, Georgia, in 1948, where he finished Columbus High School in 1961. He studied for the priesthood at St. John's Seminary, and he later attended Loyola University in New Orleans majoring in Philosophy. He entered Emory University School of Law (thanks to the whimsical sense of humor of the late, great dean of Emory Law School, Ben F. Johnson) in 1963, and received his undergraduate degree in 1965, and his law degree, with honors, in 1966. He won three American Jurisprudence Awards for academic achievements. Keegan financed his education with academic scholarships, government loans, and part-time employment selling encyclopedias door-to-door, managing an inn in the French Quarter, playing bit parts as a movie extra, and working as a nightclub floor manager, college admissions officer, and law librarian.

Keegan was sworn in and admitted to practice on June 14, 1966, at the age of 22. Upon graduating from law school, Keegan's classmate, Owen Forrester (later Judge, USDC, Atlanta) offered Keegan a position in Bo Callaway's gubernatorial campaign against Lester Maddox. Although sorely tempted, Keegan was anxious to begin practicing law, and he accepted an offer from Shoob, McLain & Jessee (later McLain & Merritt) as a litigation associate, and worked with his mentors, Marvin Shoob (later Judge, USDC, Atlanta), Willis Hunt (later Chief Justice, Georgia Supreme Court, and Judge, USDC, Atlanta), and the inimitable Jim Jessee from 1966 to 1968. It was there, in 1967, at the age of 23, that Keegan argued (and lost) his first appeal against the renowned defense attorney Palmer Ansley, before the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, the Honorable (and venerable) Elbert Tuttle presiding. Also during these same two years, Keegan pursued an M.B.A. degree at Georgia State University, Evening Division, from 1966 to 1968, majoring in Insurance.

Keegan was called to active duty and commissioned a lieutenant in the U.S. Army in July, 1968. He was initially assigned to Ft. Gordon, near Augusta, Georgia, where he prosecuted and defended court-martial cases. While on active duty at Ft. Gordon, Keegan worked part-time in Augusta for Tom Allgood and Allen Childs, again as an associate attorney in litigation. From 1969 to 1970, Keegan was assigned as a Signal Corps officer in Vietnam, where he was awarded commendation and service medals, including the Bronze Star. Keegan has remained active in veterans' affairs: In 1980, he was appointed by the Reagan administration to chair Georgia's Vietnam Veterans' Leadership Program which conducted seminars for entrepreneurial veterans on starting a business, obtaining financing, and managing employees, inventories, etc. Keegan is also a member of the Atlanta Vietnam Veteran's Business Association, which honors fallen Vietnam veterans from the Atlanta area each Memorial Day with the placement of a bronze plaque at a ceremony in their memory.

In 1970, Keegan declined an offer to become the Associate U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia in charge of the Savannah office, and he returned to Atlanta to accept an associate attorney position in Atlanta with Nall Miller & Cadenhead (now Nall & Miller, LLP) where he tried a number of injury and death cases representing individuals, insurance companies, and over-the-road trucking companies. He also co-chaired his first railroad-crossing case with his co-associate and great friend Sandy Owens (later managing partner of Nall Miller) against the famous railroad lawyer, the late Burt DeRieux, settling the case during jury deliberations. In 1971, Paul Cadenhead was president of the Atlanta Bar Association, and he appointed Keegan as the Atlanta Bar's representative to the Law in American Society's four-week symposium in Chicago on teaching secondary school teachers

how to use the Socratic method of education in their social studies classes. As a result of that experience, Keegan was later appointed by Georgia State Bar YLS president, Bill Ide (later President of the American Bar Association) to chair a state-wide effort to establish the program in Georgia, and, in conjunction with the Atlanta School System, Keegan organized and chaired a similar four-week symposium in Atlanta each summer for the next three years. (Atlanta divorce lawyer Sandy Bair was then an Atlanta school teacher who attended the symposium, as a result of which she was motivated to become a lawyer.)

In 1972, Keegan Federal and his long-time friend and classmate Fred Orr started Orr & Federal in Decatur, Georgia. Together, they represented individuals and small-to-medium sized companies in enjoining the incumbent DeKalb County administration from issuing lucrative government contracts to political friends. It was also during this time that Keegan became close friends with Manuel Maloof, giving Manuel his first-ever campaign contribution, and encouraging him to run for office (which he did, subsequently becoming the much-revered Chairman of the DeKalb County Government).

