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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

MEMORIAL SERVICE

HONORABLE RICHARD D. GRIFO, JUDGE

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

9:00 a.m.

Courtroom # 1

Northampton County Courthouse
669 Washington Street
Easton, Pennsylvania

1 THE COURT: Good morning, ladies
2 and gentlemen. Before starting the argument
3 court list today, we have a very important duty
4 to perform, and I would like to welcome some
5 folks who have arrived here to share in this
6 experience. Judge Van Antwerpen is present,
7 Judge Freedberg from Superior Court, retired
8 Judge Garb is present, and Judge Simpson asked
9 that I tell you that he was unable to be here
10 because he is in Harrisburg today. I believe we
11 have some eulogists who will be speaking this
12 morning, and I'm going to call and recognize the
13 Honorable James Hogan.

14 JUDGE HOGAN: May it please the
15 Court, President Judge McFadden, Judges of the
16 Court, Mrs. Grifo, Antonia, members of the bar
17 and ladies and gentlemen. I am honored this
18 morning that the privilege has fallen to me to
19 address on this Court's record a collective
20 memory of the gentleman whose portrait is to my
21 left: Richard D. Grifo, late distinguished
22 Judge of this Court, celebrated member of all
23 the branches of our community and cherished head
24 of his family.

25 Since the time of his graduation

1 from Lafayette College with the pre-world war II
2 class of 1940, Richard D. Grifo set about
3 improving the life of his family and country.

4 It was not unwarranted that after
5 his fine academic performance at the University
6 of Pennsylvania Law School and following his
7 admission to the bar in 1943, he would become a
8 law clerk to Judge William Kirkpatrick. Judge
9 Kirkpatrick was a respected local figure who had
10 been named to the federal bench. And as a young
11 law graduate, the new lawyer would receive an
12 appointment to the teaching staff of Lafayette
13 College.

14 But he had a way with the broader
15 community that would soon call for the academic
16 life to bow in favor of his ambition to grow his
17 Easton law practice and become a new worker in
18 the established county seat law group.

19 During his ascent in his
20 professional work, his dedication to the Easton
21 Italian community was early and of great
22 substance. That was an honest legacy from his
23 father. Antonio Grifo's local newspaper
24 chronicled for years the ins and outs of the
25 local Italian politics and community vibrations.

1 It was a well-deserved honor that in Judge
2 Grifo's later years the local Sons of Italy
3 chapter was named for our Richard D. Grifo.

4 But as proud as he was of his
5 heritage, Dick Grifo exhibited a totally
6 inclusive perception of those who sought the
7 American dream. When one was in the company of
8 Dick Grifo, it was clear he took the measure of
9 the person and not the ethnic dash that might
10 precede American in his or her name; polish
11 American or Slavic, Hungarian, German or
12 whatever old or new ethnic word applied.

13 He had labored as a youngster
14 during the great depression of the 1930's with
15 many of our first and second generation European
16 American newcomers. He fully appreciated their
17 contributions as they grew with the country we
18 know today.

19 In later years I was not the only
20 one to have heard him say on occasion that he
21 thought the time had come to eliminate all the
22 dashes when referring to the current inhabitants
23 of our ethnically derived American community.
24 And that included the native Americans who
25 preceded them.

1 His public activities after his
2 admission to the bar made him well known. He
3 was the principal actor in opening windows of
4 educational and employment opportunity for many
5 of these hardworking ethnic newcomers of all
6 stripes.

7 Somewhat off the point but maybe
8 not too far, he loved to tell the story about
9 his time in the 30's as a young student laborer
10 on the local railroad. He discovered that his
11 dash-American boss, this one named Dinan, had a
12 tight lock on the foreman's position.

13 It happened that the boss and the
14 boss alone knew what was for the rest of the
15 track crew a major secret they could not crack;
16 the mathematical formula for measuring the
17 circular tangent on which to fix and lay a
18 curving railroad track. Absent a degree from
19 Lafayette or Lehigh, it was unlikely any of his
20 co-workers would uncover the great secret, and
21 they certainly weren't going to learn it from
22 the boss.

