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**Thomas N. Biddison (1885-1950)**   
*MSA SC 3520-*

*City Solicitor 1947-1958*

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*Born July 4, 1908*, *Baltimore County. City College, Johns Hopkins University, and the University of Maryland School of Law in 1931. All American in Lacrosse, All Maryland in Football at Hopkins. Admitted to the bar in 1934. Member, Protestant Episcopal Church of the Redeemer. President, Rosedale Federal Savings and Loan Association. President, City College Alumni Association. Freemason, member of the Elks.*

Born on the fourth of July 1908 in Baltimore County, Thomas N. Biddison would go on to serve the City in numerous positions over three decades. He graduated from City College at 15 and Hopkins at 19 before attending the University of Maryland School of Law. Prior to his legal studies, he represented the United States in the 1928 Olympics in Amsterdam as a member of the U.S. lacrosse team. He made an unsuccessful attempt to run for city council at 22, his first notable position being title examiner for the Home Owners Loan Corporation in 1934. He later served as assistant state’s attorney twice, with a stint as chairman of the Board of Directors of the State Department of Correction. Mayor Thomas D’Alesandro named him city solicitor in 1947, after the first two choices proved unfavorable due to their connections with Democratic boss Jack Pollack. He would serve as city solicitor for 11 years until his death from heart disease in 1958. Among his achievements as solicitor was the integration of Baltimore city schools following the Supreme Court’s decisions in Brown v. Board of Education, work relating to the Jones Falls Expressway, and the acquisition of the Baltimore Orioles and building of Memorial Stadium.

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**Sources:**

Albert W. Quinn, “T.N. Biddison Named After Eliminations,” *Baltimore Sun*, 20 December 1947.

“Mr. D’Alesandro Chooses his City Solicitor,” *Baltimore Sun*, 20 December 1947.

“T.N. Biddison, City’s Legal Chief, Dies,” *Baltimore* *Sun*, 8 August 1958.

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**Images:**



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[R. Garland Chissell, et al v. Mayor and City Council of Baltimore Papers Collection, MSA SC 5905](http://speccol.mdarchives.state.md.us/msa/speccol/catalog/cfm/dsp_number.cfm?speccol=5905).

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