

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

2016 BAR MEMORIALS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2017
9:00 o'clock a.m.
Courtroom No. 2 A
Lehigh County Courthouse
Allentown, Pennsylvania

SEAN HART
JOHN R. GREISAMER
HOWARD S. EPSTEIN
JOHN R. MONDSCHNEIN
CHARLES S. HANNA
HON. FRANKLIN VAN ANTWERPEN
MURRAY MILKMAN

HONORABLE EDWARD D. REIBMAN, P.J.
HONORABLE CAROL K. MCGINLEY, J.
HONORABLE ROBERT L. STEINBERG, J.
HONORABLE KELLY L. BANACH, J.
HONORABLE JAMES T. ANTHONY, J.
HONORABLE MARIA L. DANTOS, J.
HONORABLE MICHELE A. VARRICCHIO, J.
HONORABLE DOUGLAS G. REICHLEY, J.
HONORABLE DANIEL K. MCCARTHY, J.

Matthew Giovannini, Jr. RPR
Official Court Reporter

INDEX

<u>Memorial</u>	<u>Page</u>
SEAN HART	
By Wally Flamm, Esquire:	6
JOHN R. GREISAMER	
By John Ashcraft, Esquire:	12
HOWARD S. EPSTEIN	
By Hon. Daniel K. McCarthy:	15
JOHN R. MONDSCHHEIN	
By Melissa Pavlack, Esquire:	22
CHARLES S. HANNA	
By Michelle Forsell, Esquire:	27
HON. FRANKLIN VAN ANTWERPEN	
By Zachary Cohen, Esquire:	30
MURRAY MILKMAN	
By Michelle Forsell, Esquire:	38

1 Monday, February 13, 2017

2 9:00 o'clock a.m.

3 Courtroom No. 2 A

4 Lehigh County Courthouse

5 MS. KEIPER: All rise.

6 Oyez, Oyez, Oyez. All manner

7 of persons having anything to do before the Honorable
8 Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of Lehigh County,
9 which had its origin in Westminster, was created under
10 the Constitution of 1790, and which has been in
11 continuous session since December 21, 1812, and which
12 is here holden this day, let them come forward and they
13 shall be heard. God save the Commonwealth, and this
14 Honorable Court.

15 Please be seated.

16 PRESIDENT JUDGE REIBMAN: Good morning.

17 AUDIENCE RESPONSE: Good morning, Your Honor.

18 PRESIDENT JUDGE REIBMAN: On behalf of my

19 colleagues on the Court of Common Pleas, and
20 personally, I welcome you to the Annual Bar Memorials
21 sponsored jointly by the Bar Association of Lehigh
22 County and the Court.

23 Our profession and this Court have many
24 traditions. One is recognizing seniority on the Court,
25 and we do that by order of seating. The Judge to my

1 immediate right is the most Senior Judge to the
2 President Judge, and the Judge to my immediate left is
3 the next most Senior Judge. We continue that pattern
4 from right to left.

5 Joining me on the Bench in order of
6 seniority, are the Honorable Carol K. McGinley, Robert
7 L. Steinberg, Kelly L. Banach, James T. Anthony, Maria
8 L. Dantos, Michele A. Varricchio, Douglas G. Reichley
9 and Daniel K. McCarthy.

10 I would also like to recognize at this time,
11 former members of our Court, the Honorable Robert
12 Young, Attorney William Ford, the Honorable William H.
13 Platt, a former President Judge of this Court, and now
14 a Senior Judge on the Superior Court of Pennsylvania,
15 District Attorney James Martin, Chief Public Defender
16 Kimberly Makoul, and Sheriff Joseph Hanna.

17 In this special session of the Court, we
18 pause to remember and pay respect to those members of
19 our Bar Association, our colleagues, who have passed
20 away during the previous year.

21 Those of us in the legal profession and those
22 who live or work among us, know that our days in this
23 profession are often long. It is at this time;
24 however, that we are reminded that our years are short.

25 A little more than a week ago, we admitted

1 new members to our Bar with great joy as they commenced
2 their professional lives, and with great hope that they
3 will do well for themselves and their clients, and do
4 good for our community and our profession.

5 Now, we have a more somber, but no less
6 important duty, of paying respects to our departed
7 colleagues. In remembering them, we also remind
8 ourselves of our own mortality, the kind of life we
9 lived, and the legacy we will leave behind.

10 The Court recognizes the President of the Bar
11 Association of Lehigh County, Attorney Michelle
12 Forsell.

13 MS. FORSELL: Thank you, President Judge
14 Reibman.

15 May it please the Court, it is my pleasure
16 on behalf of the Bar Association of Lehigh County to
17 welcome each of you to one of our most time honored
18 traditions, and also a warm welcome and a thank you to
19 the family members who are in attendance this morning.

20 Today we remember those who have come before
21 us, and we reflect on their contributions to society.
22 This morning we will be memorializing seven
23 individuals.

24 First we will honor Attorney Sean Hart, who
25 will be remembered by Attorney Wally Flamm. Attorney

1 Flamm?

2 MR. FLAMM: Thank you. May it please the
3 Court?

4 PRESIDENT JUDGE REIBMAN: Mr. Flamm.

5 MR. FLAMM: Sean's mom Pat asked that I
6 deliver this eulogy. Two things sort of characterize
7 my relationship with Sean, one of which was -- both of
8 them were kidding -- one of which was his hair, which I
9 am personally challenged with, and have been most of my
10 life. But my last memory of Sean, was after prepping
11 for an arbitration with PPL and it's union, watching
12 him walk down the hall of the Holiday Inn over in
13 Fogelsville, and seeing nothing but this big bushy head
14 of magnificent hair, and I said to him, Sean, would you
15 cut that and give it to me?

16 We are here today to honor Sean, and a number
17 of our brethren who have passed away this year. Sean
18 passed on January 30th. Each of them is special in one
19 way or another. Each is loved by his family. Each was
20 honored by his colleagues. Each will achieve eternal
21 glory in the eyes of his beholder. And I would just
22 like to take a couple of minutes to try and separate
23 Sean from all the others, and consider what made him
24 special to those of us who knew and loved him.