23 Through examples like hard working
24 Dick Grifo, many of the track workers' children
25 weren't frozen out of the economy's secret

1 formulae and did get the education and tools to
2 achieve great success in the upper ranks of the
3 American workforce.

4 Then as now, politics played an
5 important role in the life of many of our
6 lawyers. Judge Grifo fell to that important
7 work. His efforts in the 50's and 60's as a
8 busy Republican activist never interrupted the
9 extended quotient of goodwill which flowed
10 toward him steadily from political partners and
11 opponents alike.

12 while I'm sure he could mutter
13 under his breath at times at the less than
14 thoughtful behavior of some of his lawyer
15 colleagues, he was always ready to help fellow
16 layers, competent to resolve matters to his
17 client's satisfaction without acrimony and
18 remained throughout his career a favorite of the
19 legal community.

20 Dick Grifo, and people rarely used
21 the formal Richard, had a financially rewarding
22 practice. In the late 1940's he had joined
23 with George Coffin, an established counselor
24 with a substantial card file of vibrant
25 commercial and industrial clients. Before him,

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Mr. Coffin's father had been an important legal figure in the early years of the twentieth century. George Coffin continued the momentum from his father's earlier effort. While Dick Grifo was active in the Coffin firm, the office was second to none in the number and variety of important business transactions through which it guided its clients.

As fate would have it, business was good, their reputation flourished, and George and Dick were joined in the mid-1950's by Ray DeRaymond, an extraordinary legal worker who is mentioned on the program today from whom we will hear later this morning. Later others were called into the office to help with the growing caseload.

It was natural that Dick Grifo, encouraged by his friends and colleagues after accumulating substantial experience in some 25 years of private practice, might take a serious look at service on the bench. He had solidly established himself with the legal community and had served in 1967 as president of the Bar Association. The following year in 1968, he was appointed to this bench for a one-year period by

1 Governor Ray Shafer and immediately was faced
2 with proving himself on the bench and addressing
3 the upcoming electoral process.

4 On a solid record in the election
5 of 1969, he bested a totally qualified and
6 decent opponent and won his first ten-year term.
7 Judge Grifo never looked back and distinguished
8 himself with his continuous service over the
9 next three decades. He loved the bench. He
10 used it as a platform to continue solving legal
11 disputes with the same common sense that marked
12 his private practice.

13 Judge Grifo was an astute observer
14 of his surroundings. He had a keen ability to
15 determine what the evidence in a case really
16 meant. This judge had an uncanny talent for
17 getting to the salient point quickly, based on a
18 fair view of the reliably established facts.

19 He always assured parties to
20 lawsuits, win or lose, that they had received a
21 fair and full hearing and was careful to deliver
22 his findings in a way that assured that the
23 losers or even erring parties and their lawyers
24 were not embarrassed at the outcome.

25 He quickly earned a reputation on

1 the bench for demanding fair dealing, and
2 resolution of bitter disputes became a
3 specialty. The more complex issues were mere
4 material for his trade. The assigning judge
5 never had to worry that Judge Grifo would turn
6 down or make less than extraordinary disposition
7 of a proffered, difficult job. He did this with
8 the unfailing support and camaraderie of fellow
9 members of the bench. The importance of his
10 work never shadowed his natural instincts as a
11 true gentleman, And the lawyers who appeared in
12 Judge Grifo's courtroom readily acceded to the
13 genuine decorum he required.

14 In his court there was an
15 atmosphere that permitted civil discourse among
16 advocates to resolve even the grittiest opposing
17 contentions. For their part, no matter the
18 issue, lawyers mostly found it fun and never
19 threatening to go before Judge Grifo where they
20 knew an intelligent, common sense approach would
21 get his intelligent ear.

