

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

2025 BAR MEMORIALS CEREMONY

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2025

9:00 A.M.

COURTROOM NO. 2A

LEHIGH COUNTY COURTHOUSE

ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

IN MEMORY OF:

HONORABLE ROBERT K. YOUNG

JUDITH A. DEXTER

SPYRO J. GELLOS

HONORABLE MAXWELL E. DAVISON

KAROLYN VREELAND BLUME

JAMES J. McCONNELL

JAMES R. WISHCHUK

BEFORE:

HONORABLE J. BRIAN JOHNSON, P.J.

HONORABLE ROBERT L. STEINBERG, J.

HONORABLE JAMES T. ANTHONY, J.

HONORABLE MICHELE A. VARRICCHIO, J.

HONORABLE DOUGLAS G. REICHLEY, J.

HONORABLE MELISSA T. PAVLACK, J.

HONORABLE ANNA-KRISTIE M. MARKS, J.

HONORABLE THOMAS M. CAFFREY, J.

HONORABLE THOMAS A. CAPEHART, J.

HONORABLE ZACHARY J. COHEN, J.

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BRIANNA M. SEESE, CER, OFFICIAL COURT MONITOR

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1 COURT CRIER: Please rise. The Honorable
2 Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of Lehigh
3 County, Pennsylvania.

4 PRESIDENT JUDGE JOHNSON: Mr. Metzner.

5 COURT CRIER: Oyez, oyez, oyez. All
6 manner of persons having anything to do before the
7 Honorable Judges of Lehigh County, come forward and
8 they may be heard. God save the Commonwealth and
9 this Honorable Court.

10 Please remain standing for the Pledge
11 of Allegiance to the flag.

12 (Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance
13 was recited.)

14 PRESIDENT JUDGE JOHNSON: Please be
15 seated. Good morning. So as you can see by the way
16 the Court entered this morning, even the Court
17 makes mistakes.

18 My name is Brian Johnson. I am honored
19 to serve as the President Judge of this Court. And
20 on behalf of my colleagues on the Court of Common
21 Pleas of Lehigh County and personally, I welcome
22 you to the annual Bar Memorial Ceremony, which is
23 sponsored jointly by the Bar Association of Lehigh
24 County and this Court.

25 Joining me on the bench in order of

1 seniority are the Honorable Robert L. Steinberg,
2 James T. Anthony, Michele A. Varricchio, Douglas G.
3 Reichley, Melissa T. Pavlack, Anna-Kristie Morffi
4 Marks, Thomas M. Caffrey, and Thomas A. Capehart
5 and Zachary J. Cohen.

6 We also recognize other judges and
7 elected officials present for this ceremony: U.S.
8 District Judge Joseph F. Leeson, Jr.; retired U.S.
9 Magistrate Judge Henry S. Perkin; former United
10 States District Chief Judge Edward N. Cahn; Senior
11 Judges and former President Judges of our Court,
12 William H. Platt, Carol K. McGinley, and Edward D.
13 Reibman; former judges of our Court, William E.
14 Ford and Daniel K. McCarthy. Also recognize Sheriff
15 Joseph Hanna; District Attorney Gavin P. Holihan;
16 former District Attorney James B. Martin; and Chief
17 Public Defender Kimberly Makoul Goodge. We welcome
18 all of those. And Judge Steinberg wants me to
19 mention Bill Platt again. So we acknowledge Judge
20 Platt again. That's okay. We'll do everybody a
21 second time.

22 Now, in this special session of the
23 Court, we pause to remember and pay respects to our
24 colleagues and fellow members of our Bar
25 Association who have passed away during the year of

1 2024. Those of us in the legal profession and those
2 who live or work with us know that our days in this
3 profession are often long. In times like this,
4 however, we are reminded that our years are short.

5 In our annual Bar Admissions Ceremony,
6 we admit new members to our Bar with great joy as
7 they commence their professional lives and with
8 great hope that they will do well for themselves
9 and their clients, and do good for our community
10 and our profession. Now, we have a more somber, but
11 no less important duty of paying respects to our
12 departed colleagues.

13 Birth is a beginning and death is a
14 destination; life is the journey between them. In
15 remembering our departed colleagues and the journey
16 they -- the journeys they took, we also remind
17 ourselves of our own mortality, the kind of life we
18 live, and the legacy we will leave behind.

19 The Court now recognizes the President
20 of the Bar Association of Lehigh County, Attorney
21 Sarah Hart Charette. And you may come to the
22 podium.

23 MS. HART CHARETTE: Thank you, Your
24 Honor. May it please the Court. We gather today for
25 what could be our finest tradition, the annual Bar

1 Memorial. This longstanding tradition dates back to
2 the beginning of this esteemed organization.

3 Today we honor those member attorneys
4 that have passed away in 2024. We thank the Court
5 for its continued commitment for clearing the Court
6 calendar to join us and assist us as we pay tribute
7 to our members. We would also like to thank
8 Attorney Jenna Fliszar, who diligently and
9 wholeheartedly volunteers every year to help
10 organize this celebration of life. Thank you.

11 Today we gather to honor the memory of:
12 the Honorable Robert Young, who will be remembered
13 by Donald and Rebecca Young; Judy Dexter, who will
14 be remembered by Alexis Berg-Townsend; Spyro
15 Gellos, who will be honored by the Honorable
16 Melissa Pavlack; the Honorable Maxwell Davison, who
17 will be remembered by Dennis McCarthy; Karolyn
18 Vreeland Blume, who will be remembered by the
19 Honorable Henry Perkin; James McConnell, who will
20 be remembered by Victor Cavacini. I will actually
21 be speaking instead. So when I speak, you have to
22 pretend that I'm much wiser than I am when I say
23 those words. And James Wishchuk, who will be
24 remembered by Chad Wishchuk.

25 Please welcome Donald and Rebecca

1 Young.

2 MR. YOUNG: May it please the Court.
3 We're going to do a little back and forth here if
4 you don't mind. I'm going to present something,
5 Becca, and then I'll come on again.

6 PRESIDENT JUDGE JOHNSON: That's
7 perfectly fine. Thank you.

8 MR. YOUNG: Ladies and gentlemen, the
9 Honorable Robert K. Young, a moniker less preferred
10 by him than simply Bob or Bob Young. He enjoyed
11 using Bob Young, even when a judge, when calling
12 lawyers offices. Sometimes getting secretaries in
13 trouble for putting him on hold. He was born on the
14 Ides of March 1931, to Macungie native, Donald R.
15 Young, a nationally recognized sociologist, and Ada
16 Wise Young, an Allentown socialite.

17 He passed away January 25th, 2024 at
18 the age of 92. As he said in his own words, he was
19 sent off to boarding school in 8th grade to
20 Westtown Friends, a coeducational Quaker boarding
21 school near West Chester, Pennsylvania, graduating
22 in 1949, then attending Haverford College,
23 graduating 1953 followed by a law degree from the
24 University of Pennsylvania in 1956. He married
25 Carolyn Stephen Young in 1951, which you will note

1 was during college. And his first child, me, was
2 born in 1952. However, he was proud to say 11
3 months thereafter. He had five children over a 17-
4 year period.