25 Sean grew up here in the Valley. He was the

1 only child of Carson and Pat Hart, who are here in
2 attendance. Sean went to Catasauqua Elementary School
3 and Saucon Valley High School. His only educational
4 mistake seems to be his choice of college. He went to
5 Lehigh. He could have gone to a college in Easton, a
6 real one. While in high school, Sean achieved
7 something that -- You might have figured out where I
8 went to college.

9 While he was in high school, Sean achieved
10 something that very few high school kids could ever
11 dream of, much less achieve, and that was, he became an
12 excellent boxer. His father, Carson, was a pretty good
13 trainer in his own right. And he schooled Sean in the
14 skills of the pugilist.

15 Carson did an excellent job, not only of
16 raising his son, but also in being in his corner as a
17 boxer. By the time that Sean was in high school, he
18 was literally knocking them out all over the place.
19 He accumulated an amateur record -- this is really
20 impressive -- of 60 and 4, and won the Golden Gloves
21 Championship, and the New Jersey amateur heavyweight
22 title.

23 He graduated from that other college in
24 1990 with dual degrees in History and Urban Studies.
25 He decided at that point to try his luck at being a

1 pro boxer. And once again, with his dad Carson in his
2 corner, Sean was fighting in the ranks of legends.

3 He trained and fought at Joe Frazier's
4 vaunted Blue Horizon Gym in Philadelphia, and Joe's son
5 Marvis called him -- called Sean, "the white Ali".
6 Sean was 6' 1 1/2", and at 204 pounds, he was just ten
7 pounds short of his ideal heavyweight fighting trim
8 according to his dad. When asked why he didn't have
9 the washboard abs that were coming into vogue in the
10 90's there, Sean remarked that all of those folks with
11 the photogenic bellies, just couldn't take punches like
12 the heavyweights do. He went pro in 1990. His ring
13 robe said "Hart Attack". And he amassed an amazing
14 professional record of 19 and 4 before his retirement
15 in 1995.

16 Although Sean retired from the ring, he did
17 not retire from fighting. He decided to go to law
18 school, and he attended Temple Law School, graduating
19 with honors in 1996. From law school, Sean chose to
20 specialize in labor and employment law, starting first
21 as a sports agent, representing professional athletes.
22 After about a year, he joined the exclusive labor law
23 boutique, is what they were called then, Heimbach
24 Spitko and Heckman, which subsequently merged with my
25 firm, Flamm Walton. Sean formed an important part of

1 the labor and employment law capabilities that my firm
2 has today.

3 To our regret, Sean left the firm to work for
4 PPL, specializing again in labor and employment law,
5 where I had the honor of continuing to work with him as
6 outside counsel once in a while.

7 As a lawyer, the adjectives that come to mind
8 to describe Sean are incisive, thorough, confident, and
9 prepared. I have often described PPL's relationship
10 with the union as a love/hate one. Everyone treated
11 every arbitration as a life or death struggle.
12 Witnesses and line management felt that the earth would
13 counter rotate if the Union won the case, and the Union
14 perceived every case, no matter how minor as we as
15 outsiders might look at it, they viewed it as the
16 archetypal struggle of the working man against the
17 oppressor.

18 As an interesting note, everybody that goes
19 to work for PPL works there for 30 and 40 years, so it
20 can't be that bad a place to work.

21 But each of the cases was perceived as a life
22 or death struggle. Sean's clients, the management
23 folks felt that the outcome of the case was a career
24 defining event. It was in this atmosphere that Sean
25 absolutely shone. He accomplished what I deemed to be

1 the impossible. With his quiet confidence, incisive
2 ability to sort out the issues from the froth, he
3 propped up the company's witnesses so that they
4 themselves were confident of the outcome, yet at the
5 same time felt relaxed enough about the prospect of an
6 arbitrator reaching what they felt would be the wrong
7 decision.

8 How do you convince somebody that they are
9 going to win the apocalyptic battle that they have to,
10 to save the company and save their careers, when it
11 really doesn't matter if they lose? I could never
12 figure that out, but Sean did. Sean managed to
13 motivate his people, make them perform, make them be
14 happy and confident, yet not be so wound up and tight
15 that they thought they would die if they lost. It's an
16 attribute that most of us lawyers don't have.

17 Most of us realize that you win some and you
18 lose some. Sean kept all of that in perspective.
19 While leading the charge for the company, he always
20 understood that we are in it for the long haul, and no
21 single event is going to be life defining.

22 But there was one battle that Sean didn't,
23 and couldn't win, and that was named Leukemia. He was
24 diagnosed with the disease in 2013 at the age of 46.
25 He approached it as he did with all other problems,

1 with that quiet confidence, and projection of success
2 that made everyone assume that the outcome would never
3 be anything but the best. Like he did with his
4 practice, he never gave up looking for the best
5 solution possible. And he went so far as the M. D.
6 Abramson Cancer Center in Houston for the latest in
7 treatments. He passed away there last January, as I
8 said, surrounded by his family.

9 His mother, Pat, said that she had just gone
10 to visit him the week before, and he seemed good to
11 start, but then he said that he felt really awful, and
12 within a very short period of time, he had passed.

13 I spoke to him many times during his battle,
14 and he never gave into despair. He was always positive
15 and upbeat, and he never, never, ever succumbed to the
16 despair that anyone could see, although I am absolutely
17 certain, that in the dark of night, and in his own
18 quiet solitude, he felt it.

19 Sean's joy was in his children, Sean and
20 Savannah. And I'm sure that his love of them kept him
21 going in times when that dark cloud seemed so thick
22 that neither light nor breath could pierce it. He
23 remained very close throughout his life with his
24 fraternity brothers from college from Phi Sigma Kappa,
25 and they supported him to the very end of his life.

1 Sean is survived by his wife, Sherry; and of
2 course, his children, Sean and Savannah, and his
3 parents, Carson and Pat. And he's got many aunts and
4 uncles and cousins.

5 He was always -- Sean was always ready to go
6 to the next challenge, always positive, always upbeat.
7 And I think that that is what I take away from Sean, is
8 that you can always win. Get into the ring, throw the
9 next punch, because you are going to win the match.

