

Samuel Bellman dies at 92; the longtime attorney had served in the Legislature

Experiences early in career sparked passion for equality

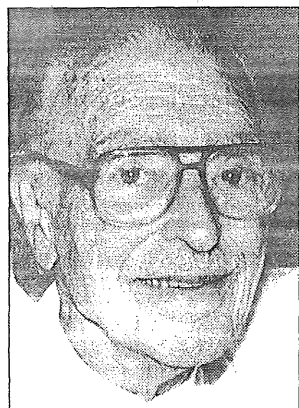
By Lucy Y. Her
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Former state legislator and longtime attorney Samuel Bellman died last Tuesday at Park Shore Assisted Living in St. Louis Park. He was 92.

His son, Richard Bellman of New York City, said his father never retired.

Bellman was born in New York City, graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School in the early 1930s and started work as an attorney in Minneapolis. In 1935, the



Samuel Bellman loved his work and never really retired, his son said.

Farmer-Laborite was elected to the Legislature at age 29. He told the Law & Politics publication in October 1998 that at that time, he was the youngest to have served. He represented a district that included Minneapolis.

Once in office, he discovered a growing anti-Semitic sentiment. "Two years after being elected, he found himself uninvited to retreats at other legislators' lake cabins. His own former campaign manager told him he couldn't vote for him. Bellman decided not to seek reelection," according to Law & Politics.

"Some people said Jewish people shouldn't be in politics," he said in October. "It was a difficult time."

Upon his return to the law, he established himself as an attorney willing to help anyone.

"He was pretty much a person who believed in equal rights for everyone and equal access to the courts," said Richard Bellman, a lawyer in New York. "I think I picked up many of his kinds of concerns that have shaped the kind of law that I practice."

The senior Bellman worked in various Minneapolis law firms for more than 60 years. His most recent practice was with Hunegs Stone Koenig & Leneave in Minneapolis.

Among his clients was Sigmund (Siggie) Star, charged with first-degree murder in the 1950s. Bellman represented Star although his client had no money. This case came a few years before the Supreme Court ruled that indigent defendants would be provided with counsel.

In addition to his son, Bellman is survived by daughter Barbara Raskin of Washington, D.C.; sister Florence Friedman of St. Louis Park; four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Services were held Thursday.