

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR  
ATTORNEY BENJAMIN F. BLACK  
ATTORNEY WILLIAM F. BRODT, JR.  
ATTORNEY WILLIAM B. JOACHIM, JR.  
ATTORNEY DOMINICK A. LOCKWOOD  
ATTORNEY ROBERT MARGOLIS

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Memorial Services held in Courtroom No. 1, Northampton County  
Government Center, Easton, Pennsylvania, on Tuesday, October 1, 2002,  
at 9:00 a.m.

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ALSO PRESENT:

HONORABLE WILLIAM F. MORAN, JUDGE  
HONORABLE F. P. KIMBERLY McFADDEN, JUDGE  
HONORABLE JACK A. PANELLA, JUDGE  
HONORABLE EDWARD G. SMITH, JUDGE

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THE COURT: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, and particularly good morning to the members of the families of those who we honor this morning.

This Court is convened today en banc to recognize and to recall members of this bar who have passed away during this year. I wish to express my regrets that Judge Freedberg, our President Judge, could not be here today, and I will serve in his stead.

The Court recognizes the President of the Northampton County Bar Association, Joanne Kelhart.

MS. KELHART: May it please the Court, colleagues, friends and family of Benjamin Black, William Brodt, William Joachim, Dominick Lockwood and Robert Margolis.

This year is an especially sad one for the Northampton County Bar. We have lost five beloved members of this bar. And we are reminded by

Samuel Johnson that it is not your death that is the most important event but how you lived your life.

The men we eulogize today were shining examples of public service, philanthropy and hard work. They were soldiers, husbands, fathers, brothers and our brethren at the bar. They heeded a call to uphold the rights and freedoms we enjoy by the common goal of being a lawyer. These men brought honor to our profession, and they brought integrity to their dealings with their colleagues and with this Court. They were compassionate, and a common thread among them was their love of the law. They held it in their hearts, and they represented their clients with zeal, and honesty.

These men are shining examples to those of us who continue in this profession, and they exhort us to be better lawyers and better people. The standards they set are high. They understood that this is a noble profession that requires high standards. And we celebrate their legacy today and hold fast to the treasure they have left for our bar.

At this time I would like to thank the Court for designating this day to commemorate our colleagues. And I would also like to thank the participants who will be eulogizing the members of our bar this morning, The Honorable Alan M. Black, Michael Riskin, Thomas Maloney, Gus Milides and The Honorable Jeanette Reibman.

MS. KELHART: I would ask the Court now recognize Michael Riskin to eulogize William Brodt.

JUDGE MORAN: Mr. Riskin.

MR. RISKIN: May it please the Court, attorneys, ladies and gentlemen, family and friends.

The life and times of William F. Brodt, Jr.

Billy, as he was affectionately referred to by most, was born to humble beginnings in Portland, Pennsylvania, on August 26, 1931. He was the son of William F. Brodt, Sr., and Emma Belle Shook Brodt.

For those who do not know where Portland is located, it is in Northampton County. And if you look on a Pennsylvania map, it is at vertical H and horizontal 23.5 on the map. Or you can go to the Delaware River like the indians did, paddle north until you hit the first covered bridge, and Portland is on your left.

But I digress. That's on this typed piece of paper, too.

Anyway, he was born in Portland, Pennsylvania, and he stayed in Portland, Pennsylvania. He lived in Portland, Pennsylvania, died in Portland, Pennsylvania, and he was buried in Portland, Pennsylvania. He never forgot his roots. He attended the Portland Area High School through the eleventh grade, and then in 1948 he graduated from East Stroudsburg High School. Why would he graduate from East Stroudsburg High School? Well, in his senior year Portland eliminated the twelfth grade because there was not enough students to have a class, and he was shipped to East Stroudsburg. This was good. Portland didn't have a football team, and Billy played football for East Stroudsburg and, in fact, scored the first touchdown against Stroudsburg in what was to become the first game of that intense rivalry between East Stroudsburg and Stroudsburg. He was either a tackle or a guard. Nobody seems to know. And he scored on an interception.

He loved football and spent many Sundays watching his favorite team, the Minnesota Vikings, with his son, Troy. For some reason he switched to the Miami Dolphins, and that was his favorite team.

After high school he went into the U.S. Marine Corps and was stationed at the Marine Barracks in Washington, D.C., where he served with the 8th and I. This unit was the honor guard for presidential visiting dignitaries and the honor guard at the Unknown Soldier's Tomb when the honor guard was required. He was in the honor guard that performed the dedication of the Marine Corps War Memorial in Washington, D.C., on November 10th, 1954, and he was discharged from the service with the rank of sergeant.

