

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
CIVIL DIVISION

IN RE: OCTOBER 28, 2003 MEMORIAL

NOTES OF PROCEEDINGS

BEFORE: THE HONORABLE JUDGES

WILLIAM F. MORAN,
F.P. KIMBERLY McFADDEN,
JACK ANTHONY PANELLA,
STEPHEN G. BARATTA,
EDWARD G. SMITH,

Northampton County, Third Judicial District, Easton, Pennsylvania,
Courtroom No. 1, on Tuesday, October 28, 2003.

PRESENTATIONS:

Eulogy for Attorney Milton J. Goodman
—Lee Smith, Esquire

Eulogy for Attorney Charles L. Oldt
—Robert C. Brown, Jr., Esquire

ALSO PRESENT:

The Honorable Richard D. Grifo
The Honorable Robin Simpson
John L. Obrecht, Esquire, President Northampton County Bar Association

JUDGE MORAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Before we begin the call of the list, we take this opportunity this morning to conduct the annual memorial service program for members of the bar who have passed away during the last year.

On behalf of the Court, I welcome the family, the friends, the colleagues at the bar to these proceedings. At the end of this proceeding, we will take a 15-minute break before the call of the argument list to allow members of the bar and the bench to join with family and friends of those who are recollected today for a brief reception in the jury lounge on the first floor of this building.

We will then return to this courtroom at 10 a.m. to actually call the argument list. And now I introduce John Obrecht, the president of the Northampton County Bar.

MR. OBRECHT: May it please the Court, ladies and gentlemen, my name is John Obrecht. I'm the president of the Northampton County Bar.

Association and we would like to honor those who have departed the membership over the last calendar year.

Over the years, the Northampton County Bar Association has maintained a reputation, cooperation, and camaraderie among its members while maintaining allegiance to our clients.

Most of our 480 members know each other and get along well. Because of that special relationship, the Northampton County Bar Association is proud to sponsor a memorial service to honor the memory of our deceased members, each of whom has added generously to the fabric of the Bar Association by having their skills and splendid personalities interwoven with their practices of law in Northampton County.

Each year the president of the Northampton County Bar Association hopes to be the first not to have the memorial service, and we would certainly prefer that our members continued to grow in number without losing any in the course of the year. But sadly and inevitably that service has to be scheduled as it is this year.

This year we honor the memory of two of our members, each contributing to the betterment of practice of the law in Northampton County and to the reputation of our association by friendly and courteous treatment of their fellow lawyers and excellent service to their employers being the citizens of Northampton County.

Today we honor two such members, the first of which is Attorney Milton J. Goodman. We will have eulogies for both Mr. Goodman and Charles L. Oldt.

Mr. Goodman was born on December 11th, 1906, and he died at the age of 96. He married Evelyn Bloom who died in 1993, and he was the father of two children: Allan Goodman, who is likewise an attorney who resides in the state of California, and his daughter Diane Mazur of New York.

Mr. Goodman graduated from the Bethlehem school system. He graduated from Lehigh University in 1928. He graduated from Dickinson Law School in 1932, and he was admitted to practice in the County of Northampton in 1932.

I repeat that Mr. Goodman was born in December of 1906 and died at age 96, but I have to add that despite his seniority, he still was only second in seniority. We still have another member, Milton Riskin, who is alive and well and practicing at age 98. So he was born a year and a half before Mr. Goodman. But I call to your attention that both their names are Milton, so I'm kind of thinking of changing my own and live to the ripe old age and continue to do so.

Mr. Goodman, to his credit and our pleasure, retained his membership in the Northampton County Bar Association since his retirement in 1968, almost 36 years ago. And that's a fact for which the Northampton County Bar Association is grateful.

I believe that fact demonstrates that Mr. Goodman's pride in the practice of law and desire to remain a part of it into his retirement, and just by way of perspective, once again, he retired—I've been a lawyer almost 30 years now—he retired before I was even a member of the bar.

In any event, we have Attorney Lee Smith who would care to eulogize Attorney Goodman. Attorney Smith.

MR. SMITH: I first met Milton Goodman and his son Allan, who practiced law with him, in 1974. It started as a business relationship between us because our firm had a close working relationship together. Shortly after that, I became a close personal friend of the Goodman family; a relationship I still maintain to this day. But I remember when the first time that I met Milton and Allan in my office. I was just a kid out of college. I hadn't even started law school yet. They came into my office and I said good morning, Mr. Goodman. I said good morning, Allan. And Allan said why is he called Mr. Goodman and I'm called Allan? I said Allan, when you reach his age, I'll call you Mr. Goodman also.

So in about two years, don't be surprised when I call him Mr. Goodman after all these years.

As I got to know the family, it became very apparent to me that their surname was very accurate. These truly were good men. They were very honest and honorable in dealing with other people, be it business relationship or personal relationship, something that perhaps is often too absent in our society today.

Allan currently resides outside of San Diego with his wife Suzanne; therefore, he was not able to be here today.

But he did write a brief eulogy to his father which he's asked me to read and it is my privilege and honor to do that.