22 In the 1980's, the local court
23 needed a workhorse to guide the difficult,
24 long-term aftermath of a serious systemic
25 financial problem in one of our court's

1 important sections. Judge Grifo worked it out.

2 In the 1990's when the Supreme
3 Court needed a reliable arbiter to shepherd
4 unbiased disposition of a most scandalous charge
5 against one of the state's judges, they looked
6 no further than Judge Grifo for a solution.

7 During the early 2000's, our court
8 was faced with the impossible task of settling
9 the estate of a divorced, inveterate real estate
10 tax sale purchaser, now deceased. All that was
11 known for sure about the matter was that at the
12 time of his death, the decedent was being
13 divorced by his wife and that both he and his
14 wife were claiming an interest in between 400
15 and 800 poorly identified properties across
16 Pennsylvania. No one knew how many.

17 It developed that these properties
18 were deeded, perhaps in the decedent's own name
19 or in the name of his divorcing wife, or even in
20 the name of his son, and that all of these deeds
21 were only *perhaps* authentic and only *perhaps*
22 not.

23 Settling this estate presented an
24 impossible judicial task. Nevertheless, Judge
25 Grifo predictably didn't flinch at the

1 assignment. The work involved cleaning the
2 Augean Stables, identifying authentic plots of
3 land, balancing the authenticity of contending
4 claims, and setting down the successful formula
5 for dividing the properties. When applied, his
6 work finally straightened out the problem that
7 had plagued the courts for years.

8 Lawyers standing before the bench
9 could rarely get ahead of the sitting Judge. He
10 could stymie the best advocates by that
11 concentrated look aside he frequently exhibited
12 on the bench, seemingly admiring the latest turn
13 of his most recent whittling effort. His
14 penknife and block of wood were, for him,
15 standard courtroom equipment.

16 When he had his penknife and wood
17 out, only his wife, Lee, to whom he ascribed
18 unearthly powers of insight and knowledge, ever
19 really knew what he was thinking before he
20 spoke. Of course Lee had traveled side by side
21 with Dick along his daily successful community
22 and professional effort for the better than
23 one-half century since their marriage on
24 February 19, 1955.

25 Relishing his work as he did, it

1 came as no shock that in 2003, while serving as
2 a senior judge, he publicly resisted the Supreme
3 Court's mandatory rules requiring him to retire
4 because of age.

5 But time had done its work since
6 his birth on January 25th, 1919. He had reached
7 his 80th birthday, and he met the requisite age
8 for retirement. Nevertheless, he was simply not
9 ready to abandon his life's work, and he was
10 ready to fight. Fight he did. As luck would
11 have it, it was one of the few times that he
12 lost. On January 6, 2003, retire he did.

13 Dick Grifo appreciated opera and
14 treasured the tools and workshop he maintained
15 at home. He became a noted fly fisherman, whose
16 ample time on the trout streams could not
17 prevent or interfere with an entirely happy
18 marriage with an accomplished wife and the
19 families of three accomplished daughters,
20 Antonia, Francesca, and Carla.

21 His powers were strong and he
22 converted to serious fishing even his
23 son-in-law, Attorney Ron Shipman, whose early
24 water experience seemingly consisted of little
25 more than occasionally driving up and down along

1 the Delaware River.

2 Judge Grifo was devoted to his
3 family, and they to him. In his last years,
4 when confronted with serious illness and
5 infirmity, the consolation and attention of his
6 wife, daughters and grandchildren were a
7 bountiful blessing to his final time that ended
8 August 6, 2009.

9 His memory will be cherished by
10 his family, the community he served, the lawyers
11 and business people with whom he worked over the
12 years, and the Court in which he spent well so
13 many decades of his life. I am honored to
14 extend the thanks of all here present, and those
15 of a grateful community, for the life of this
16 special man.

17 I respectfully request that the
18 Court include this morning's remarks in its
19 official records, and that the Court adjourn
20 today in memory of its late outstanding member,
21 Judge Richard D. Grifo. Thank you.