After the service, he went to college and law school on the Veterans Bill. He attended one year at Maryville College. Then he transferred to Pitt, where he eventually graduated. He was a big Pitt football supporter and was always in the minority in the Slate Belt region where most people were Penn State fans.

While at Pitt, he came home every weekend to work at the A&P, first in the warehouse but then—of course, in Portland—as a bookkeeper. At the A&P Store he met his wife, Yvonne, who worked at the A&P Store. They married and had a wonderful 43 years together in, where else, but Portland. They have a son named Troy. And, of course, he presently lives in Portland.

Bill went to Temple University Law School, which is not in Portland, where his roommate was Lehigh County lawyer Joseph Rosenfeld. Upon passing the bar examination in 1962, he joined the law practice of Thomas Butterfield and William Joachim in Bethlehem, and the firm later became known as Butterfield, Joachim and Brodt. And he stayed there for over 30 happy years and then set up a solo practice about eight or nine

years ago across the street on Main Street. He retired from that practice in April of 2001 because he was terminally ill, and he retired to Portland to courageously await death.

Sadly to say, Tom Butterfield died many years ago, and Bill Joachim died just last month, and he will be eulogized here today. All of these people were great lawyers and compassionate and caring human beings.

Bill was a member of the American Bar Association, of the Northampton County Bar Association and the Pennsylvania Bar Association. He served as solicitor for Keystone Bank and the Borough of East Bangor. He served on both the East Bangor and the Portland Borough Water Authority. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa Society, the American Legion in Johnsonville, the Portland Masonic Lodge, the Tall Cedars of Lebanon in Easton, the Lodge Council Chapter Consistory of Scottish Rite Bodies and was a past President of the Portland Lions Club and a member of the Portland Chamber of Commerce. He also served as a solicitor for Charles Unangst and Mary Hays, who were both long-time controllers in Northampton County before the County Councils were formed. And that was in the 1960s and '80s.

But Billy loved the law, and he loved the people he encountered through the law. He gave everything for his clients. He was available day and night, and for 40 years he drove from Portland, Pennsylvania, to Bethlehem every day except Sundays, which was a one-way trip on a good day of 45 minutes.

For Slate Belt clients Billy would see them at his home or, talk to them on the phone at any time. He would take any call, and the call usually started with, "Can I talk to Billy?" Service like that is not available anymore, and his clients are lost without him.

His wife, Frannie, commented to me that he was like the doctor of years past who made house calls, and they just don't exist anymore.

But Billy's real character and quality was the fact that the people he worked with and knew, they actually loved him. While he was bedridden last year, Keystone Bank, for whom he was solicitor, donated an organ to his church—of course, in Portland—in his name.

He was a general practitioner. He did a lot of real estate work and spent a lot of time in the Recorder of Deeds Office of not only Northampton County but in Lehigh County. And I also spent time in those two counties in the Recorder of Deeds Office. And I remember last year when people found out that I was periodically going to visit him in Portland—and these are people that I never talked to. I didn't talk to them. They didn't talk to me—and they would come up and ask me, "How's Billy doing?" His clients loved him. And I just think if you knew him, you liked him, you loved him.

But he was a highly competent attorney, respectful to all, dedicated to and he loved the practice of law. He was a credit to his profession and humanity. He will be missed by the bar, his family, friends and all who knew him. I think I was personally blessed to have known him and to have been considered a friend.

Thank you.

Members of the families of Ben Black, Bill Brodt, Bill Joachim, Dominick Lockwood, and Bob Margolis, to all of you this Court expresses its sincere condolences.

One of the best writers in the English language living today, V.S. Naipaul, had a comment that I think is apropos to today's proceeding. He wrote about our identity. "A man's identity is the sum of his achievements." We join you and the members of the bar association in recalling the lives of those we remember today and rejoicing in their achievements. Each of these men achieved much in their personal and professional lives. They created loving families who will live on beyond them and who will carry on their personal virtues. You, the members of their families, carry those virtues and their love, both of which will be with you and your children and your grandchildren for as long as memory remains.

We, the members of the bar and the bench, recall and rejoice in their professional achievements. Each contributed something distinctive and significant to our profession, their profession.

Ben Black, as Judge Black has told us this morning, began his career as a general practitioner at a difficult time, during the Depression. Like many who were called to the law, he moved on from that general practice to serve in business as a corporate executive in his family business, Morris Black and Company.