10 Thank you very much.

11 PRESIDENT JUDGE REIBMAN: Thank you, Mr.
12 Flamm.

13 MS. FORSELL: Thank you, Attorney Flamm.

14 Next we will honor Attorney John R.
15 Greisamer, who will be remembered by Attorney John
16 Ashcraft.

17 Attorney Ashcraft?

18 MR. ASHCRAFT: Thank you, President Forsell.

19 If it please the Court?

20 PRESIDENT JUDGE REIBMAN: Mr. Ashcraft.

21 MR. ASHCRAFT: Honored Judges, colleagues,
22 and honored guests. John Robert Greisamer, 70, of
23 Center Valley, passed away on March 6th of last year
24 in Valley Manor Nursing and Rehab Center, in
25 Coopersburg.

1 He graduated in 1963 from Quakertown High
2 School, attended Syracuse University, completing his BA
3 at Dickinson College, and then graduated from the New
4 England School of Law in 1972. He practiced law in
5 Allentown and Center Valley. He was the son of the
6 late Leonard W. and Mary June Roberts Greisamer.

7 He was an avid fisherman and boater in New
8 England and Westport, Ontario, where he spent his
9 summers as a boy. He enjoyed skiing, and was a
10 certified member of the Ski Instructors of America.
11 He loved dogs, and for many years he had Golden
12 Retrievers, the last being Caser, who now lives in
13 Canada with his brother, Rob. He is survived by his
14 brother Robert J. Roberts, MD and his wife, Marianne
15 of Westport, Ontario, and his sister, Jane Brogan, wife
16 of Lowell Brogan of Lebanon, and numerous cousins in
17 Westport, Ontario.

18 Westport, Ontario is a 700-person village
19 between two lakes on its east and west sides, and the
20 600-acre Foley Mountain Park to its northeast. The
21 village sits north of Kingston, Ontario, and southwest
22 of Ottawa. Kingston is at the western mouth of the St.
23 Lawrence Seaway, on the northern side of Lake Ontario,
24 across from Upper New York State.

25 The drive from Kingston to Westport is

1 30 miles north, but takes an hour over a winding
2 two-lane road, through rural countryside with many
3 small lakes. Due to provincial Government,
4 fish-rearing ponds nearby, the lakes at Westport hold
5 yellow perch, small mouth bass, pickerel, and northern
6 pike. In winter, the frozen lakes host 5 and 10 K
7 skating races, and 25 and 50 K marathon events.

8 In November of 1975, Dean Foote hired me,
9 then a newly hatched lawyer, as an associate with Foote
10 & Greisamer, located at 452 Linden Street here in town.
11 Row homes in the area converted into law offices had
12 white brick exteriors or painted brick exteriors, brown
13 panelled interiors, and few windows.

14 The younger partner of this general practice
15 firm was private, quiet, and somewhat a loner. When
16 I recently spoke to my successor at the firm, Leighton
17 Cohen, we agreed that John was a calm and patient
18 mentor, who was generous in introducing us to other
19 members of the Bar. Leighton describes John as,
20 "impeccably honest," and I would agree.

21 When Dean Foote suffered through his final
22 illness, it was John who stood by Dean and kept the
23 office going. I did not stay in touch with John over
24 the years, and I know nothing of his final illness, but
25 I will not forget his patience in guiding me to learn

1 the practice of law, and to understand that its
2 learning never stops, or as stated by Abraham Lincoln,
3 "The leading role for the lawyer, as for the man of
4 every calling, is diligence."

5 Thank you, John. I hope death brought you
6 the peace I must imagine you found outdoors, fishing,
7 boating, skiing, and being in the company of your dogs.
8 Thank you.

9 MS. FORSELL: Thank you Attorney Ashcraft.

10 We now honor Attorney Howard S. Epstein, who
11 will be honored by the Honorable Daniel McCarthy.

12 Judge McCarthy?

13 JUDGE McCARTHY: May it please the Court?

14 PRESIDENT JUDGE REIBMAN: Judge McCarthy.

15 JUDGE McCARTHY: Honored guests and family,
16 members of the Bar, I rise in remembrance of Howard S.
17 Epstein. He was born on August the 20th, 1942, and
18 died on March 14th, 2016. He was the husband of Linda
19 C. Epstein. He was born in Allentown of the late Louis
20 and Myrtle Epstein.

21 Howard was a graduate of Allentown High
22 School, the last class known as Allentown, class of
23 1960. He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from the
24 Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in
25 1964. Attorney Epstein earned his J.D. Degree from the

1 Dickinson School of Law in 1967. He practiced law as a
2 member of the Lehigh County Bar for 49 years, and was a
3 partner of Black, Epstein, Prokup and McCarthy from
4 1979 through 1988.

5 In 1989 he assumed the management of his
6 family's real estate business, the Regent Development
7 Company in Allentown, and held that position until his
8 death. He enjoyed playing golf throughout the United
9 States, and also as a long time member of the Berkleigh
10 Country Club, and later the Lehigh Country Club.

11 Howard is survived by his son Joel S. Epstein
12 of Philadelphia, and his wife, Blaire; his sister,
13 Midge Sokol and her husband, Howard; nieces, Tarah
14 Baiman, and Caroline Sokol; and his nephew, Brad Sokol.
15 Howard was predeceased by his brother, Bruce J. Epstein
16 who previously was married to Joan Epstein.

17 These are the statistics of Howard Epstein's
18 life, but we all know that statistics do not measure a
19 person's life. And they are woefully inadequate to
20 measure Howard Epstein's life.

21 Most of the people here today, I would
22 venture to say, did not know Howard well, as he ceased
23 the active practice of law in 1989, upon the sudden
24 death of his brother, Bruce, in order to take over the
25 family real estate business. But I was privileged to

1 practice with Howard for about ten years in the 1980's.
2 He was a trial lawyer who blossomed in the 1970's and
3 1980's, representing clients which ranged from
4 significant and well-heeled corporations, insurance
5 companies, high-worth individuals, as well as the every
6 day people of the Lehigh Valley.