5 Bob joined the Lehigh County Bar
6 Association in 1956 with the intent of working with
7 his uncle, Bob Haas. However, Attorney Haas died
8 shortly after Bob was admitted to the Bar, and he
9 then found himself starting a practice pretty much
10 on his own. He tried for a short time to be in a
11 firm, but he preferred being a sole practitioner
12 until he had no choice, I joined him in 1977.

13 He was president of the Lehigh County
14 Bar Association in 1981, solicitor at various times
15 for the Borough of Macungie, Upper Milford
16 Township, Lehigh Career and Technical Institute,
17 and Lehigh Carbon Community. He was nominated by
18 Governor Dick Thornburgh to fill a vacancy on the
19 Lehigh County bench in 1984 and was then elected to
20 a full 10-year term in 1985, where although he
21 served in all divisions, he particularly enjoyed
22 being an administrative judge of the Orphans'
23 Court. Retiring in 1995, however, he did do a
24 little senior judging to finish up some cases at no
25 compensation.

1 Throughout his career, he served the
2 community, including the chair of the Lehigh County
3 Guardianship Support Agency, chair of East Penn
4 Industrial Development Committee, East Penn School
5 Board, the Boy Scouts as a scout master, member of
6 the Minsi Trails Council, where he was appointed
7 and received the Silver Beaver Award.

8 He enjoyed working with and supporting
9 the good people of Macungie where he was actively
10 involved with the Macungie Memorial Park serving as
11 volunteer, a board member, board president, and for
12 a time after his retirement as an unpaid park
13 manager. While a judge, he helped maintain the
14 financial viability of Kalmbach Park in Macungie,
15 and later served as a trustee. He was a founding
16 member of Macungie Institute, organized and funded
17 the creation of the Macungie Flower Park, two
18 pedestrian bridges, a walking path with a corn crib
19 entrance that he built all within Macungie. He was
20 an initial organizer of Das Awkscht Fescht, an
21 annual car show and more in Macungie, now operating
22 for over 50 years, and was chairman thereof for
23 several years. For some reason he loved Macungie
24 and having, or should I say making, his family help
25 in various park events. And now, here is something

1 which he wrote at the age of 79 for this occasion.
2 Rebecca.

3 MS. YOUNG: Good morning, judges. Good
4 morning, everyone. I have -- in my grandfather's
5 words, he is saying: I have taken these three goals
6 contained, being life, liberty, and the pursuit of
7 happiness, in the Declaration of Independence
8 seriously. They were deemed of special significance
9 to our forefathers as they put their lives and
10 property on the line by severing loyalty to the
11 British crown.

12 As to life, there is not much that one
13 can do about the genes and the DNA that he or she
14 is dealt with at birth. My parents were diligent in
15 seeing that I visited the dentist every six months
16 and that I took baths to avoid the body odor, as
17 they called it. They spent quite a small fortune
18 trying to straighten my teeth for braces having the
19 rubber bands hooked between the uppers and the
20 lower jaw. When I fell off a bicycle onto broken
21 milk bottles, they saw that I was sown back
22 together. My food was plentiful and balanced. I
23 received all of the inoculations that were then in
24 vogue at the time. Athletics were encouraged. And I
25 ended up in my youth with a serviceable body. When

1 it eventually became my job to take care of myself,
2 I continued for the most part eating proper foods.
3 Although, I did overdo desserts. He loved his ice
4 cream.

5 Between the Boy Scouts, having four
6 sons, a peppy daughter, and enjoying canoeing,
7 sailing, and biking, I think I had plenty of
8 exercise. Even at 79, I continue to cut down and
9 then cut up midsized trees, plus climb onto the
10 roof to clean out the gutters. I'm just not quite
11 as fast as I used to be. I think our choice to not
12 smoke or drink alcoholic beverages has been good.

13 But the quest for life is more than
14 just an upkeep of your own body. My 11 years of
15 Quaker-sponsored education convinced me that it's
16 important to try to assure that others can maintain
17 a good life. If those around you are miserable,
18 you'll probably not feel too great yourself. You
19 might even catch whatever disease or other malady
20 they have. It has been important to me that the
21 sick and infirmed within our community are helped.

22 As for liberty, I've taken the liberty
23 of defining for myself what the signers of the
24 Declaration have had in mind, which in essence,
25 total freedom; freedom to make a whole batch of

1 choices. Of course, in order to make choices, one
2 must first gather up all of the facts of any given
3 situation, review the pros and cons, then study the
4 various options. I think my early chess days played
5 a good development role in philosophy as I use that
6 method every day.

7 It takes time and I'm not quite as
8 quick to come to an answer, but for me that process
9 provides the freedom that I need in taking
10 important steps. I have also enjoyed the liberty
11 and the freedom of travel, choice of friends,
12 purchases or not to purchase, religion and
13 politics, *et cetera*. Once again, my individual
14 liberty is not much if others around me do not have
15 it. I recall several journeys where we were
16 surrounded by people who really had no freedom of
17 choice. They appeared so poor, so uneducated, and
18 so bound up in their situation that all they wanted
19 to do was survive. There is more for me to do with
20 regard to the achievement of liberty.

21 As to the pursuit of happiness, here I
22 claim to have excelled. The list of items that have
23 brought pleasure is long. And if detailed -- and if
24 I detailed them, it would appear unseemly; wife,
25 family, extended family, they have all well

1 exceeded my expectations. The days of being a
2 child, a student, a lawyer, and a judge, and in
3 retirement have been very happy ones. I recognize
4 that an important factor in achieving such a
5 contentment has been the lack of worry in money.
6 Even when my parents put my wife and I on a \$200 a
7 month budget while in college, I did know that if I
8 needed extra help, they would provide.

9 Much of my happiness was also made
10 possible because of my healthy life and freedom to
11 choose as defined above. But just as important has
12 been the opportunity to be useful beyond my
13 profession and to retain and indulge in my childish
14 curiosity. The useful beyond my profession part
15 refers to my enjoyment in taking part in a fair
16 amount of community enterprises.

17 In recently reviewing the list, it has
18 struck me that all of those boards and committees
19 taught me a lot. It gave me a chance to pay
20 something back to the community that has provided
21 me and my family a nice free life. As to my
22 continued curiosity about things or ideas, I enjoy
23 the unusual; having helped create six different
24 pumpkin chuckers, a plug-in pickup truck, two 40-
25 foot bridges, a flower park, an 800-foot-long path

1 frame with pavers that are actually laid in morse
2 code, a message, a community board, a gazebo, and
3 much much more.

4 So that's the small testament to my
5 family and friends is written to confirm my opinion
6 that those truly wise framers who decided that it
7 was worth the fight to achieve life, liberty, and
8 the pursuit of happiness, did lay out at least for
9 me a true course. Mostly by luck, I have lived a
10 free and happy life, which they sacrificed.

11 And I'm sorry. I'm going to go over my
12 time. But I did want to say one thing about how he
13 did enjoy Orphans' Court, as most judges here know.
14 And he pushed me into that when I started -- when I
15 became a lawyer. So I did work with Jan and Wendy
16 in Orphans' Court and I did a lot of parental
17 terminations and different guardianships. And one
18 interesting thing is that I will be seeing Judge
19 Johnson this afternoon at 2 p.m. to adopt a foster
20 child that we took in and we will then be adopting
21 her. So it's kind of a really neat full circle
22 today that we're remembering my grandfather and
23 then we get to bring a new life into our house.
24 Sorry. Thank you.