22 THE COURT: Thank you, Judge
23 Hogan. The Court recognizes Raymond DeRaymond,
24 please.

25 ATTORNEY DeRAYMOND: President

1 Judge McFadden; Honorable Judges of the Court;
2 Mrs. Grifo; her children, Antonia, Carla and
3 Francesca; members of the Grifo family. I am
4 humbled and honored for the privilege and
5 opportunity to address this Court and assemblage
6 to honor and preserve the memory of Judge
7 Richard D. Grifo.

8 Aunt Susie, Judge Grifo's mother
9 and my mother, Josie, were sisters, making Judge
10 Grifo and myself first cousins. Our families
11 were close and spent all major holidays
12 together. A time-honored custom of Italian
13 families was to name their first-born son after
14 the paternal grandfather. Because there were
15 three Grifo brothers, Diego, Antonio and
16 Vincenzo, each of whom had sons, There were also
17 three Richard Grifos in Easton. To separate the
18 oldest two, Diego's son was called big Dick.
19 Because he was the youngest, he was smaller in
20 stature but not in heart.

21 His true character manifested
22 itself early in life. He was a leader in his
23 neighborhood, in his schools from Trail Green to
24 Easton High School. In junior high school, he
25 was on the football team. As I recall at one

1 game that I watched, he was begging to get in
2 the game, and even though he looked to be half
3 the size of his teammates, he did get in the
4 game and made a tackle.

5 At the age of 14, Dick went to
6 work for the Lehigh Valley Railroad and spent
7 his summer in Manville, New Jersey living with
8 his Uncle John. Uncle John was a section
9 foreman for the Lehigh Valley Railroad, and Dick
10 was the hired water boy for Uncle John's gang,
11 carrying water to the men doing the hard work in
12 caring for the railroad tracks. This was not
13 easy work, because these men on the railroad did
14 backbreaking work, and they required a lot of
15 water.

16 Uncle John was also a dedicated
17 Democrat, and Dick's upbringing was Republican.
18 The two would spend their evenings in political
19 arguments. Dick being the younger and not quite
20 mature, stuck to his beliefs and would at times
21 take a beating on these arguments, and he would
22 often leave the argument in tears only to come
23 back with renewed vigor and counter arguments.

24 There was no doubt that Dick Grifo
25 was destined to go to college, and that his

1 entire family, including uncles and aunts lead
2 him to this goal. Not a small feat for a
3 first-generation Italian whose immigrant parents
4 and grandparents had no education. In high
5 school, Dick was active in many extracurricular
6 activities, among which he was manager of the
7 basketball team and president of the senior
8 class.

9 At Lafayette College he also
10 continued with his extracurricular activities
11 and became the president of the senior class.
12 On graduation from Lafayette and with the help
13 of a senatorial scholarship, he went to the
14 University of Penn Law School.

15 After law school, Dick clerked
16 with the Honorable William J. Kirkpatrick,
17 President Judge, United States Federal Court for
18 the Eastern District of Pennsylvania who had
19 been a local lawyer in Easton. After his
20 clerkship, he returned to Easton and was
21 admitted to the Northampton County Bar. At this
22 time there was only one other lawyer of Italian
23 extract in the City of Easton and only three in
24 the entire county.

25 He eventually became associated

1 with George Coffin, and the firm of Coffin and
2 Grifo ensued. Among the many things he did
3 during this period, he became an instructor in
4 the Department of Government and Law at
5 Lafayette College.

6 From 1950 until Dick was appointed
7 to the bench by Governor Shafer, Dick and I
8 worked closely as lawyers. In the fifteen to
9 twenty years of this association, there was
10 never a cross word or serious disagreement
11 between us. I attribute this to his gift of
12 understanding, patience and a very generous and
13 kind nature. I wasn't the easiest person to
14 work with, he recognized this and because of his
15 traits he knew how to train me.

16 These traits of understanding,
17 patience and generosity made it possible for
18 Richard, a first-generation Italian, to advance
19 his career and made it possible for his
20 long-standing partnership with George Coffin to
21 be very successful.