7 Howard easily made friends, all kinds of
8 friends, as evidenced by the fact that he once showed
9 me a smiling photograph of himself in a kitchen in a
10 South Philadelphia home, enjoying a Sunday spaghetti
11 dinner, surrounded by a family who had befriended
12 Howard while he was an undergraduate at Penn. You
13 could readily see the gleam on Mrs. Scarffo's eyes, as
14 she served a generous helping of pasta to her favorite
15 son, Nicky, who was seated next to Howard.

16 Likewise, while at Dickinson, his law school
17 study group frequently met at the Molly Pritchard Inn,
18 where he struck up a friendship with a local priest
19 that Howard named "Father Whiskey." By the way, Father
20 Whiskey was also a great poker player. Quickly
21 recognizing Howard's potential as a newly admitted
22 lawyer, Father Whiskey, whose real name was John
23 McGinley, offered a job to him to teach English at a
24 local Catholic girls high school for one year. This
25 provided the school with an excellent teacher fresh out

1 of law school, and also provided Howard with an equally
2 long deferment from being drafted and going to Vietnam.

3 Howard came to the Bar in Lehigh County in
4 1967, towards the end of the good-old-boy-era. While
5 Howard had to make a serious adjustment to the ever
6 changing diversity of the Bar -- and by diversity, he
7 meant, women lawyers -- he eventually adapted with the
8 times. But he always remained a member of the "Old
9 Guard" which included lawyers such as Ted Gillespie,
10 Dennis O'Hara, Richard Stevens, Bob Johnson, and Paul
11 Laubner to name a few.

12 I was a young lawyer when I came to practice
13 with Howard. Alan Black, who later became a Judge on
14 the Lehigh County Court of Common Pleas, was our
15 managing partner, and I learned much from him. But I
16 also learned a lot from Howard. One of the things I
17 learned from Howard was never, and I mean never, drive
18 a Domestic Relations client to the courthouse for a
19 proceeding, especially if the Courthouse is some
20 distance away. Always meet the client at the
21 courthouse, said Howard. The reason for that is if the
22 conference, hearing or trial doesn't go the client's
23 way, be it for custody, support, visitation or divorce,
24 you will have to endure the long ride back to your
25 office with a client who will accuse you of

1 incompetence, stupidity, and visit the full blame
2 on you for having ruined that client's life forever.
3 I never drove a client to the courthouse after that.

4 Additionally, Howard taught me to identify
5 with your client's priorities, and the need to be a
6 zealous advocate. Howard would sometimes; however,
7 identify too closely with his client's position.

8 On one occasion during the course of a trial a heated
9 exchange occurred between Howard and a trial Judge
10 whose portrait hangs on the wall above us. It became
11 so confrontational that the Judge gave Howard a
12 judicial time out, and evicted him from the courtroom,
13 where he was taken to a place of temporary confinement
14 requiring Alan Black to come down and negotiate
15 Howard's early release from the custody of the sheriff.
16 That's being too zealous. From a practice point of
17 view, if you ever get hauled out of the courtroom, you
18 have crossed the line.

19 Howard was fearless in representing clients.
20 In a domestic case he represented the wife of a rather
21 well to do, and well-heeled financial planner. The
22 husband recognizing the high cost of divorce in
23 America, felt that an appropriate way to reduce those
24 costs was to hire a hit man to kill his wife. In a
25 further effort to reduce his exposure to his wife's

1 legal fees that he might have to pay should the Court
2 award it, he engaged a hit man to kill Howard.

3 Faced with that situation, many of us would
4 probably have invoked the ultimate conflict of interest
5 available to a lawyer, which is, I don't want to
6 represent you anymore, because I don't want to get
7 killed. However, Howard didn't play that conflict of
8 interest card, but instead had himself fitted for a
9 rather stylish bullet proof vest which he wore when
10 attending future hearings related to that particular
11 case.

12 Trial lawyers adapt. They make the best of a
13 changing and unexpected situation. In August, 1985,
14 Alan Black determined that a firm retreat would be a
15 good idea. He made arrangements to spend a couple days
16 at an executive conference center in the Poconos where
17 he, myself, Michael Prokup and Howard would get away
18 from the office, and spend time together going over
19 matters related to the administration of the law
20 practice. When we arrived at the facility, there had
21 been a mix up. The rooms were no longer available to
22 us, but, but, the company had another resort close by
23 that could accommodate us. It was called Cove Haven.
24 You may have heard of it. It's a resort for
25 honeymooners and lovers. We could have cancelled our

1 plans, but we didn't. Both Alan Black and Howard
2 Epstein were both graduates of the Wharton School of
3 the University of Pennsylvania. Their financial
4 skills acquired from that prestigious institution were
5 of tremendous help to us as we reviewed balance sheets
6 and client retention strategies over the warm soft glow
7 of lava lamps in windowless rooms with carpeting on the
8 walls and mirrors positioned on the ceiling. We all
9 benefited greatly from that retreat even though none of
10 us took advantage of the champagne glass bathtub
11 option.

12 But for the sudden death of Howard's brother,
13 Bruce, who had been running the family business in late
14 1988, I have no doubt that Howard would have continued
15 to be a trial lawyer until the time of his death. He
16 loved the law, and faithfully maintained his license to
17 the point where I could count on seeing Howard during
18 the last week of December as he and I would sit as
19 members of the Bar Association of Lehigh County's
20 Procrastinator's Club to watch videos being shown at
21 the Bar Association in order for us to achieve our
22 minimum mandatory continuing legal education credits.
23 We learned about such things that are not usually the
24 gist of civil practice such as 'representing death
25 penalty clients' and the 'Law of the Refugee.' It was

1 a good time to see Howard, and to catch up on what was
2 going on in our lives.

3 Howard loved things such as good cigars,
4 Dewars scotch whiskey, and the game of golf, but he
5 loved people more. He deeply loved his wife Linda.
6 His son Joel, his nieces, nephew, sister,
7 brother-in-law, and his many, many friends. He is
8 missed.