All of us who practice law are familiar with this pattern, for the legal education and the experience of the practice of law forms a solid background for achievement and success in business. We who are relatively young—and I'm approaching age 60 but still consider myself relatively young—did not see Ben Black in court as an active practitioner. But we all saw him as an active and contributing member of the bar and of this community. I frequently attended the bar association meetings over the past several years, and it was a joy to behold Ben Black and his constant companion, Milt Riskin, having a true time of their lives at those bar association meetings. They didn't need to be there for professional reasons. But they simply wanted to honor the bar and to enjoy the company of their peers.

I used to suggest to Milt Riskin, since the two of them drove to the bar association meetings, that the car should have a beacon or a light that said, "We're over 90, and we could go at any time. Beware." Never an accident, though. They continued to attend.

As Judge Black has pointed out, his father was a good family man—probably the most important thing any of us can be—a successful businessman, and an active member in the community. He, like another member of our honorees today, helped to establish the Lehigh Valley Industrial Park, an achievement which has brought much good to our valley. He and other community leaders had the foresight to recognize the end of the industrial age was at hand, something few of us would have noted. But they did. And they established something lasting which provides jobs and opportunity for the entire Lehigh Valley. We miss him.

Bill Brodt, as pointed out, was one of Portland's most distinguished citizens and always will be. He was the very model of a true general practitioner of the law. A former Marine during the Korean War, he served his country well. Then he went on to law school and on to a career which provided services to individuals and corporations in need of legal advice, particularly involving transactions in real estate, banking, and estate planning.

His career and his life is the very embodiment of what Norman Rockwell would use as a model for a lawyer, a man who offered his experience, his training, and his education to his clients and who could be relied upon for his advice and his outstanding judgment.

Bill Joachim was another general practitioner and a former partner of Bill Brodt. His practice focused on business and corporate law. Like Bill Brodt, he served his country as an aviator in World War II. He served his community and our bar for over 50 years. Again, like Ben Black, he had the singular foresight to work to create the Lehigh Valley Industrial Park and other associated organizations. As I said before, that was no minor achievement. For today thousands of men and women find employment, find a good life as the result of Ben's and Bill's achievements. With the decline of Bethlehem Steel, if these men and others had not had that foresight, we obviously would be a poorer community.

Dominick Lockwood, a truly interesting man, a lawyer, an entrepreneur, a man who loved life and lived it to the fullest. He was a general practitioner with both an active office and courtroom practice, a man constantly on the move, both figuratively and literally. He and his signature bow tie were fixtures in this courtroom for years until he moved his primary practice to Monroe County. There he continued his varied practice and his entrepreneurial skills.

As Gus Milides pointed out to me when we talked about Dominick, he was one of those few people who offered 24-hour a day practice. You could pick up a telephone at any hour, and Dominick would be there to offer you his advice and his good humor. His joie de vivre, his distinctive personality, his professional achievements did much to enhance this bar and to bring joy to his family.

Finally, we recognize today Bob Margolis. Bob was one of those few who enjoyed a dual career both as a lawyer and as a certified public accountant. Like Ben Black, Bob was not one we saw in court in recent years. His service came through his advice to businessmen in complicated transactions and, in an important aspect of those transactions, tax advice.

The office practitioner, particularly one of Bob Margolis' ability and skill, is every bit as much a member of the bar as the skilled trial lawyer. Both provide to their clients that most precious product: Their good, solid advice.

Bob, like each of those we honor today, contributed greatly to this community. As Senator Reibman has pointed out, he helped establish LARC, the Kurtz Training Center, and many other programs to aid those who are mentally challenged. Society is often measured by how it cares for those who cannot care for themselves. Bob measures well in that respect and in every other respect.

These five men who we honor today each in their own distinctive way practiced their profession in a way which brought honor to our profession. Each of these five men in their own distinctive way gave great personal service to the community and, in so doing, brought honor to their profession and to themselves.

Finally, Ben Black, Bill Brodt, Bill Joachim, Dominick Lockwood, and Bob Margolis brought joy, knowledge, stability, and a valued moral compass to their spouses, their children, and their grandchildren. That is their most important and lasting legacy, their greatest achievement.

Ladies and gentlemen, we will now recess in honor to those who have departed. There will be a brief reception in the jury lounge sponsored by the bar association. We encourage you to attend that reception.

We will adjourn until quarter of 11:00 and then call the Argument List.

Thank you all for attending and honoring these fine men.

(The memorial service program concluded.)

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