22 He was the solicitor of the
23 Borough of West Easton for twenty-one years and
24 served as solicitor for Northampton County from
25 1951 to 1954. He was accepted for membership

1 into the Pomfret Club and the Northampton
2 Country Club at which time first-generation
3 people were only rarely considered for
4 membership let alone a first-generation Italian.

5 In the 50's and 60's, he devoted
6 much time to community endeavors. He became
7 involved in and worked for many charitable
8 organizations. To mention a few, he had served
9 as a board member and past president of the
10 United Way of the Forks of the Delaware; vice
11 president of the board of trustees of Moravian
12 Academy; a member of the Northampton Historical
13 and Genealogical Society; Loyal Order of the
14 Moose; Italian Sons and Daughters of America;
15 Board of the American Red Cross, Easton Chapter;
16 Easton YMCA and chair of the Mariton wildlife
17 Sanctuary and wilderness Trust; the YR Club of
18 Easton; he was a founder of the Downtown
19 Improvement Group and a past president of the
20 Lehigh-Delaware Development Council.

21 He was an avid sportsman and was a
22 member of the Easton Anglers, Ducks Unlimited,
23 Ruffed Grouse Society, and his contributions to
24 these groups was significant and was recognized.
25 Among the numerous awards for this service, he

1 was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by
2 Lafayette College; Citizen of the Year by Unico
3 of America, Distinguished Service Award from the
4 Institute of Regional Affairs, Wilkes College;
5 and the Distinguished Award from Brown and Lynch
6 American Legion Post of Easton.

7 After his appointment as Judge in
8 1968, Dick was elected for a ten-year term and
9 was retained for a second ten-year term. At age
10 seventy on his compulsory retirement from the
11 bench, he continued serving as a senior judge
12 until 2003 when a new Supreme Court rule made it
13 mandatory for him to actively retire.

14 As a judge, Dick would not slow
15 down on civic activities. He was a member of
16 the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial
17 Judges; a member of the Judge's Advisory Group
18 Program for Women and Girl Offenders; he was
19 appointed vice president of the Minor Judiciary
20 Education Board of the Commonwealth of
21 Pennsylvania; he served on various panels of the
22 Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges.

23 This list of activities is
24 seemingly endless. The Sons of Italy Lodge of
25 Easton, of which he was a member, was renamed

1 after him as the Judge Richard D. Grifo Lodge of
2 the Sons of Italy. He co-authored with Anthony
3 Noto, A History of the Impact of Italian
4 Immigration Into the Easton Area, as well as A
5 History of Italians in Pennsylvania.

6 A bit of important history was
7 made by Dick himself as he was the first person
8 born of Italian immigrants to become a judge of
9 the Court of Common Pleas of Northampton County.
10 Prior to becoming a judge, Dick served as
11 president of the Northampton County Bar
12 Association and was a member to the House of
13 Delegates of the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

14 On the bench Dick never forgot
15 that he had once been a lawyer, which is why I
16 believe that most lawyers appearing in front of
17 him were comfortable to appear in his courtroom.
18 During all of these activities he managed to be
19 a loving man to all of his family; his wife,
20 Lee, his children Antonia, Carla and Francesca,
21 and his grandchildren.

22 On occasions when we were able to
23 spend some time together, he would fill me in,
24 proudly and lovingly, on the achievements of his
25 daughters. Dick was also a lover of the opera.

1 On several occasions I was fortunate enough to
2 have access to Metropolitan Opera tickets. I
3 would take Dick along. The seats were
4 exceptional, second row orchestra and Dick would
5 enthusiastically and repeatedly shout his
6 approval to the singers with bravo and brava.

7 I recall fondly the many times we
8 spent together, not only as lawyers but in our
9 other activities. We had hunted and fished
10 together and of course there are many tales to
11 tell of these experiences, not of the game we
12 had taken or fish we had caught, but rather how
13 we missed a shot or lost a big one fishing. And
14 of course being in the beautiful outdoors in the
15 fall and summer was something that relaxed both
16 of us.