9 In recognition of their service and devotion
10 to the law, we put portraits of our Judges on the walls
11 surrounding this room. It is right that we do so. But
12 there are no similar remembrances -- physical
13 remembrances, of the lions of the trial bar which adorn
14 this building. But sometimes, every now and then, we
15 can feel their spirit within this arena we call a
16 courtroom. Howard Epstein was one of those lions of
17 the Trial Bar, and sometimes, like today, I feel his
18 spirit.

19 Thank you.

20 MS. FORSELL: Thank you, Judge McCarthy.

21 We now honor Attorney John Mondschein, who
22 will be remembered by Attorney Melissa Pavlack.

23 Miss Pavlack?

24 MS. PAVLACK: Thank you.

25 May it please the Court, honored guests,

1 family, friends, and colleagues. John R. Mondschein,
2 JRM as we always knew him at the office. He was born
3 on January 10th, 1939 in Allentown. He was the son of
4 John and Helen Mondschein.

5 He graduated Magna Cum Laude from Muhlenberg
6 College in 1960. John was always very proud to tell
7 you that he was at Muhlenberg College when they first
8 started accepting female students into their co-ed
9 program. After college, John went to law school at the
10 University of Pennsylvania. He graduated Cum Laude
11 from law school, and was admitted to the Pennsylvania
12 Bar.

13 John started his legal career in Allentown at
14 the law offices of Harry Dower. By 1970, John ventured
15 out into his own practice. There was a hiatus in
16 John's practice here in Pennsylvania, when he grew his
17 hair long, and headed to Florida for the practice of
18 law there. John proudly carried his Florida driver's
19 license with him here for many, many years after
20 returning to the Valley. When he returned to Allentown
21 in the late 1970's, he resumed his solo practice. At
22 that time he practiced divorce law as well as
23 collections work.

24 John was very in tune with the way that
25 divorce law was evolving in Pennsylvania. He was truly

1 committed to helping families and Family Law. So John
2 was able and ready to limit his practice to Family Law
3 cases with the start of the 1980 amendments to the
4 Divorce Code.

5 In the early 1980's, John founded the Family
6 Law Section of the Lehigh County Bar Association. He
7 proudly served as its president from 1986 to 1988.

8 John was also active in the Pennsylvania Bar
9 Association and the American Bar Association Family Law
10 Sections. I believe though that the crowning glory of
11 John's professional career came when he was admitted to
12 and became a Fellow of the American Academy of
13 Matrimonial Lawyers. He was the first and only
14 attorney in the Lehigh Valley to achieve that
15 membership.

16 John was truly ahead of his time in every
17 aspect of life. He was one of the first attorneys to
18 move his practice out of the center city area and into
19 the suburbs. He spent countless hours working on
20 public relations, and promoting the practice and
21 promoting the attorneys within the practice. John
22 developed a quarterly publication called Matrimonial
23 Matters, and he went on to host his own radio talk
24 show.

25 John knew the value of good press and

1 advertising. One of John's proud press moments
2 happened when the Divorce Code was amended in 1980 and
3 we were granted the no fault divorces. He and his good
4 friend and colleague, Ed Zamborsky, had clients who
5 were beginning the divorce process. So the two
6 gentlemen met and discussed what they were going to do,
7 and they created a plan to be ready to file the first
8 No Fault Divorce in Lehigh County as soon as the
9 Divorce Code was amended. He and Ed met at the
10 courthouse one early morning so one of them could file
11 the divorce complaint, and the other could be there to
12 accept it, all the while; of course, while the press
13 was there covering the story.

14 Another proud press moment for John was when
15 he had a high profile case in the office, and he was
16 interviewed by celebrity interviewer Deborah N.
17 Orville and he appeared on national television.

18 John was a unique individual. Somewhat of a
19 hippy with longer hair and tie-die shirts even when
20 the craze was over. He was a diehard lover of the
21 Rolling Stones. He had his own style of sucking on
22 cinnamon stick, and yes, even carrying a purse, I mean
23 "man-bag". But John could truly carry it off.

24 I met John in 1980. I was clerking for Judge
25 Wieand at the time. When I told Judge Wieand that I

1 wanted to practice Family Law, he told me that the only
2 attorney I needed to contact was John Mondschein. That
3 was the firm I wanted to work for.

4 Well, I sent a letter to John Mondschein, and
5 I was soon interviewed by him. I have to say it was
6 the longest interview in history. It lasted over four
7 hours, but I was constantly filled with interaction
8 where I learned things about John, and he learned
9 things about me.

10 John was a mentoring and -- He was a mentor
11 to me, and mentoring, and a good solid education in
12 matrimonial law was something that he gave to many of
13 us. Those of us who were lucky enough to be part of
14 the Mondschein Associates have to be thankful for the
15 time he would give us in training so that we would
16 become better attorneys. However, John wasn't just
17 about legal education. He wanted to impart the
18 importance of camaraderie among the attorneys as well.

19 I recall during my first few months as an
20 associate, John allowed me to sit second seat during a
21 very important, long, four-day custody relocation
22 trial. On the last day of the trial we left the
23 courthouse and went back to the office. John asked me
24 to come into his office while he called the opposing
25 attorney. I remember saying to him, why are we going

1 to call the other attorney? Haven't we spent enough
2 time with him all week? What could you possibly have
3 to talk to him about? He sat me down and he explained
4 that his relationship with that other attorney would
5 live far longer than the clients that they had just
6 battled over. He felt strongly about having that call
7 after most all cases so that he could commend the other
8 attorney, the other attorney could praise him for what
9 he had done, and they could just mutually detox from
10 the court case.

11 Family was important to John. Father to
12 John, Dee, Katie, Peter, and Alex, he enjoyed spending
13 time with the children and being a part of their
14 activities. For five years his law practice was run
15 from his and Helen's home on Chew Street. The office
16 was right there with the children's play area. I'm not
17 sure if that was for the children's play, or if John
18 could retreat to the toys as well once in a while.
19 John knew the balance of work and family so that he
20 could spend weeks at the beach in Cape May, all the
21 while staying connected with the office here in
22 Allentown.