25 MR. YOUNG: Dad actually liked coming to

1 Bar Memorials. He enjoyed learning something he had
2 not known about a fellow lawyer. And for those of
3 you who are younger here today, he wasn't always a
4 judge. He was a bit of a rascal, and not always
5 good at following rules. He liked to have what he
6 called good fun. He was the captain of a soccer
7 team and was known for a slide tackle from behind
8 that today would get you a red card. He played
9 catcher on the baseball team and liked seeing the
10 whole field in action.

11 Bob was a spark of entertainment, for
12 family and friends, an organizer. As a lawyer, he
13 didn't work Friday afternoons. As a judge, he
14 sometimes left early on Friday afternoons because
15 he came in early in the morning. He would come home
16 on a Friday with a plan for the weekend; a family
17 activity, such as a car trip, a game, a family get-
18 together, another canoe trip, a volunteer effort,
19 or just something to do for fun.

20 He did not like mowing the yard or
21 working around the house, but he did like building
22 things, tinkering with tools. For example,
23 restoring an old firetruck, taking apart an old
24 Cadillac piece by piece for spare parts for his
25 Cadillac, or building an electric vehicle. With

1 some technical help, he converted a Ford Ranger
2 pickup truck from a gas to electric. Removing the
3 gas engine, replacing with an electric motor, and
4 adding more than a dozen heavy six-volt lead-acid
5 batteries in the bed of the truck. He tried adding
6 some solar power, even a generator for a time. This
7 was a heavy and slow vehicle. Even so, he was
8 actually proud to be stopped for speeding in this,
9 although he was probably only going 55 in a 45
10 zone. He also enjoyed paying the fine at Magistrate
11 Donna Butler's office. He later donated the
12 electric Ranger to a local EV club. He often
13 donated to charities and many times anonymously in
14 effort to let others take the credit.

15 My first recollection of how the law
16 works back in the early '60s was while my father
17 was solicitor for the Borough of Macungie.
18 Conveniently, his brother-in-law was the mayor of
19 Macungie. There was a dirt road that provided
20 access to the borough water reservoir which was in
21 dispute. The owner of the property had put a chain
22 across the road. One night while it was dark, my
23 father, the solicitor, and his brother-in-law, the
24 mayor of Macungie, with for some reason me in tow,
25 took a hacksaw and cut the chain in several pieces

1 so it couldn't be used again. No court proceedings
2 were involved.

3 My father loved canoeing on the rivers
4 and streams mostly downstream with the current
5 including the entire length of the Delaware and
6 Hudson Rivers from their origin in the mountains to
7 the cities of Philadelphia or New York. On one
8 occasion while canoeing down the Hudson River, he
9 came upon what was then the mothball fleet of
10 liberty ships from World War II in what may have
11 been a restricted area. Undaunted, we canoed into
12 the area between several big liberty ships
13 separated only by big wooden blocks. Dangerous and
14 probably not legal. Luckily, the early '60s
15 security was not as vigilant as today. He also
16 enjoyed canoeing the white water like Foul Rift on
17 Delaware or gentle picturesque streams like the
18 Rancocas in New Jersey.

19 When I was 16, I wanted to buy a
20 motorcycle for the summer. The answer was a firm
21 no. The following summer when I again wanted to buy
22 a motorcycle, he reluctantly said okay to a small
23 Honda 150. Then, I wanted to buy a bigger
24 motorcycle. He decided he would buy my little Honda
25 150, never having ridden a cycle much before. It

1 didn't take long and he also wanted to buy a bigger
2 bike. Together with his good friend, the late Ed
3 Zamborsky, another local attorney, he bought a
4 faster Kawasaki 550 and Ed bought something
5 similar. And the two of them zipped around the
6 countryside.

7 Unfortunately, after a year or two of
8 this, while riding with Ed and my younger brother,
9 David, he failed to negotiate a turn and ended up
10 going down a 65-foot embankment, hitting a tree,
11 breaking his hip and shoulder with some internal
12 damage as well. Thus, ended motorcycling, per my
13 mother.

14 He liked to be on the move. Canoe trips
15 with family and friends, house boat trips, trips to
16 Disney world, big Disney fan, river cruises, for
17 some time, motorcycling, and long long drives
18 around the country. He and my mother would often
19 fly to cities around the country, rent a car, buy a
20 pair of folding chairs, and then drive from hotel
21 to hotel for a week or two seeing the sights along
22 the way. They would then return the car, give away
23 the chairs, and fly back home.

24 Locally, he was very proud of his 1967
25 Cadilliac Fleetwood, on which he put more than

1 100,000 miles just driving around the area
2 sometimes with a chauffeurs hat on for fun.

3 He was also a pumpkin chucker. After
4 watching an event in Lewes, Delaware after
5 retirement, he picked up building devices designed
6 to throw an eight-pound pumpkin. He built the
7 catapult, helped build a trebuchet, and worked hard
8 on a human-powered centrifugal throwing machine
9 which got him second place. This hobby put him in a
10 pumpkin chucking event with a crowd that did not
11 include any other judges. It was made up mostly of
12 mechanics, welders, and retired military-type
13 personnel. The creed of the pumpkin chucker was to
14 come home with all their fingers and toes.

15 Other than family, his lifetime passion
16 was probably flying. He -- before he was married,
17 he got a ride in a small plane with a friend. And
18 of course, he did not tell his parents. And when he
19 was older and more financially secure, he took
20 flying lessons and obtained a pilot's license
21 without telling his wife. After renting a plane
22 from time to time, he formed a flying club and
23 shared a single-engine Cessna Cardinal, a small
24 plane with overhead wings seating four passengers.

25 He was pilot for over 30 years and

1 loved to go on short trips. He especially enjoyed
2 taking friends for rides over their houses so they
3 could take pictures, sometimes flying down pretty
4 low. On one occasion, he had to declare a mayday to
5 get back under some clouds which had filled in
6 below. Embarrassing to a pilot. A pilot has to be
7 recertified periodically and work with an
8 instructor to maintain proficiency.

9 As it turns out, one of his principal
10 instructors came to his granddaughter, Rebecca, to
11 do a will after dad had given up flying due to
12 health reasons. The instructor confided in Becca
13 that the one thing that worried him about Bob's
14 flying was that he just flew too low too often. But
15 as usual, he was having fun and he was lucky.

16 I hope this has given you some little
17 glimpse into the life -- a life well spent doing
18 what he called good fun. Bob Young was a generous,
19 hardworking, very fun-loving, principled, and
20 honorable man. He left some final words for his
21 great grandchildren which have been enshrined on a
22 bench at Kalmbach Park. May they be useful, kind,
23 and happy. His was a useful, kind, and happy life.
24 Thank you.