17 I was always pleased when I heard
18 complimentary comments about Judge Grifo as a
19 judge; his patient manner with lawyers and
20 litigants, how he handled difficult matters. I
21 was proud to be his cousin and having been his
22 partner. The family: Grifos, DeRaymonds and
23 Trunbatores, Geracis, were all proud to see him
24 as a successful judge. He served the City of
25 Easton and this county well with all of his

1 community service, and he was an excellent
2 judge.

3 His immediate family has lost a
4 dedicated family man. The community has lost a
5 dedicated public servant who has left many
6 legacies and examples to be followed and
7 emulated. Judge Richard D. Grifo is and will be
8 long remembered.

9 I respectfully request that the
10 Court include this morning's remarks in its
11 official records and join in the request that
12 the Court adjourn today in memory of its late
13 member, Judge Richard D. Grifo. Thank you.

14 THE COURT: Thank you. The
15 Court recognizes Joseph Corpora, Esquire,
16 president of the Northampton County Bar
17 Association.

18 ATTORNEY CORPORA: Good morning.
19 May it please the Court. Mrs. Grifo, Antonia.
20 On behalf of the members of the Northampton
21 County Bar Association, I wish to extend our
22 sympathy, our condolences, to Judge Grifo's
23 family. As his friends and colleagues, we too
24 grieve his passing. Yet, at the same time, we
25 celebrate his life. We pause today to honor his

1 memory and to express our gratitude for his
2 service.

3 Last week I stood behind this
4 podium in this very same spot and spoke to our
5 newly admitted attorneys. My advice to them was
6 singular: get involved. What I should have
7 done was supplement that speech by circulating
8 to them Judge Grifo's bio as outlined by
9 Mr. DeRaymond.

10 To say that Judge Grifo got
11 involved does no justice to his legacy. For
12 him, getting involved evidently began early on.
13 As a student at Easton High School, president of
14 his class; at Lafayette College, president of
15 his class; as a lawyer, he served as president
16 of our Bar Association; as a volunteer, he
17 served as president of the Forks of the Delaware
18 United Way; and president of the Lehigh-Delaware
19 Developmental Council. Of course he served as a
20 volunteer on numerous other community
21 associations and civic organizations as was
22 noted.

23 When the community college
24 discontinued a certain Italian language class,
25 Judge Grifo invited the professor Tony DiCandia

1 and the students into his home so they could
2 continue to learn the nuances of the language.
3 Judge Grifo himself taught at colleges. He
4 lectured for the Pennsylvania Banking Institute.
5 He wrote, and he co-authored two books with
6 Anthony Noto. Years ago he inscribed my copies
7 of those books, and I cherish those books about
8 Italian Americans in Easton and plan to pass
9 them down to my children.

10 All of this work and service was
11 in addition to being a lawyer and a judge, a
12 husband and a father, a brother and an uncle.
13 Oh, and he fished. I wonder, Mrs. Grifo, how
14 the heck did he find time to fish? More
15 interesting to me is, with all the activities he
16 was involved in, how he was able to convince his
17 wife to let him go fishing.

18 On a personal note, Judge Grifo
19 was serving as motions court judge the very
20 first time I appeared in court, way back in
21 November of 1987. Of course I was extremely
22 nervous, but he put me at ease and made my job
23 an easier one that day.

24 As time went on I realized that,
25 in fact, Judge Grifo had a way of making all of

1 our jobs as lawyers easier. That was his way.
2 For that we, as attorneys, greatly appreciated
3 his service on the bench.

4 Right now I suspect Judge Grifo's
5 fishing on a heavenly boat retelling stories and
6 regaling the good times with Gus and Spaz. Here
7 on earth his legacy will continue to serve as an
8 inspiration to all of us. Thank you.