Also in 1972, Gov. Brendan Byrne of New Jersey appointed Keegan as one of thirteen members of the National Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals, Private Security Task Force, which had been established by Congress to recommend improvements in the criminal justice system. The Task Force held hearings around the country over a two-year period, and produced a study of the industry and made recommendations to Congress for improvements in the private security industry's growing role in the criminal justice system. Keegan chaired the Committee on Government Regulation which drafted the standards and goals for the industry. Later, as a result of that work, Keegan co-authored a textbook (Legal Aspects of Private Security, by Bilek, Federal, & Klotter; Anderson Publishing Co., 1978) which was adopted by junior colleges and technical schools throughout the country for teaching students entering the private security field, and he gave presentations and consultations to various industry trade associations and security executives on legal developments and best practices for their companies. In 1980, Keegan founded The Federal Press and began publishing his monthly newsletter, *The Private Security Case Law Reporter*, which became the most widely-read periodical on legal issues in the industry. He sold his interest in the newsletter in 1995 to his business partner and former campaign chairman, Richard Ossoff.

As a result of his work with the Atlanta Public School System, Keegan was selected by A.B. Padgett, one of the founders of Leadership Atlanta, as a member of the 1973-1974 Class, where he met a number of influential Atlantans, many of whom were later instrumental in Keegan's own election campaign, including especially Atlanta businessman Don Chapman who later chaired Keegan's finance committee. He then conducted programs at the Fall Retreat for ten consecutive Leadership Atlanta classes, and initiated and chaired the Judicial Program for several years, and served on the Board of Trustees until 1990. He continues to be an active alumnus and contributor to the organization.

With the help and encouragement of many friends, especially including his Campaign Chair Richard Hubert, Keegan ran for office in 1976, winning his first election on his 33rd birthday, defeating two opponents in the Democratic Primary, and later defeating the incumbent for a seat on the DeKalb Superior Court, and becoming the youngest Superior Court Judge in the State. Before this election, there were no African-American employees in the entire DeKalb County courthouse building, except for janitorial staff. Judge-elect Federal's first official act was to hire Susan Pease Langford as his Law Clerk; she was the first African-American professional ever employed in the DeKalb County courthouse. (Susan was married to the late Sen. Arthur Langford, and she later served as the City Attorney of Atlanta.)

As a Superior Court judge, one-third of Judge Federal's caseload consisted of Civil Jury and Non-Jury trials (business cases, injury and death cases, injunctions, malpractice, etc.), and one-third Felony Criminal cases (murder, rape, armed robbery, assault, drugs, etc.), and one-third Divorce and Custody cases. In addition, he was considered a "reformer" for dramatically improving the Court's case-calendaring system, eliminating wasteful calendar calls, curtailing the practice of judge-shopping, permitting expanded media and public access to court proceedings, and testifying against fellow judges for ethical violations.

Judge Federal also taught litigation skills as an Adjunct Professor at Emory Law school from 1978 to 1985. Among his many highly-successful students was Leah Sears (later the 2nd youngest Superior Court Judge in Georgia, and the first female African-American Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court). Judge Federal was selected for membership in "The Outstanding Young People of Atlanta" in 1978.

In 1980, Judge Federal was the only incumbent Superior Court Judge who was re-elected to office on the DeKalb Superior Court, and in addition to maintaining his usual caseload, Judge Federal was selected as a Faculty Advisor at the National College for the Judiciary where he served as an advisor to new judges from around the country. He was appointed as the Georgia judicial representative to the National Council of Superior Court judges of the American Bar Association, and he served as one of three members of the Superior Courts Sentence Review Board to assure uniformity in felony criminal sentences on appeal from courts throughout the state. He was selected by Hon. Griffin Bell (former Attorney General of the United States in the Carter administration) as a member of the Atlanta Crime Commission.

In 1982, in the middle of his second four-year term, Judge Federal ran for a contested seat on the Georgia Supreme Court. The Federal Courts had ruled, at the trial level and in the 11th Circuit, that the incumbent Justice had been illegally appointed by the Governor after his predecessor had resigned after being re-elected but before taking office; the Courts had held that the vacant post should have been filled by an election by the people. Although Judge Federal won a majority of the votes in the metropolitan Atlanta counties, he was unsuccessful in his bid to unseat the incumbent in the state-wide election. Nevertheless, by pointing out during the campaign that there were no African-Americans working anywhere in the Supreme Court building, as clerks or secretaries or otherwise, and that there were no African-Americans on any of the Boards appointed by the Supreme Court (e.g., the Board of Bar Examiners), Judge Federal had an impact on the Court and on racial equality in Georgia in that appropriate actions were taken by the Justices of the Supreme Court immediately following the election, and African-Americans were hired and appointed for the first time. In his last year on the bench, Judge Federal's last law clerk was another young female African-American lawyer, Denise Majette, later a distinguished DeKalb County judge herself, and later a member of Congress from Georgia's Fourth Congressional District.