25 PRESIDENT JUDGE JOHNSON: Thank you.

1 MS. HART CHARETTE: Thank you. Please
2 welcome Alexis Berg-Townsend.

3 MS. BERG-TOWNSEND: Good morning. May it
4 please the Court. My name is Alexis Berg-Townsend
5 and I'm here to honor the life and memory of Judith
6 A. Dexter.

7 Judy was born on December 22nd, 1954 in
8 Spokane, Washington and raised in Beacon, New York.
9 She attended SUNY Cortland, Cornell University,
10 where she met her husband, Robert "Bob" Rice, and
11 graduated from Syracuse Law School. Judy was
12 admitted into the Bar in 1982.

13 Judy dedicated her law practice career
14 to representing individuals in social security
15 disability and family law. I first met Judy
16 approximately 20 years ago when my father took me
17 to a social security disability committee luncheon.
18 There, many of the local practitioners would gather
19 together, sometimes monthly, sometimes quarterly,
20 to discuss their cases, the law, or POMS, as we
21 know them as social security disability
22 practitioners. During that luncheon, I had the
23 opportunity to meet three other female lawyers and
24 one of them was Judy. I talked to her about her
25 practice. I talked to her about the clients that

1 she would represent.

2 And after that luncheon, I remember
3 getting into the car with my father and said to
4 him, "Well, besides you, dad, Judy is someone that
5 I would like to resemble as a female attorney in
6 this area." And my dad specifically said to me,
7 "What did you notice about Judy than anybody else
8 that was in the room that day?" And I said, "Not
9 only was it her knowledge of the law, but it was
10 more her compassion that she had for representing
11 her clients."

12 Over the years, Judy became a colleague
13 to me. I would see her in the social security
14 disability waiting room and we would talk about our
15 cases, the judges, and I would often ask Judy, when
16 she would say to me some of the cases and the
17 clients that she had, I would say, "Judy, why are
18 you taking on those cases? They're very difficult.
19 Your chance of success is low." And Judy looked at
20 me in the eye and said, "Alexis, someone has to.
21 They need a voice and that's what I'm here for."

22 In 2013, when my father had to stop
23 practicing law, I realized I didn't know as much
24 about workers' compensation social security
25 disability as I thought I did and I needed mentors.

1 Two of them I see are also in this courtroom today,
2 Jeffrey Gross and Richard Director. And I do want
3 to thank you guys. And Judy was also one of them.
4 There are a number of times over the years I would
5 call Judy to ask her how to handle a certain case,
6 did I think a client of mine would GRID out, or is
7 there something I was missing that perhaps she
8 could point out.

9 In 2020, Judy became a friend of mine.
10 Her husband had suffered a heart attack and I
11 remember the phone call she made to me that day and
12 said, "Alexis, it's time for me to slow down. It's
13 time for me to spend time with my three beautiful
14 children and five grandchildren. And I'm going to
15 buy a house in Cape May." And I said, "Judy, I'm
16 jealous. It's going to be quite some time before I
17 can get to that point, but I'm here to support
18 you."

19 Her and I discussed as to how she would
20 begin to transition her practice to me. And I
21 became -- I was nervous. I didn't think I could
22 match the representation that Judy had for her
23 clients. On a weekly basis, Judy would touch base
24 with me because Judy and this local area had a lot
25 of clients come in. There were always phone calls

1 from prior clients referring clients of theirs or
2 friends of theirs, lawyers who would call me. And
3 it was a burden. It was a huge and heavy burden to
4 fill the shoes of Judy Dexter.

5 As she continued through past 2020,
6 Judy unfortunately had to battle cancer yet again.
7 This time, cancer had come back with much more of a
8 vengeance and we knew that her time was becoming
9 less and less. But there was never a moment that
10 Judy stopped representing her clients. Even after
11 she transitioned her practice more to me in 2020,
12 Judy would call for weekly updates. She would still
13 speak to the clients, if necessary. And she would
14 make sure that the cases were proceeding forward.
15 She was my tickler checklist.

16 The one thing that Judy never got to
17 know because she passed away on April 30th of 2024,
18 there had been two cases that she had been battling
19 in the appeals court for years. I remember those
20 cases in 2020 and she talked to me about them and
21 said that she would fight as much as she could with
22 those cases. In the end part of 2023, Judy was
23 still battling the United States District Court
24 with those cases, but recognized that she was
25 becoming weaker and not capable of handling those

1 cases. She made a phone call to me and said, "Can
2 you handle these cases?" I didn't hesitate and
3 said, "Absolutely." She never got to know that her
4 hard work over six and eight years on those cases
5 were actually successful because my office and I
6 were able to win those cases that she fought so
7 hard in over the recent months.

8 Judy will deeply be missed in this
9 community. She was a pioneer for both women and for
10 female attorneys. She took on those cases that most
11 people wouldn't want to take, including myself.
12 Judy was the voice for this community. She was the
13 mother to many. And her legacy will never be
14 missed, especially from me. Thank you.

15 PRESIDENT JUDGE JOHNSON: Thank you.

16 MS. HART CHARETTE: Please welcome the
17 Honorable Melissa Pavlack.

18 JUDGE PAVLACK: May it please the Court.
19 Good morning to the families and honored colleagues
20 of those being remembered here today.

21 Spyro Gellos was born on February 22nd,
22 1930 to Greek immigrant parents. His parents came
23 to this country from Sparta, Greece. The family
24 lived in Allentown and ran a successful restaurant
25 just on the other side of the Historic Courthouse

1 called the Colonial Luncheonette at 515 Hamilton.
2 Spyro went to Allen High School, then Muhlenberg
3 College, and then Georgetown University Law School.
4 He served in the United States Navy during the
5 Korean War.

6 Spyro had many hobbies and talents. He
7 was an accomplished violinist and an artist. His
8 legal career was something he felt honored to have
9 and to be a part of. He dedicated his professional
10 life to helping his clients. If you knew Spyro, you
11 knew that he was always dressed impeccably for
12 court, always respectful to the Court, and always a
13 zealous advocate, yet collegial, to his
14 adversaries.

15 Spyro was devoted to his family. He
16 cared for his parents until their last days. He
17 made sure that his brother was well-cared for and
18 had the best of care when his health began to
19 deteriorate. Within Spyro's family was also his
20 church family. To know Spyro was to know that he
21 was extremely proud of his Greek heritage and his
22 Greek Orthodox faith. Spyro and his family were
23 financial benefactors who supported the building of
24 St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Bethlehem in
25 the early 1960s. Spyro carried that dedication to

1 the church throughout his life and has established
2 the Gellos Family Trust to help support the church.

3 On Sundays, Spyro claimed his usual
4 seat in church. He was actively involved in all
5 church activities like social events, the senior
6 citizens group, and helping at the very famous
7 church festival that I know most of you come to
8 each year in the spring and fall. Spyro would dress
9 as casually as he could, don a baseball cap with
10 the Greek flag on it, and grill souvlaki throughout
11 the festival.

12 He was also actively involved in the
13 American Hellenic Education Progressive
14 Association, also known as the AHEPA. He served as
15 the president of the Allentown Chapter and
16 established scholarship programs for young
17 students. Each year on March 25th, Spyro would
18 attend the Greek flag raising ceremony at City Hall
19 in Allentown for Greek Independence Day. He would
20 proudly chant "zito ellas", which means long live
21 Greece.