23 John was a brilliant legal mind, mentor and
24 friend. He has been greatly missed.

25 Thank you.

1 MS. FORSELL: Thank you, Attorney Pavlack.

2 We now honor Attorney Charles S. Hanna. And
3 may it please the Court, I will share a few remarks on
4 behalf of the family.

5 Charles S. Hanna of Allentown was embraced by
6 the winds of the universe from whence he came, on
7 April 19th, 2016. He was born in Allentown to the late
8 Shahoud and Levinia Hanna. His father immigrated to
9 Allentown from Amar, Syria in 1920.

10 Charles was married to Mary Kavusak of
11 Palmerton, the granddaughter of Slovakian immigrants.
12 He was a graduate of Allentown High School and
13 Muhlenberg College. He earned a Master of Arts Degree
14 from City College of New York, and a law degree from
15 Rutgers University. He was a U.S. Marine combat
16 veteran of the Korean War.

17 Charles was the editor and publisher of
18 Damascus Road, a contemporary poetry magazine that
19 received grants from the Coordinating Council of Small
20 Magazines, and the National Endowment of the Arts. He
21 was listed in Cambridge University's Who's Who section
22 of small press editors. His mentors were the poet
23 Allen Ginsberg, who aided him in publishing the first
24 edition of Damascus Road in 1960, and William Kinter,
25 his English professor at Muhlenberg. Charles edited

1 and published ten editions of the magazine from 1960 to
2 1982.

3 His poems were published in many small poetry
4 magazines, and he was associated with the Les Doux
5 Megot poets, a group of New York City poets who met and
6 read their poetry at a coffee shop in East Greenwich
7 Village. He was also associated with the Beat
8 Generation Poets, working with such poets as Ginsberg,
9 Leroy Jones, Paul Blackburn, and Diane DiPrima. He
10 worked for a New York City bank before returning to
11 Allentown where he taught English at Allen High School
12 for 25 years, before practicing law in Lehigh County
13 for 14 years, retiring in 2000.

14 He served on the Board of the Lehigh Valley
15 Guidance Clinic, Lehigh County Chapter of the Red
16 Cross, the Syrian Amarian Society, and Fathers and
17 Children's Equality of Pennsylvania. He was a delegate
18 to the Lehigh Valley Labor Council, AFL-CIO from 1968
19 to 1993. He was legal counsel for the Allentown
20 Federation of Teachers, and was a candidate for Lehigh
21 County Commissioner in 1977.

22 Charles helped write the ground-breaking
23 joint child custody law in Pennsylvania in 1982. He
24 was also a volunteer attorney for Turning Point.
25 Charles was a member of St. George Orthodox Church and

1 retreated to St. Vladimir Russian Orthodox seminary in
2 1961 to contemplate God's influence on the soul of
3 America.

4 We now are going to Honor the Honorable
5 Franklin Van Antwerpen, who will be remembered by
6 Attorney Zachary Cohen.

7 Attorney Cohen?

8 MR. COHEN: May it please the Court?

9 PRESIDENT JUDGE REIBMAN: Mr. Cohen.

10 MR. COHEN: President Judge Reibman, other
11 members of the Bench, family, friends, and colleagues,
12 it is truly an honor for me to memorialize my
13 father-in-law, Judge Van Antwerpen.

14 Judge Franklin Van Antwerpen was not a Lehigh
15 Valley native. He came to settle in Easton by way of
16 New Jersey and New York in 1971, just after he and my
17 mother-in-law Kathy wed. He took a job here as Chief
18 Counsel for the Northampton County Legal Aid Society.
19 And he loved his job there, because he loved helping
20 people. He also really loved the City of Easton, and
21 was proud of it. For those of you who knew Frank, he
22 was quite a history buff, and he was quite a story
23 teller, too. And hearing the way he talked about
24 Easton and his people, you would think he had been
25 living in the Lehigh Valley continually since the local

1 reading of the Declaration of Independence.

2 He became a Judge on the Northampton County
3 Bench in 1979 at the young age of 37, where he and
4 Judge Bob Freedberg became lifelong friends. Some of
5 Judge Van Antwerpen's more notable achievements as a
6 Common Pleas Judge included rewriting the Domestic
7 Relations Code and putting an end to the longstanding
8 Northampton County practice of having the prisoner
9 prepare the cafeteria food for the Judges, after
10 noticing that the soup tasted a little funny at one of
11 their meetings.

12 His talents as a Judge quickly catapulted
13 him higher in the legal ranks, and in 1987, President
14 Ronald Reagan appointed him to the Federal Bench,
15 bringing Easton its own Federal Judge. On the Federal
16 Bench, Judge Van Antwerpen presided over many high
17 profile cases which varied from putting the
18 Philadelphia mob behind bars, to precedent setting
19 trademark litigation over Victoria's Secret miracle
20 bra.

21 In 2004 he was nominated by President Bush
22 and confirmed to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals.
23 This was just one rung below the United States Supreme
24 Court, and the last stop for 99 percent of this
25 Nation's cases. While the installation ceremony

1 surely had it's serious tone, with all of its
2 accompanying pomp and circumstance one would imagine
3 for such an occasion, Judge Van Antwerpen kept it fun
4 too by making sure that every governmental official and
5 dignitary met the real guest of honor, his first
6 grandson, who was in attendance and only a few months
7 old at the time.

8 My introduction to the Judge's family came
9 when I was a young teenager. I was in high school, a
10 bit of a wild child, and by chance I befriended his
11 daughter Ginny in 10th grade. Having never been around
12 a judge before, and not knowing some of the rituals and
13 formalities that went along with it, I frequently went
14 to visit Ginny at their house, and I simply called him
15 by his first name, "Frank". And once in a while I even
16 managed a "Mr. V", if I was feeling particularly
17 formal. He never corrected me or displayed any
18 disapproval, as he was not pretentious like that;
19 simply knowing that his daughter considered me a friend
20 was enough to win his approval.

21 As a high-schooler, and being curious by
22 nature, I asked him about what he did for a living.
23 Instead of lecturing me in some lofty way about legal
24 mumbo jumbo that would have most likely gone in one ear
25 and out the other, he said, "well, I'll show you."

