



*Every month I summarize the most important probate cases in Michigan. Now I publish my summaries as a service to colleagues and friends. I hope you find these summaries useful and I am always interested in hearing thoughts and opinions on these cases.*

## PROBATE LAW CASE SUMMARY

**BY:** Alan A. May Alan May is a shareholder who is sought after for his experience in guardianships, conservatorships, trusts, wills, forensic probate issues and probate. He has written, published and lectured extensively on these topics.



He was selected for inclusion in the 2007-2017, 2019 issues of *Michigan Super Lawyers* magazine featuring the top 5% of attorneys in Michigan and has been called by courts as an expert witness on issues of fees and by both plaintiffs and defendants as an expert witness in the area of probate and trust law. Mr. May maintains an “AV” peer review rating with Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory, the highest peer review rating for attorneys and he is listed in the area of Probate Law among Martindale-Hubbell’s Preeminent Lawyers. He has also been selected by his peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2020 in the fields of Trusts and Estates as well as Litigation – Trusts & Estates (Copyright 2018 by Woodward/White, Inc., of SC). He has been included in the Best Lawyers listing since 2011. Additionally, Mr. May was selected by a vote of his peers to be included in *DBusiness* magazine’s list of 2017 Top Lawyers in the practice area of Trusts and Estates. Kemp Klein is a member of LEGUS a global network of prominent law firms.

He is a member of the Society of American Baseball Research (SABR).

For those interested in viewing previous Probate Law Case Summaries, go online to: <http://kkue.com/resources/probate-law-case-summaries/>.

He is the published author of “Article XII: A Political Thriller” and “Sons of Adam,” an International Terror Mystery.

**DT:** April 7, 2020

**RE:** Al Kaline

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**“Alan, you cannot write about baseball all your life”**

- Mrs. Pollinger
- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade English Comp
- Mumford High - 1959

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## **BASEBALL MEMORIES**

Tribute to Number 6

Al Kaline meant a lot to Detroit and to each Detroiter.

I was one of them.

When Midnight the cat was run over, I named my next cat, Kaline. My sister not a baseball fan thought I had mixed up the term's canine and feline. I assured her she was in error.

When you watched him do what he could do, he became your Knight. And he could do so much.

Rather than relate what I certainly read about him; I feel more inclined to share what I personally saw.

Some background.

Detroit was a city where you often heard someone say, "I know a guy who knows a guy". That's how a lot of things got done.

For instance, when I went to a Lion's game with Jimmy Wechsler, we would park across Trumbull right next to the Stadium in the Brooks Lumber yard. Jimmy would pull in and say, "Louie told me to tell you that Ziggy said you would watch my car." Louie was Jimmy's father who represented Ziggy a CPA who did the books, (such as they were), for Brooks Lumber. You schmeered the guard and you were in.

Same with baseball tickets; good baseball tickets. My father knew a guy who knew the guy at the Advanced Ticket window. What no one knew was that if a season ticket holder wasn't using their tickets that day, they could be resold by "the guy". You had to pay "the guy" for the tickets, but you also had to schmeer him. My father found out that he loved Cuban cigars. My dad always had boxes of Belinda's in the downstairs ice box (know what an ice box is?).

So, on Sunday April 17, 1955, I grabbed a handful and I was off to see a guy who knew a guy.

I walked over to my buddy, Dale Rands' house. Dale lived on Parkside near Seven Mile Road. We crossed Seven Mile and next to Jerry Fenton's house was a bus stop. We boarded the Seven-Mile bus and took a transfer. We got off at Woodward and took a Woodward street car (know what that is?) to Michigan Avenue. We got off and surrendered the transfer at Trumbull. Thirteen-year olds could go all over by themselves in those days.

Boom. We're at the stadium. Not Tiger Stadium, but Briggs Stadium. (twenty years before Frank Navin had died and Walter Briggs, his partner, bought out the estate's interest in the team for one million dollars). He changed the name from Navin Field to Briggs Stadium. Navin had suffered a heart attack right after the Tigers won their first World Series. (He was horseback riding at the Detroit Hunt Club on Seven Mile between Wyoming and Meyers - believe that?).

Ok we're at the stadium and cautiously approach the Advance Ticket window. I put on my best low voice and intone, "Al May says you like Cubans and you have two good ones for today's game." He slips me two tickets, tier 4 section 45 right behind the Tiger dug out. We pay and I pass him the Cubans.

Easy peezy we're in.

Rule number one from my dad, "always tip the usher." I give him 50 cents. Dale says, "I'll buy the first hotdog"

The Tigers are facing the last place Kansas City A's; late of Philadelphia.

Joe Gentile is the PA. "Good afternoon and welcome to Briggs Stadium. Today's starting pitchers will be Johnny Gray for the A's and Steve Gromek for the Tigers. In 53' Gromek came over to the Tigers with Ray Boone, Al Aber and Bill Wight in exchange for Art Houtteman, Owen Friend, Joe Ginsberg and Bill Wight. Gromek's first start in 54' was bad. He allowed 9 runs and the Bengals lost to the red sox 23-3. He would finish 55' with a 13 and 10 record.

But now to ole number 6.

He batted third that day.

Bottom of the first- he draws a 2 out walk and moves to second on Ferris Fain's walk. That's it.

Big Al's next up in the third. Hatfield singles and there are two outs. You can tell by the crack of the bat it's going deep. A four bagger over the left center fence. Tig's lead 2-0.

Rands and I jump up and down.

Kaline's up in the fourth. Runners on. He singles to right driving in Gromek. He's 2 for 2 plus a walk and three RBI.

But he ain't done.

It's the bottom of the sixth and we are about to witness the greatest inning of baseball ever. Kaline leads off. Boom another homer to deep left center. The fans go wild; us among them. The Tigers bat around. Harvey Kuenn is on base. Kaline swings and boom same place, left center. Rands and I jump, hug, yell. There were no high fives then.

Then comes the bottom of the 8<sup>th</sup>. Bob Trice is pitching. Kaline's up. All 16,000 fans standing, hoping, praying for a fourth. He hits a fly to shallow left which the short stop grabs.

Al finishes with 4 for 5, 3 homers and 6 RBI.

Kaline, at 20 years of age, will become the youngest player to win a batting title. He batted .340 and given his youth, we get to watch his whole career. But never will he or I have a better day of baseball.

So long #6.