22 Spyro's always concerned for other
23 people and gave so much of himself to help others.
24 For me, he was my parents' good friend. He attended
25 family celebrations at our home and he didn't miss

1 any of the milestone events in our family from
2 baptisms, to weddings, and everything in between.

3 He encouraged me to pursue my career
4 goals as an attorney and then as judge. He gave me
5 good advice and was always interested in knowing
6 what was going on in my journey right along the
7 path to becoming a judge as well. What a great
8 supporter he was to me as he attended all of my
9 campaign events and proudly wore my campaign button
10 even at places that maybe he shouldn't have, like
11 church.

12 You didn't have to be blood-related to
13 Spyro to feel that you were loved and a part of his
14 family. In the Greek church, we have many memorials
15 for people after they pass. We hold a memorial
16 service after 40 days, after one year, three years,
17 five years, and so on after that. The idea being
18 that when someone loved passes, it is a reminder
19 that so long as we remember them, they will always
20 be with us. During the service, we ask that the
21 memory of them be eternal. So to Spyro and all
22 those remembered here today, may their memory be
23 eternal. Thank you.

24 MS. HART CHARETTE: Thank you. Please
25 welcome Dennis McCarthy.

1 MR. McCARTHY: Your Honors. Good
2 morning. My name is Dennis McCarthy. I was Judge
3 Davison's law partner and it's really an honor for
4 me to get up and tell you a little bit about his
5 life.

6 Actually, the Judge hired me right out
7 of law school in 1994 and I spent my entire legal
8 career with him. So I'm here to talk about Max
9 Davison, also known to most people as Judge
10 Davison, and to some people as Maximum Max. But he
11 wasn't always Maximum Max. Judge Davison was born
12 in 1932 in Shenandoah, PA, the youngest son of
13 Leonard and Bessie Davison. His father, Leonard,
14 came to this country with \$20 in his pocket and
15 somehow ended up in Shenandoah, PA, where he
16 established the Davison Furniture Store.

17 Judge Davison and his brothers and
18 sister, Jules Bernard and Ruby, lived in an
19 apartment above the store all pitching in to run
20 the family business. But when Judge Davison was 10,
21 he became an orphan and was raised by his oldest
22 brother, Jules, and his then new wife, Gert. So at
23 10 with no parents and is one of the few Jewish
24 people in Shenandoah, he had to find that at times
25 fight for his place in the world.

1 Judge Davison graduated from Wyoming
2 Seminary in Scranton and then went on to Lafayette
3 College where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts
4 degree and served as the sports editor of the
5 Lafayette College Newspaper. He then received his
6 law degree from Dickenson School of Law, where he
7 was articles editor at the Dickenson Law Review.
8 Along the way, he met his future wife, Barbara, an
9 Allentownian, and moved to Allentown to start his
10 family and his law practice.

11 Judge Davison and Barbara had four
12 children: Mark, Ricky, Andrew, and Douglas. Sadly,
13 Ricky passed away when he was 12. Mark, Andrew, and
14 Douglas grew up in the west end of Allentown, went
15 to Allen High School, and played sports at the JCC.
16 Mark is now an IT professional with two sons of his
17 own, Benjamin and Jason. Andrew is a professor at
18 Vassar and he and his wife, Sahara, have a son,
19 Shaiyan, and are expecting their second child any
20 day now. And Douglas is a partner at the law firm
21 of Linklaters at Washington D.C. and he and his
22 wife, Lisa, have two daughters, Emma and Allison.

23 As far as his legal career, Judge
24 Davison engaged in the general practice of law in
25 Allentown from 1957 until appointed to the Lehigh

1 County Court of Common Pleas by Governor Milton
2 Shapp in 1971. Importantly, he was the first Jewish
3 person to serve as a judge in Lehigh County. He
4 then achieved a full tenure judicial term in 1973
5 where he became the first governor-appointed judge
6 to successfully cross file and be elected to the
7 bench without opposition. Ten years later in 1983,
8 voters retained him for a second ten-year term.

9 During his tenure on the bench, Judge
10 Davison served as administrative judge of the
11 court, presided over hundreds of criminal and civil
12 trials, as well as the juvenile court. He also
13 served as president of the Pennsylvania Conference
14 of State Trial Judges, a representative to the
15 National Conference of State Trial Judges, and as
16 chairman of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges
17 Commission.

18 Now, the name Maximum Max, he kind of
19 loved it, but it really wasn't true. He was tough,
20 but fair, always thoughtful when doling out
21 sentences. He also did not forget what it was like
22 to be a lawyer once he became a judge. And he would
23 help young lawyers sometimes by saying, "Hey,
24 counselor, did I hear you object to that," when
25 they missed an opportunity to do so.

1 In October of 1990 at age 58, when many
2 are contemplating retirement, Judge Davison left
3 the bench and joined Duane Morris and it's
4 Allentown lawyers, Jack Hayes and Ed Feege, to
5 manage Duane Morris' Allentown office. The
6 transition from judge back to private practice
7 wasn't always smooth.

8 Early on when I was basically just
9 carrying his bag following him around into court,
10 we had a hearing before Judge Wallitsch. As the
11 hearing went on, Judge Davison popped up and said,
12 "Objection sustained." Judge Wallitsch looked at
13 him and kind of nodded and said, "Okay. Sustained."
14 A few minutes later, he did it again. He popped up
15 and said, "Objection sustained." At that point,
16 Judge Wallitsch had to say, "I'm the judge. You
17 make the objection, I sustain it." Judge Davison
18 said that he understood, but I don't think he was
19 that happy about it.

20 But once he was back into private
21 practice, he brought the same energy, enthusiasm,
22 and work ethic that made him a great judge and
23 rebuilt an extraordinary practice.

24 Now, as Duane Morris grew into a
25 national and then international law firm, in 2006

1 when he was 73, when most people are actually
2 retired, he and I decided to leave Duane Morris and
3 form our own office to really focus on the Lehigh
4 Valley market. It was an exciting but nerve-racking
5 time. I remember when he and I drove to
6 Philadelphia to tell the chairman of Duane Morris
7 that we were leaving to start our own office. The
8 meeting seemed to go well, but as we both drove
9 back to Allentown, we wondered, are we going to be
10 locked out of the office and is our -- are our
11 files going to be on the curb? Fortunately, none of
12 that happened. Duane Morris really understood what
13 we were trying to do and could not have been more
14 helpful or gracious.

15 Building Davison and McCarthy was an
16 adventure, but once again, Judge Davison brought
17 his energy, enthusiasm, and work ethic in his mid-
18 70s to make it a success. Now, the one -- we had a
19 very basic partnership agreement between the two of
20 us. And the one thing he insisted on having in
21 there was I wasn't allowed to retire before him.
22 Now, at the time, it seemed like a no-brainer, but
23 little did I know he was going to work to almost
24 90. And so I had to go back and think about that
25 one.

1 Now, it wasn't all work and no play for
2 Judge Davison. His office was a frequent and I
3 think sometimes mandatory stop for those seeking
4 public office in the Lehigh Valley. Judge Davison
5 was a confidant of many in public life, a keen
6 observer, and frequent participant in government
7 and politics. And both before and after his tenure
8 on the bench, he was active in many local, state
9 and national campaigns.

