

# W.L. Hadley Griffin\*

W.L. Hadley Griffin was an exemplary scholar-athlete. A member of the National Honor Society and student council, he served as the editor of the University City High School newspaper. He ran track for three years and helped the team secure a state championship, in part, to his first-place finish in the 880-yard run. After graduating from Williams College in 1940, Griffin served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and later earned a law degree from Washington University.

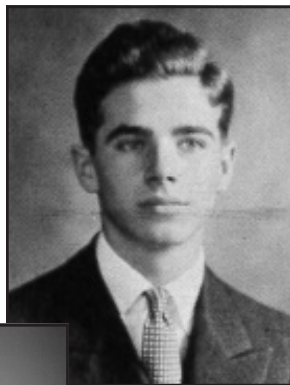
At Wohl Shoe Company, which later merged into Brown Shoe Company, he served as president and CEO.

He boosted growth and expanded sales to rank Brown Shoe among the top U.S. shoemakers. He also chaired the St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank and the Smithsonian National Board.

Griffin's notable philanthropy included chairing the 1972 St. Louis United Way of Greater St. Louis campaign and leading boards at Civic Progress and Washington University. His commitment to the arts helped elevate the St. Louis Symphony to world-class status.

Griffin supported initiatives benefiting minority and disadvantaged individuals. As Brown Shoe President in 1969, he opened a plant in the Jeff-Vander-Lou neighborhood. In 1974, he supported a fundraiser for Meharry Medical College, which trained more than half of the African American doctors and dentists in the United States with 65 of them practicing in St. Louis

Griffin was named Man of the Year by the St. Louis Globe-Democrat in 1973 and honored with the Urban League Award of Merit in 1980. The student commons in Washington University School of Law's Anheuser-Busch Hall was named in his honor.



**W.L. Hadley  
Griffin**

*Class of 1936*

\*Posthumous