1 He took me down to his courtroom down at the
2 Larry Holmes Building in Easton and gave me a tour of
3 his Chambers. And he was so proud of it all, humbled
4 by the enormous responsibility, and I would go so far
5 as to say, the sacred regard with which he held his
6 job. It was there I met Tony T., his long time
7 personal protector, staff, and friend, as well as
8 Sarah, his secretary who faithfully kept the Judge
9 looking polished and out of trouble for nearly
10 40 years.

11 The next stop was a holding cell, where for
12 kicks, the Judge locked me up and abruptly walked away.
13 I wasn't sure he was totally joking, but after he
14 sprung me out, he then let me watch him do a real live
15 sentencing in the courtroom.

16 The person being sentenced that day was
17 guilty of some potpourri of serious crimes that
18 included racketeering, and the trafficking of massive
19 amounts of drugs and weapons. Here stood before Judge
20 Van Antwerpen, one of the toughest looking gangsters,
21 and to my surprise, at this moment, the man was crying
22 like a baby. I expected Judge V. to sternly throw the
23 book at him; not fall for the questionable display of
24 last minute remorse the Defendant put on, and lecture
25 this felon about how he had destroyed peoples' lives,

1 and how he was a menace to society.

2 Surprisingly, Judge Van took a different
3 tact. Sure the guy still got some real time, but the
4 Judge listened patiently to what the man had to say.
5 He listened with compassion and empathy, understanding
6 that the man who stood before him, despite doing all
7 the illegal and harmful things he had done, he still
8 had a family, still had a wife, had young children that
9 would miss their father while he was in jail, and
10 understanding that this criminal had done what he did,
11 at least in some part, as a product of a rough
12 upbringing and unfortunate circumstances that someone
13 in our shoes could hardly ever imagine, and never fully
14 grasp.

15 It was clear to me that Judge Van recognized
16 that this man standing before him had more than just
17 one dimension, the dimensions that weren't necessarily
18 products of his choosing, and that more than likely,
19 some of these facets were products of circumstances
20 just as much as this man's volition, that this
21 defendant wasn't just a thug, and while surely
22 deserving of some punishment, he was also someone who
23 needed help and rehabilitation, if such was possible.

24 I can honestly say that that day, that
25 experience, seeing Judge Van Antwerpen in action and

1 the enormity of what he did each and every day, and the
2 impact of the tough decisions he had to make, changed
3 the trajectory of my life. It was a huge influence in
4 steering me to where I am today in practicing law.

5 I also learned that day, after seeing that
6 no one else in the court called him by his first name,
7 "Frank" that maybe I should ease up on calling him
8 that, too. So I settled for "Judge," which for me,
9 still carried enough informality, and yet, I felt the
10 moniker showed respect, too.

11 When his daughter Ginny and I got married,
12 and he and Kathy took me in as a member of their
13 family, the nickname of Judge quickly turned to "Dad."
14 And when we started having our own children, "Dad"
15 faded into what all of his grandchildren affectionately
16 knew him as, and that was "Judgie," which of all the
17 names I have called him, I liked the best, because to
18 me it meant family, informality, love and respect, all
19 wrapped up into one.

20 At the times during his last two years when
21 his illness stole many of his best physical gifts: in
22 large part, his ability to talk and tell stories, and
23 man, could he tell stories, or his ability to enjoy his
24 daily steak and mashed potatoes, which he never got
25 bored of, he never lost his mental gifts, nor his

1 fervent desire to use them for promoting justice.

2 When he was bedridden for months, when most
3 of us would have called it quits, or at least just
4 taken a break, he still had his clerks transmit memos
5 to him that his staff dutifully delivered to the
6 hospital and to his home, and he still performed his
7 duties as an Appellate Judge admirably, up until just
8 weeks before his passing, even participating in a panel
9 argument when he no longer even had the strength to
10 stand. That's how much he loved and cared about what
11 he did. Being a Judge and using his mind to serve the
12 people meant everything to him.

13 The only thing he loved more than his job as
14 a Judge, and his corny jokes, of which he had an
15 endless supply, was his family. His wife Kathy of
16 45 years was the love of his life and his closest
17 confidant, and someone he simply could not get through
18 a day without. He also fiercely loved his three
19 children and their spouses, and his four grandchildren,
20 always seeing to it that they all had every opportunity
21 he and Kathy could provide.

22 One of my favorite memories is from about six
23 years ago when Judge Van Antwerpen and Kathy were
24 invited by President Obama to a reception at the White
25 House. Kathy being the selfless person she is,

1 convinced Judgie to attempt to get special permission
2 to bring our then five-year-old son, Brendan, as his
3 date to the White House, in Kathy's place. Judgie
4 pulled some strings and the permission was granted.

5 While they waited in the security line to get
6 into the White House, Brendan started getting squirmy,
7 and Judgie asked him what the matter was, to which he
8 replied that "he had to 'go' like really right now."
9 Judgie quickly flagged down the secret service, and
10 when he explained the nature of the "emergency," the
11 secret service acknowledging this crisis of enormous
12 proportions, immediately rushed them both to the front
13 of the security line and right into the White House to
14 the nearest lavatory, which by chance just happened to
15 be the first lady's private bathroom. When they got
16 back from Washington and we asked them what the best
17 parts of the trip were, Judgie, a life long Republican,
18 laughed and said he was so proud of his grandson
19 Brendan, for not only did he make it to the bathroom in
20 time, but he also left Michelle Obama's private toilet
21 seat up for good measure.

22 I could go on and on about the personal
23 stories involving the Judge, the vacations we took, all
24 the times we have shared together as a family, his
25 brilliant encyclopedic mind, etc., etc., but to wrap

1 things up, and to be brief, two of my favorite things
2 he did for me in his capacity as a Judge involved his
3 being the officiant at our wedding 15 years ago, where
4 he walked Ginny down the aisle, and then he stood up
5 front and put his robe on, and then with his booming
6 voice that needed no microphone, married us in front of
7 all of our friends and family.