10 Judge Davison was also an avid sports
11 enthusiast and participant, as well as a lifelong
12 Yankees fan. In the early '80s, he played an
13 exhibition tennis match with Don Budge at Oakmont
14 Tennis Club in the west end of Allentown. Now, for
15 those of you that don't know, Don Budge was a
16 tennis legend and the first player to win the
17 tennis Grand Slam. Now, early in the match, Judge
18 Davison hit a good shot that got by Budge. So Budge
19 called him to the net and said, "I hope you enjoyed
20 that because it's not going to happen." And it
21 didn't.

22 He was also a dedicated swimmer. And
23 later in life, successfully swam the simulated
24 English Channel swim, a 20-mile swim at the JCC. He
25 also became an avid golfer and played regularly at

1 Lehigh Country Club. Now, I say he was an avid
2 golfer, not a good golfer. Apparently, there's a
3 grove of trees near the number two tee box at
4 Lehigh named "Davison's Corner" because his ball
5 ended up there more often than not.

6 Now, Max Davison was a lot of things to
7 a lot of people. He was a fighter who fought his
8 way out of Shenandoah, became the first Jewish
9 judge in Lehigh County, and I believe the first
10 Jewish member at Lehigh Country Club. He was an
11 incredibly loyal and caring person. When his wife,
12 Barbara, became ill, he would visit her twice a day
13 at Arden Courts. And he cherished his large group
14 of friends, especially his fellow judges and the
15 other legal heavyweights at the judges' lunch
16 table.

17 At his core, he was kind and
18 thoughtful. He would listen to your problems and
19 provide general guidance. He would be gracious and
20 grateful for your help. He was the kind of judge
21 that would sit and comfort a 14-year-old boy in
22 juvenile court when his mother didn't show up for
23 the hearing.

24 So to wrap this up, Judge Davison was
25 an exceptional judge, an outstanding lawyer, and a

1 dedicated community member who left an indelible
2 mark on Allentown, the Court, generations of
3 lawyers and judges, and most importantly, his
4 family and friends. Thank you very much.

5 MS. HART CHARETTE: Thank you. Please
6 welcome the Honorable Henry Perkin.

7 JUDGE PERKIN: President Judge Johnson,
8 judges of the Court of Common Pleas, members of the
9 Bar, and guests.

10 Karolyn Vreeland Blume passed away on
11 July 16, 2024. While this can be said of most
12 people, she left us much too soon. Karolyn was a
13 true force of nature. My first introduction to
14 Karolyn was at a dinner meeting of the Bar
15 Association of Lehigh County at the Well House,
16 which was a restaurant on South Mountain. It was
17 the fall of 1977. She had been recently admitted to
18 the Bar and took up her position as an associate of
19 Judge Palladino while the judge was in private
20 practice. This was her first meeting at the Bar
21 Association.

22 As with many of us, she was the subject
23 of a tradition which fortunately has been relegated
24 to the trash heap of history. She was asked a
25 stupid question in an effort to have her embarrass

1 herself if she answered. While I cannot remember
2 the question, I do remember that her response was a
3 take no prisoner's answer. Here, she set the tone
4 of the relationship with the Bar as it then
5 existed, a Bar that was overwhelmingly male. From
6 that early time, I knew I wanted to be her friend.

7 Karolyn was born and raised in New York
8 City. She and her family later settled in New
9 Jersey. There she graduated from Kent Place School,
10 where she played goalie on the field hockey and
11 lacrosse teams. She earned her B.A. degree in
12 political science with honors from Skidmore College
13 where she also was president of the student body.
14 She received her law degree from Villanova
15 University School of Law. And upon graduation, she
16 settled in Allentown to open her first practice.

17 While Karolyn had many friends in the
18 legal community, she became a member of a
19 longstanding lunch group which included me, Keller
20 Kline, and Rich Somach. We had lunch as many as
21 five days a week. With Karolyn in the group, we
22 never ran out of things to discuss. Over the years,
23 Judge Bill Platt, Stuart Shmookler joined the
24 group, with drop ins by Bob Donatelli, Judge Bob
25 Steinberg, and DA Jim Martin.

1 Karolyn's political leanings were
2 always to the left and, now, Bill Platt's was
3 slightly to the right of center. You know, just
4 slightly. Bill would love to get Karolyn going when
5 it came to politics. He referred to it as poking
6 the bear. If you know Karolyn, you know she could
7 be quite animated. And these discussions were
8 nuclear versions of animation. But it was all in
9 good fun and certainly it was a great diversion
10 from our jobs and our practices.

11 Our good friend, Keller Kline, reminded
12 me of a story at the time of Karolyn's memorial
13 service. On one of our many lunch dates, Keller
14 called Karolyn's office and told her assistant that
15 he was calling to see if she was going to join us
16 for lunch that day. After speaking with Karolyn,
17 her assistant got back on the phone and told
18 Keller, "Karolyn can't have lunch with you today.
19 She's having lunch with her friends." You always
20 knew where you stood with Karolyn.

21 Now, notwithstanding the hazing she
22 took during her first Bar Association meeting,
23 excuse me, she became an uber member of that
24 association. She served on a multitude of
25 committees, served on the board of directors of the

1 Bar Association and became the first female and
2 youngest president of the association. Excuse me. I
3 messed up my page.

4 Karolyn was a -- was awarded the Legal
5 Eagle Award, which was awarded each year by the
6 president of the Bar Association for a lawyer who
7 had provided extraordinary service. She received
8 more Legal Eagle Awards than any other Bar
9 Association member. I believe she received as many
10 as five of them. She served on the centennial
11 committee and helped write the published history of
12 the association in 2005.

13 In 1987, on the 200th anniversary of
14 the United States Constitution, the Bar Association
15 put on a dramatization of the Constitutional
16 Convention which was televised on WLVT, channel 39.
17 Since there were no women who served at the
18 convention in 1787, she was the narrator. When Bob
19 Donatelli stepped down as the moderator of channel
20 39's Lehigh law lines, it was Karolyn who succeeded
21 him making her television debut. And she did a
22 wonderful job.

23 I have wonderful memories of Karolyn.
24 Karolyn and Peter's daughter, Susanna, grew up with
25 our children. We remember visiting them at their

1 Pocono home in Buck Hill where we hiked the woods
2 and visited the falls. A few weeks ago, Susanna
3 sent me a picture of me, Rich Somach, and Karolyn
4 in the basement of their home where we were trying
5 to replace a furnace filter. And I don't know how
6 long ago this was, but my hair was brown and it was
7 all there. So it was a while ago. Susanna put a
8 caption on the -- on the picture that said, how
9 many lawyers does it take to change a filter? The
10 answer was obviously more than three. I can tell
11 you that was a long time ago, but it just simply
12 tells me how long we have been friends.

13 While Peter and Karolyn decided to end
14 their marriage, they remained the best of friends
15 always. Both of them were so proud of their
16 daughter and her truly remarkable achievements in
17 working for the United States government as well as
18 working in the private sector in Washington D.C.
19 Susanna was appointed by President Joe Biden and
20 confirmed by the Senate to serve as a Director of
21 Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation for the
22 United States Department of Defense at the
23 Pentagon. She's a true public servant. And while
24 Karolyn will always be pleased to tell us of
25 Susanna's accomplishments, they were the true and

1 heartfelt feelings of a proud parent.