During his eight years on the bench, Judge Federal gained a reputation as an innovative, fearless, and progressive jurist who ruled on causes before him according to the law, without favor toward or sympathy for any party, and without regard to any "political" consequences. In a highly-controversial decision near the end of his term, Judge Federal refused to impose a death penalty verdict which had been announced by a Jury, because he found that the Jury's verdict was the result of passion and prejudice and not based on the evidence presented. His decision stood.

In 1984, approaching the end of his second term, Keegan was solicited by Marion H. "Chip" Allen to join the new Atlanta office of Dow Lohnes & Albertson. After much deliberation, Keegan decided not to run for re-election, and, after his successor, Judge Carol Hunstein (later appointed to the Georgia Supreme Court), won the election, he resigned and chaired the litigation practice at Dow

Lohnes for the next three years, representing the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* newspaper, and *WSB* TV and radio. Keegan handled many high-profile cases for the media, including gaining television camera access to courts, obtaining investigative reports the State Attorney General and other governmental bodies attempted to secret, and along with co-counsel, defeating the claims of arbitragers from New York who sued Cox Enterprises when it made a tender offer for the publicly-held stock of the company.

Although representing the media was exciting and rewarding, Keegan missed the autonomy of his own practice, and in 1987, he resigned his partnership at DL&A and re-opened his own firm, Federal & Hasson. The Firm has been and is a “litigation boutique” practice, representing individuals and companies in prosecuting and defending legal claims and disputes of various types in many different areas of the law (see **Representative Cases**).

In 1989, Keegan’s daughter, Megan, was seriously injured in an auto accident and suffered a severe traumatic brain injury. She was comatose for two months, hospitalized for four months, and in daily rehabilitation for another six months. As a result of this experience, Keegan’s practice naturally evolved toward representing other people who had suffered brain and spinal cord injuries, and now approximately one-half of Keegan’s practice is devoted to these Clients. Keegan has also served on the Board of Directors of the Brain Injury Association of Georgia for many years, and he founded the Brain Injury Family Assistance Center. He works closely with Dr. Don Leslie, the Medical Director of The Shepherd Center, and the incredibly talented and dedicated staff at Shepherd’s. Keegan has also served on the Advisory Board for the State of Georgia’s Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission, chaired by Susan Johnson, who also is the Director of Shepherd’s TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) Program, and he is also engaged in various fundraising events and efforts on behalf of organizations which provide support and assistance for brain- and spinal-injured individuals. He has organized and chaired fundraisers for the Brain Injury Association, Side-By-Side Clubhouse, and Holy Angels Home for the Severely Disabled, and participated in many fundraising events for The Shepherd Center, The Family Assistance Center, and others.

Throughout his life, Keegan has been an active leader in other community and professional organizations as well. He has been recognized for his leadership skills by being asked by his peers to serve in various leadership positions including: The Board of Directors of the Atlanta Bar Association, American Red Cross, U.S.O. Council of Georgia, Atlanta Mental Health Association, Outstanding Atlanta, and The National Center for Paralegal Training. He is also a member of the Atlanta Lawyers Club, Old Warhorse Lawyers Club, American Bar Association, Georgia Trial Lawyers association, State Bar of Georgia, American Trial Lawyers Association, and the Kiwanis Club of Atlanta, and he has served as Chairman of the Advisory Board for the Atlanta Justice Center for Dispute Resolution. In addition to being a member of the State Bar of Georgia, Keegan is also a member of the Bar of the District of Columbia, and he is admitted to practice in all state and federal Courts in Georgia, the District of Columbia, and in the United States Supreme Court.

Though his achievements have been many, Keegan is most proud of his three grown children. His son Kelly is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, a much-decorated naval aviator with the Distinguished Flying Cross for valor in combat, and currently a Lt. Commander assigned to the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California. Keegan’s daughter Megan has achieved hard-won independence, overcoming great obstacles in recovery from her accident. She is a graduate of Georgia State University, and is now a Deputy Clerk for the Hon. Kenneth Cheek, Clerk of State Court of DeKalb County. Keegan’s youngest daughter, Cameron Cook, graduated from the University of Georgia, is married to Russell Dallas Cook, and together they have formed a successful Americana band, The Little Country Giants, and now have their own beautiful daughter, Frankie Lee, who is, when all is said and done, “what it’s all about”!