My father, Milton J. Goodman, was born in Bethlehem on December 11th, 1906 and died on September 5th, 2003. He lived a long, happy, and productive life. He practiced law in Bethlehem for over 50 years. When he graduated Dickinson Law School in 1932, he became an employee of Russell Mauch, who was at that time the Northampton County District Attorney.

In August, 1943, Dad was called into military service during World War II at the age of 36 years. So dad entered the U.S. Army Air Corps as the oldest private in his battalion. Eventually, through his good looks and charm, he rose through the ranks to become a captain in the Judge Advocate General Division. Upon his discharge from the Army in 1946, he immediately resumed practicing law with Russell Mauch. During the years after Russell Mauch died, dad hired various lawyers, including Bernard O'Hare, Frank Danyi, and me, all of whom became partners, respectively, under the names of Goodman and O'Hare, Goodman and Danyi, and finally, the unforgettable Goodman and Goodman.

During that time, we had several capable and loyal secretaries who became an integral part of these firms, including Lillian Danyi, Nancy

Whitesell, and most especially Linda Tockett who now works for Richard Boyer.

Linda is an amazing, highly efficient, and outstanding secretary and an excellent human being. Dad and I were privileged to work with her for over 10 years. Dad was a patient and wonderful teacher and I enjoyed practicing law with him.

I learned much from him. He taught me much about life, about people, and about the law. He always said pay attention to the details, and he always took his own advice.

Dad became an attorney prior to the age of specialization, so he handled all types of cases during his varied career, from the simplest landlord/tenant case to the most complex murder case. He enjoyed the practice of law, especially during his early years.

He became the solicitor for Saucon Valley Building and Loan Association, Bethlehem National Bank, Hellertown Borough Authority, and First Windish Fraternal Benefit Society of America. Dad and I retired from the practice of law in 1983 and our business was taken over by Richard Boyer. He was a gentleman in how he handled the transition of my father from an elderly practicing lawyer to an elderly non-practicing lawyer.

I appreciate Richard permitting dad to stay on for several months after I left the practice.

Dad always treated me like a son, which is good, since this is what he admitted I was. I hope he thought I treated him like a father. I miss him. I thank all of you for listening. I also thank my very good friend, Lee Smith, for reading this on my behalf. I regret that I was unable to attend these proceedings. Thank you.

MR. OBRECHT: The court has graciously allowed this time to honor our friends and in that regard I believe that Judge Edward Smith is going to offer a response from the court.

JUDGE SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Obrecht. I want to thank Lee Smith for the eulogy on behalf of Milton Goodman and Robert Brown for that eulogy on behalf of Mr. Oldt. I also want to acknowledge and thank Judge Robin Simpson of the Commonwealth Court for his presence here today, as well as the presence of Judge Richard Grifo. We do appreciate them coming to the ceremony.

Milton Goodman was 96 years old and I never met him. So when I heard that I was going to be giving a brief response at the end of the eulogies, I had to do a little bit of research.

I discovered that he graduated from Lehigh University, my wife's alma mater, and Dickinson School of Law, also my wife's alma mater and my alma mater. I couldn't help but wonder over the 55 years between when he graduated and when my wife and I graduated what he had gone through in the practice of law.

I heard him described by his daughter as having a long, happy, and productive life and for anyone to reach the ripe old age of 96 and to have lived so much of their life after their engagement in the practice of law ended I had to believe it was everything he hoped for. And it was fortunate in my opinion that I didn't know him because it showed that in fact he had lived

such a long life that he had lived beyond even the judges who are sitting on the bench.

Now, with Attorney Oldt, it's a different story. I did know and greatly respected Chip Oldt. I was proud to have known him. And everyone I think at the bar knew of both the fact that he was a gentleman but also his pranks and his practical jokes always in the best of nature and always well received. Everyone that knew him described him as a gentleman. He was the epitome of the kind, hardworking true family man, church man. I have no doubt he was an outstanding partner with Mr. Brown. He was someone I liked very much. When I met him, he was always friendly to me and very helpful to me as a young attorney.

Unfortunately his passing did come too early and the distinction between the two is just that.

We can accept much easier Mr. Goodman's passing. It is much more difficult to accept Mr. Oldt's passing, but accept we must. Both of these fine gentlemen will be missed. And while we mark their passing, we celebrate their lives and the contribution they have made to the families and to their communities, and to the bench and the bar. They have both lived lives that all of us should aspire to emulate and lives that the family can be very proud of.

Thank you very much and thank you to the families for coming here today.

MR. OBRECHT: Ladies and gentlemen, that concludes the memorial service on behalf of the Northampton County Bar Association. We are offering a reception for anyone here to join us down in the jury lounge following this program. In any event, thank you very much for coming. Thank you, Your Honor.

JUDGE MORAN: I remind the members of the bar who are here for argument that we will be reconvening at 10 a.m. for the call of the list.

On behalf of the court, I want to again thank Mr. Obrecht and the Bar Association for this annual service and give our best regards to the family and friends of both Milton and Chip.

I direct that the notes of this proceeding be transcribed and filed with our court minutes and we recess in honor of Milton Goodman and Charles Oldt.