2 There was a period of time when Karolyn
3 moved to Virginia outside of Washington to pursue
4 her career as a business mediator, of which she was
5 quite successful. During that time, she published
6 her first book. But we were all very happy to have
7 her move back to Allentown a few years later. She
8 picked up where she left off and became a member of
9 the board of directors of the Bar Association and a
10 delegate for the Pennsylvania Bar Association House
11 of Delegates. Most importantly, she rejoined the
12 lunch group. That was so important to its
13 participates.

14 I do realize that in this year on
15 December 23rd, I will not receive the annual happy
16 Festivus email from her. She was a good friend. She
17 will be missed by her daughter and she'll be missed
18 by her many friends. Thank you.

19 MS. HART CHARETTE: Thank you. As I
20 previously stated, my partner Victor Cavacini is
21 here today on behalf of Jim McConnell.
22 Unfortunately, Vic has a little bit of a cough. So
23 he had asked that I provide the speech instead. So
24 for purposes of what I'm about to state, I'm
25 obviously a very poor man's Victor Cavacini.

1 I see a lot of young people in
2 attendance. Many of you would not know Jim
3 McConnell. He was 87 when he passed away, so never
4 -- I apologize -- when he passed away, so many
5 never had a chance to meet Jim. I want to tell you
6 a little about Jim. Jim was a sweet guy. I never
7 heard him say anything nasty about another person
8 other than politicians he did not agree with. Jim
9 was well-read. He knew about the struggle of
10 mankind throughout the world and knew there was not
11 anything he could do about it.

12 Jim started life in Reading,
13 Pennsylvania. His parents moved to Allentown when
14 Jim was 11. His parents were of Irish and Welsh
15 heritage. Jim made the best corn beef and cabbage
16 you would ever want to eat. Jim attended the
17 Allentown School system and attended high school
18 when it was called Allentown High School. Jim
19 graduated from Muhlenberg and then entered the
20 Coast Guard for three years obtaining the rank of
21 captain. When discharged, Jim attended law school
22 at Duquesne.

23 He married his lifelong partner, Lois,
24 and they were married 55 years when Jim passed
25 away. The apple of Jim's eye was their daughter,

1 Katie. Then Katie married Tom, and along came Danny
2 and James. And Jim was complete. Danny is at Penn
3 State, and Jim -- James wants to enter the
4 University of Pittsburgh.

5 Jim enjoyed fishing at the Lehman Lake
6 Rod and Gun Club where he was a lifelong member.
7 Jim's legal focus was real estate and estate
8 administration. He was a member of Snyder, Doll and
9 Schantz which was an active law firm during the
10 time Jim practiced. That is where I got to know
11 Jim.

12 Jim was a good guy. His family will
13 miss him dearly. I lost a friend, but I am grateful
14 to have this opportunity to tell you a little bit
15 about Jim McConnell. Thank you.

16 Please welcome our final speaker, Chad
17 Wishchuk.

18 MR. WISHCHUK: Good morning. May it
19 please the Court. My name is Chad Wishchuk, and I'm
20 here in honor of my dad, Jim Wishchuk.

21 First, I want to thank the Court and
22 the Bar for including my dad and our family in this
23 remarkable tradition. For the Lehigh County Bar
24 Association and judges to hold this memorial
25 ceremony each year is quite remarkable and a

1 tribute not only to those honored each year, but
2 also to the fine people that make up the Bar here
3 in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

4 Your kindness and thoughtfulness is
5 very appreciated. And please know that this
6 ceremony means a lot to our family and certainly
7 would have meant the world to my dad. A special
8 thanks to Judge Ford for all the time and thought
9 he put into making our family feel so welcome and
10 comfortable here today.

11 My dad, James Wishchuk, grew up in
12 Allentown. The son of a World War II Navy
13 machinist's mate and a dressmaker. He graduated
14 from Central Catholic, married his high school
15 sweetheart, Ellen Tighe, and earned a journalism
16 degree from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh
17 before going to Temple for law school. After law
18 school, he returned to Allentown to start a family
19 in what proved to be a 50 plus year legal career
20 here in Lehigh County.

21 My dad's legal practice specialized in
22 wills and trusts and estate planning. And for the
23 last 35 years, he was a sole practitioner. He was
24 very proud of the 50 years -- of his 50 years as a
25 lawyer. And he told me the day of his 50-year

1 pinning ceremony at the Bar Association that it
2 struck him that day how the first 25 years of his
3 legal career seemed to have gone by very quickly,
4 but not nearly as quickly as those second 25 years.
5 What I took away from what dad said there, was that
6 we should try to always appreciate all the time we
7 have. And because it's so easy to allow the years
8 to slip right by so quickly, we should always keep
9 focus on what is really important to us.

10 What was really important to my dad, in
11 addition to his legal career, was his family. He
12 said in his obituary that he considered his
13 greatest life achievement to be his family. Both of
14 my sisters are here today: Maryellen Graziano;
15 Maryellen is a mathematician and a grade school
16 teacher at Mount St. Mary -- in Mount Airy,
17 Maryland and she has three grown children; and my
18 other sister, Jane Moore. Jane is an occupational
19 hand therapist and businesswoman in Downingtown,
20 Pennsylvania with three children ranging in age
21 from college to eighth grade.

22 While the three of us were growing up
23 and all through dad's legal career, he was able to
24 thread the needle of being both a successful lawyer
25 and simultaneously a dedicated family man. Dinner

1 was always promptly at 5:15 each night at our house
2 on Greenleaf Street and dad was always home for it.
3 Sometimes that meant he had to go back to the
4 office after dinner. On Monday nights, for many
5 years, he served on the Lehigh County Zoning Board.
6 And on Thursday nights, he taught legal related
7 courses at Cedar Crest College.

8 Dad was always so supportive of me and
9 my sisters while we grew up. Maryellen tells the
10 story of how, while she was in college, dad would
11 often drive all the way to Emmitsburg, Maryland to
12 watch her Mount St. Mary softball team play even on
13 weekdays. After the games, dad would take a group
14 of Maryellen's teammates out for dinner. And then,
15 he'd drive all the way home to be ready for work at
16 his office the next day.

17 Jane remembers when she was in college
18 at the University of Pittsburgh, dad coming to
19 visit. But instead of simply admiring her off-
20 campus rental house like the rest of her roommates'
21 parents, dad managed to corner the landlord with a
22 copy of the lease and negotiate a better deal.
23 There really was no limit to what he would do for
24 his family or to make his kids feel special. He
25 made everyone feel special.

1 If dad wasn't working, or serving the
2 community, or being there for his family, anyone
3 who knew him knows they could usually find him at a
4 Central Catholic sporting event. Dad's love of high
5 school sports went to such a degree that when I was
6 in high school, he authored and published a full
7 color CCHS basketball yearbook with player
8 profiles, lots of photos, and pages and pages of
9 game results and statistics spanning decades going
10 all the way back to before he was in school at
11 Central. At the time, he was featured in The
12 Morning Call, where they referred to dad's book as
13 the basketball bible for every CCHS fan. This
14 basketball guide was a remarkable creation and a
15 unique local treasure.