9 THE COURT: Thank you.

10 Distinguished guests, Mrs. Grifo, Antonia. It
11 is my distinct honor to have been requested to
12 comment upon the life and accomplishments of our
13 Judge, Richard D. Grifo. I shared the bench
14 with him for only a brief time, but was blessed
15 to have been a law clerk during his tenure with
16 the bench and had contact with him on a more
17 frequent basis after the passing of Judge
18 Palmer.

19 My memories of Judge Grifo include
20 him walking in his normal sprightly gait down
21 the long hall towards Courtroom 1 and eventually
22 to his own courtroom on a daily basis. He
23 always had a hop in his step and a kind word for
24 everyone he passed along the way.

25 As a law clerk, his demand for

1 thoroughness and economy in the use of words in
2 his opinions was renowned. He was always
3 supportive of all of the judges and was
4 particularly helpful to me when I came on this
5 bench over twenty years ago as a new judge.

6 I can remember many a time in the
7 early days of my judgeship when I would seek him
8 out for advice on how to handle an issue that
9 had arisen during the course of a trial. He was
10 willing to listen, eager to advise appropriately
11 and full of advice to de-stress the young and
12 inexperienced judge. Judge Grifo was a bright
13 man who enjoyed sharing his knowledge and his
14 abilities with all of the members of the bench.

15 Back in the day, the judges ate
16 lunch together in the judges' lunchroom. Judge
17 Grifo would frequently arrive for those lunches
18 with a tomato and a paring knife, happy to slice
19 up his tomato and engage in conversation.
20 Sometimes he even brought bags of peppers with
21 him which he savored over lunch.

22 He was a great conversationalist
23 and enjoyed talking to all of us about the cases
24 that he was working on as well as his
25 extracurricular pursuits, including the opera,

1 fishing and spending time with the important
2 people in his life: his wife and daughters.

3 Judge Grifo was a good listener,
4 one who enjoyed the company of lawyers and the
5 ballet that took place every day in his
6 courtroom between the prosecution and defense in
7 criminal cases and the plaintiffs and defendants
8 in civil matters.

9 He was not afraid to make
10 challenging decisions, and for that reason was
11 called upon to preside at the trial of a very
12 difficult judge from western Pennsylvania
13 charged with rather serious crimes. He enjoyed
14 that experience and pursued justice to the end
15 of that case without hesitation.

16 To sum it up, in the words of late
17 George Weitzman, "He loved this profession, he
18 loved the community, he loved the citizenry, and
19 he loved being a judge. He loved the lawyer
20 before him that was prepared, even if he
21 reluctantly disagreed with him. He withheld his
22 indisposition with the lawyer that was not
23 prepared so that it would not reflect adversely
24 upon his client. He never forgot that he
25 practiced law during which time he was a delight

1 as co-counsel and a worthy adversary as well as
2 opponent."

3 Finally I remember Judge Grifo as
4 a man who truly enjoyed his family and spoke
5 frequently about the accomplishments of his
6 daughters. As engaged as he was in the
7 courtroom, he was dedicated to his family and
8 the women in his life. His was a life well
9 lived in all spheres; community, courtroom and
10 family. He was a formidable presence in the
11 courtroom and a wonderful friend and mentor
12 outside of the courtroom.

13 I am honored to have called him
14 colleague. It was a privilege and joy to have
15 worked with him. When this Court adjourns for
16 the day, we will do so in memory of the
17 Honorable Richard D. Grifo.

18 Please join family and friends in
19 the jury lounge following this memorial service.
20 The Court will reconvene at 10:00 for the call
21 of the argument list. Thank you.

22 * * *

23 (Proceedings concluded.)
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CERTIFICATION

I.

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

Date: January 19, 2010

Moirra E. Evans

Moirra E. Evans, RPR
Official Court Reporter

II.

The foregoing record of the proceedings in the within matter is directed to be filed.

Date: 1/20, 2010

F.P. Kimberly McFadden

F.P. KIMBERLY MCFADDEN, PJ