8 And then secondly, when a few years ago he
9 helped orchestrate a swearing in ceremony for a
10 sizeable group of local lawyers who wanted to be
11 admitted to the Supreme Court of the United States, and
12 where just after the ceremony -- as if standing in the
13 Supreme Court in front of the Justices weren't enough
14 of a treat -- he arranged for us all to have a private
15 audience with Chief Justice Roberts and a couple other
16 of the Justices, where we just got to chat with them
17 person to person. It was an experience that most
18 lawyers could only dream of.

19 So I close by thanking all of you for taking
20 the time today to hear a little bit about this amazing
21 man, that taught me the importance and showed me the
22 magnitude of what we do in this legal profession. He
23 was a legal giant in our community, and he will be
24 greatly missed.

25 Thank you.

1 MS. FORSELL: Thank you, Attorney Cohen.

2 We now honor Attorney Murray Milkman, and I
3 will now share some words on behalf of the family, as
4 well as some anecdotal stories from his son, Sam.

5 Murray was a teacher, a mentor, and the voice
6 of reason who his son Sam turned to every day. He
7 challenged his son's thinking, tried to sharpen him up,
8 hoping to make him a better person.

9 Murray spoke to his son daily. Not trivial
10 conversations, but more like, "Sammy, did you read what
11 the Supreme Court just did? You didn't read the Wall
12 Street Journal yet? Read it now, and then call me
13 back. Murray was always the intellectual.

14 The synagogue was their home, the center of
15 their life in Allentown. Sam can still see his mom and
16 dad sitting in their seats, smiling, knowing that they
17 were right where they were supposed to be, and with the
18 people they wanted to be with. Murray led by example,
19 and always wanted to learn more. He read everything he
20 could, and never stopped learning.

21 Sam describes growing up on the witness stand
22 as follows: "After school every day, my dad would
23 cross-examine me on what I learned. He learned a
24 little about chemistry, and I learned how to answer
25 questions succinctly, and without hesitation.

1 Elementary school, high school, especially law school,
2 Murray kept asking questions. In law school he would
3 say, 'go find this case, Sammy, I'm not sure you have
4 it exactly right.' And he was always right."

5 Murray's wife Irene once served as his legal
6 assistant. One story that she loved to tell was about
7 a divorce that she helped him organize. "One night
8 they went to visit the unhappy wife to get some
9 paperwork signed together. Murray thought that the
10 signing would be dignified, and they all sat down to
11 enjoy a cup of tea together. The tea; however, brought
12 out some of the wife's bad memories. She said, 'you
13 know, that man did nothing around the house. I did
14 everything for him. All he ever had to do was lift his
15 spoon to stir his tea.' Then she got upset and started
16 breaking the tea cups." Sam says, he does not know how
17 the divorce turned out, but mom learned a great
18 expression that she turned on Murray any chance she
19 could, "all you have to do is lift the spoon."

20 Murray was a principled man, and he wanted to
21 do the right thing no matter what. For him, it was
22 never about making money, but rather about the
23 intellectual pursuit of truth, justice, or just a
24 better understanding.

25 Murray dedicated his life to his community,

1 and was actively involved with the synagogue. One
2 final story from his son Sam, to illustrate the depth
3 of his community involvement.

4 On a Sunday morning when Sam was in high
5 school, Murray woke up feeling rather ill. Sam took
6 Murray to Lehigh Valley Hospital where an intern rather
7 clumsily tried to take care of him. Murray screamed,
8 "you don't know what your doing. Get me the chief of
9 surgery. I'll have you know I built this hospital."
10 Sam ran back into the room and said to Murray, "Dad,
11 are you a carpenter in your spare time? What do you
12 mean you built this hospital?" To which Murray
13 replied, "Go downstairs Sammy and look at the plaque in
14 the lobby. PP&L loaned me to the hospital committee,
15 and I did all the legal work for the development,"
16 something that Sam didn't know about.

17 The point is that Murray did a lot of things
18 for the good of the community without bragging; in a
19 very humble manner.

20 Now before we close, I would like to take a
21 moment to thank all of our speakers who have provided
22 us with an opportunity to get a glimpse into the lives
23 of those we are memorializing this morning, and also a
24 special thank you to Attorney Jenna Fliszar for working
25 tirelessly behind the scenes to put this program

1 together. Thank you.

2 President Judge Reibman?

3 PRESIDENT JUDGE REIBMAN: Thank you, Miss
4 Forsell.

5 There are ten members of this Court, only
6 nine are present today. Our tenth colleague, J. Brian
7 Johnson is home recuperating from an illness. We
8 expect him back later this week.

9 Each of us has treasured memories of those
10 memorialized this morning. The Court expresses our
11 appreciation to the Bar Association of Lehigh County
12 for continuing this tradition, to Attorney Fliszar, the
13 Chair of the Bar Memorials Committee, for her hard work
14 in making this ceremony a success, and to the speakers
15 who have so beautifully memorialized our departed
16 colleagues. They have helped to continue a great
17 tradition, allowed us to share in the lives of our
18 departed members, and to be reminded of, or learn, some
19 of the qualities we wish to emulate.

20 We are grateful for the lives of those we
21 have honored today, and for their commitment to the
22 principles of justice we share. We thank you for
23 joining us today in remembrance and thought. And we
24 especially thank the family members, friends, and
25 associates of our departed colleagues, for sharing them

1 with us. They have enriched our lives as well as
2 yours.

3 The official court reporter is directed to
4 transcribe the notes of testimony of these proceedings,
5 and to make a digital copy of it available to the Bar
6 Association of Lehigh County. The Bar Association will
7 publish the transcript on its home page,
8 www.Lehighbar.org. One may read, print, or download it
9 from that site.

10 At this time, we will adjourn this ceremony
11 out of respect for our departed colleagues, in honor of
12 the profession of law which they served, and its
13 honorable traditions in Lehigh County.

14 Miss Keiper, you may adjourn Court.

15 (Whereupon, the Bar Memorial Ceremony was
16 concluded.)

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I hereby certify that the proceedings are contained fully and accurately in the notes taken by me in the matter of the above cause, and that this is a correct transcript of the same.

Date: _____

Matthew Giovannini, Jr., RPR
Official Court Stenographer