16 As for me, dad got me to follow in his
17 legal footsteps. And after graduating from his
18 beloved University of Notre Dame, I, too, went to
19 Temple Law School. At that time in the 1990s, he
20 had his office on 9th and Linden Streets not far
21 from here, right across from the iconic Hess's
22 Department Store. And I remember he took me there
23 to buy me my very first suit. I remember it well.
24 It was a light gray twill suit with cuffed pants,
25 pleats, and a full cut, distinctly in the fashion

1 of the mid-1990s, which my 18-year-old son now
2 tells me is starting to come back in style. It
3 turns out my son got his fashion conscience --
4 sense from my dad.

5 I now practice in San Diego,
6 California, but it was all the lessons and values I
7 learned growing up right here in the Lehigh Valley
8 from my dad that shaped the lawyer and the person I
9 am today. My very first paying job was at the age
10 of about 12 when dad handed me \$20 to change out
11 all the pocket parts in his law books in his
12 office; the Pennsylvania Statutes annotated
13 volumes. Twenty dollars was a lot of dough for a
14 young kid at that time and it began to instill in
15 me the incredible work ethic dad operated under for
16 the 50 years of his legal career.

17 I strive each day now to be an example
18 to my two kids of my dad's great work ethic and
19 family values. His eight grandkids called him
20 affectionally, "Papa". And he loved being a
21 grandfather. And he loved being a lawyer. His
22 clients and his Lehigh Valley community of friends
23 and his family will all miss him very much. Thank
24 you.

25 MS. HART CHARETTE: I'd like to thank

1 all the speakers for their moving tributes today
2 and everyone who's here in attendance to bear
3 witness.

4 As I turn this ceremony back over to
5 the Court, I would like to share a quote that
6 represents all of our dear friends as we say
7 goodbye to them today.

8 Do not stand by my grave and weep. I
9 am not there; I do not sleep. I am the thousand
10 winds that blow. I am the diamond glints on snow.
11 I am the sun on ripened grain. I am the gentle
12 autumn rain. When you awaken in the morning's hush,
13 I am the swift, up-flinging rush of quiet birds in
14 circled flight. I am the soft star that shines at
15 night. Do not stand by my grave and cry. I am not
16 there; I did not die. Thank you.

17 PRESIDENT JUDGE JOHNSON: Thank you,
18 Attorney Hart Charette.

19 Like probably many of us, I personally
20 have vivid memories of each of today's honorees.
21 I'd like to briefly share, if you'll indulge me,
22 two of those related to the two judges who are
23 former members of this Court, Judge Young and Judge
24 Davison.

25 So when I was running for judge, Judge

1 Young was retired and I asked if I could talk to
2 him about supporting me being an honorary
3 chairperson. And he said, "Sure. I'll meet you at
4 the Bear Swamp Diner," at some ungodly hour of 7:00
5 in the morning. But if you wanted to talk to Judge
6 Young, that's when you were going to talk to him.
7 And everybody's laughing because they know what an
8 early riser he was.

9 So there I was. And I had decided --
10 and it was summer time. And I had decided that a
11 good move for me was to start to wear a polo shirt,
12 a golf shirt, when I went door to door and when I
13 was doing all this very busy campaigning work. And
14 so I showed up and sat across from him in his white
15 shirt -- and I can still see it -- green plaid tie.
16 And I'm there in a navy-blue polo shirt. And not
17 too far into the conversation he said, "Why are you
18 dressed like that?" And I said, "Well, you know, I
19 have this good idea." Now, I had been doing it for
20 all of about a week and I had never done it before
21 in my life, but I thought this was a good idea.

22 You know, went to catholic school; wore
23 a tie all the time. And he said, "Why are you
24 dressed like that?" And I said, "Well, you know, I
25 think it's a good idea. You know, I'm trying to be

1 -- you know, so I can move around." He said, "No."
2 He said, "I'm wearing this out of respect for you."
3 And those are the words I'll never forget. And he
4 taught me a lesson that I've never forgotten that
5 day. So I just wanted to pass that on to you. That
6 golf shirt, I don't know where it is anymore.

7 Judge Davison, and many of you might
8 have experienced this, he was also -- I also talked
9 to him about this. But this was him as a judge, me
10 as a young lawyer. And I would be in a hearing or a
11 trial and I would say, "Objection." And he'd ask
12 for the basis. And I would state the basis. And he
13 would say, "Well, if that's your objection, it's
14 overruled." And of course, I would then sit there
15 for the rest of the trial agonizing over the fact
16 that there was a good objection, I just hadn't made
17 it. And I would spend the whole time thinking about
18 that. So those are a couple stories I wanted to
19 share with you. Memories of them.

20 You know, it's always fascinating how
21 much we -- more we learn about our colleagues at
22 this ceremony. And we want to express our
23 appreciation to the Bar Association for continuing
24 this tradition, specifically to Attorney Jenna
25 Fliszar, the Chair of the Bar Memorials Committee,

1 for her hard work in making this ceremony a
2 success, to the speakers who have so beautifully
3 memorialized our departed colleagues.

4 They have helped us to continue a great
5 tradition, allowed us to share in the lives of our
6 departed members and to be reminded of, or learn,
7 about some of the qualities that we wish to
8 emulate. We are truly grateful for the lives of
9 those we have honored here today and for their
10 commitment to the principles of justice we share.

11 We thank you for joining us today in
12 remembrance and thought. And we especially thank
13 the family members, friends, and associates of our
14 departed colleagues for sharing them with us. They
15 have enriched our lives as well as yours.

16 The official court reporter is directed
17 to transcribe the notes of testimony of these
18 proceedings and to make a digital copy of it
19 available to the Bar Association of Lehigh County.
20 And we ask the Bar Association to publish that,
21 which they will do on their homepage at
22 <http://www.lehighbar.org>. One may read, print, or
23 download it from that site.

24 On a personal note, this is the last
25 time that I will preside over the Bar Memorials as

1 President Judge. It has been my profound honor --
2 excuse me -- to do that these past five years.
3 After we adjourn, many of us will rhetorically ask,
4 what will they say about me when it's my turn? I
5 suggest that if we live every day as our best self,
6 with integrity, humanity, and pride in everything
7 we do, they will say good things.

8 The Bar Association of Lehigh County
9 invites you to a coffee reception in the hallway
10 directly outside this courtroom immediately after
11 this ceremony.

12 At this time, we will adjourn this
13 ceremony out of respect for our departed
14 colleagues, in honor of the profession of law
15 which they served and its honorable traditions in
16 Lehigh County. Mr. Metzner, you may adjourn court.

17 COURT CRIER: All rise, please. The
18 memorial service is adjourned.

19 (Whereupon, the Bar Memorial Ceremony
20 concluded.)

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CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this transcript of proceedings is true and correct and meets the format specifications established by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in Rule 4010.

July 18, 2025

DATE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brianna M. Seese', with a stylized, cursive script.

BRIANNA M. SEESE, CER