

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR:
EDWARD J. DANSER, ESQ.
DENNIS S. HUDAK, ESQ.

Memorial Services held in Courtroom No. 1, Northampton County
Government Center, Easton, Pennsylvania, on Tuesday, October 9, 2001,
at 9:00 a.m.

APPEARANCES:

GUS MILIDES, ESQUIRE—
On behalf of EDWARD J. DANSER, ESQUIRE

NICHOLAS M. ZANAKOS, ESQUIRE—
On behalf of DENNIS S. HUDAK, ESQUIRE

ALSO PRESENT:

HONORABLE ROBERT A. FREEDBERG, PRESIDENT JUDGE
HONORABLE WILLIAM F. MORAN
HONORABLE F.P. KIMBERLY McFADDEN
HONORABLE ROBERT E. SIMPSON
HONORABLE STEPHEN G. BARATTA

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2001
MORNING SESSION

THE COURT: Good morning. The Court recognizes Michael Riskin,
President of the Northampton County Bar Association. Mr. Riskin.

MR. RISKIN: May it please the Court and all those who are gathered
here today, it is my sad duty to state for the record that Retired President
Judge Alfred T. Williams, Jr., passed away yesterday in Philadelphia. It is
ironic that his death occurred at the time of the annual memorial service.

In the future the Court and the Bar Association will work together to
schedule a special memorial service to honor Judge Williams and I move

when the Court adjourns today, it would do so out of respect and affection for Judge Williams.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Riskin. For 33 years Judge Alfred T. Williams, Jr., served this Court and this community. It was his life's work and it was a labor of love for Judge Williams and we were the beneficiaries. He was, as all who appeared before him will recollect, a special trial judge with an excellent mind, a true scholar of the law who was always in charge of the courtroom and always prepared. He was a thoughtful leader who served this Court as president judge for 12 years. Much of the success of this Court administratively is due to the innovations and the hard work of President Judge Williams.

I knew him in a way that I'm sure others may not have known him. I recollect him as a stern judge in the courtroom from the years when I practiced before him as an assistant district attorney, but I also knew him as a compassionate and caring judge who worried deeply about the troubled people who appeared before him. I know that Al Williams took his cases home with him at night. He was a judge who labored long and hard over what the right sentence was. He was a judge who worried about child custody cases, he was troubled by the juvenile court cases that he had, and he cared a great deal about the defendants who appeared before him for sentencing.

Judge Williams was always committed to doing things excellently. That was the only way he knew how to apply himself to a task before him. He ran the court not for the convenience of judges, nor for the convenience of attorneys. Always foremost in his mind was what was best for the public.

His passing yesterday leaves a void for this Court and in the hearts of his colleagues. Today we pay tribute, in an ironic term, to the departed members of the bar. Judge Williams valued the traditions of this Court and the annual memorial service certainly was a tradition that he valued.

I can tell you that he also valued greatly the warmth of his relationship with members of the Northampton County Bar. I have no doubt that Al Williams would want us to go forward today with this very important memorial service. As Michael Riskin announced, at a later time we will schedule a special memorial service to honor the memory of our beloved colleague Judge Alfred T. Williams.

And now, once again, Mr. Riskin, we will recognize you so that you can introduce the eulogists today.

MR. RISKIN: I want to thank the Court for allowing this time to honor and memorialize, too, deceased lawyers of the Northampton County Bar Association. I had the honor knowing both Attorney Edward Danser and Dennis Hudak and although they are no longer here to serve the citizens of Northampton County, their past service while alive is a fitting memorial to the profession that they both respected and loved.

MR. RISKIN: Now to speak on behalf of Attorney Dennis Hudak is Attorney Nicholas Zanakos.

MR. ZANAKOS: Good morning. May it please the Court, ladies and gentlemen, it is indeed an honor and a pleasure for me to be able to speak to you this morning and say a few words in memory of our good friend Dennis Hudak. Dennis Hudak was born in Bethlehem in 1949 and passed away this past May at the age of 52 years of age.

Dennis was an active man, a person who was easy to like, a person who was very pleased to be a lawyer. He was also very interested in travel and whenever someone would speak to him in his office, eventually Dennis would be able to tell them about the trip that he had just come from or what he was next planning to do. His most favorite destination was London, England, which he visited on many occasions, and when he married his wife in 1983, she joined him on his trips as did his daughter Meredith who is now 14 years of age.

Dennis was also a very active sportsman. Sailboating was his passion. He would be extremely happy when he was on a sailboat, of course, with his wife and daughter, and the boat was going full tilt. Because of the fact that his wife was also athletic and very active, was a skier, when he married Allison, he also became a ski enthusiast and on many occasions the family would go to ski in the Colorado Rockies. Sailboating took place in San Diego Bay and it seemed that Dennis was forever going to San Diego.

Dennis should also be remembered as a very brave person. Approximately two and a half years ago he fell and broke his leg. The leg never

healed. Dennis was in constant pain. There were times when he was in bed for weeks or months at a time and yet Dennis continued his law practice even if it was from his bed. He never complained. He had no self-pity. He remained his own unperturbed self to the end.

Dennis also must be remembered as a loving son to his mother, Helen Hudak, as a devoted father and husband to his wife and daughter, as a caring pal to his brother Edward Hudak, who is a C.P.A., and, of course, a doting uncle to his many nieces and nephews.

Of course, Dennis was also a lawyer and a good lawyer. It was his chosen profession. He made the right decision. He was very active in the practice of law and very at peace in the practice of law. He was a graduate of Ryder University, a graduate of Sanford University School of Law, and he also received a master's degree in labor law from New York University.

His practice began in 1979 and he was always a solo practitioner. His main areas of practice were real estate, wills and estates, civil litigation, but, of course, he also ably defended criminal defendants when the need became necessary. He did divorce matters, he did adoption matters, he would have his door open to everyone that came in and the size of their pocketbooks was not a factor to be considered. Dennis always gave everyone his best diligent attention and fought for them fearlessly.

The word or the scuttlebutt in downtown Bethlehem was if you want a lawyer to fight City Hall, get Dennis Hudak, and Dennis did on several occasions not only fight City Hall, but he won.

I told you that he was happy in the practice of law. Each day in our practice thorny problems arise that, of course, caused some of our members to leave the law profession, but not Dennis. When a thorny problem would arise, Dennis would chuckle, Dennis would grin, and immediately get down to the business of solving the problem and that was the way he was until he untimely passed away.

My thought of Dennis when I think of him will always be a bright, young man walking up New Street from his office to the bank with a confident stride, a wave, and a cheery hello to all the people that he would meet.

I know the family, Mrs. Dennis, we all do. We wish you all well. Thank you for allowing this to be done today.

THE COURT: Thank you, Attorney Zanakos. Judge McFadden will respond for the Court.

JUDGE McFADDEN: President Judge Freedberg, colleagues on the bench, members of the Bar Association and friends and family of Edward Danser and Dennis Hudak, it is with deep sadness that this Court convenes today to reflect upon the lives and work of our esteemed members who have passed away within the past year. As Shakespeare so aptly stated, "When sorrows come, they come not single spies, but in battalions," and so it seems for those of us gathered here today.

Mere words cannot express the deep sense of loss which we always feel on occasions such as this. The sense of loss has been recorded and their many achievements have been recounted and the resolutions have been prepared and offered for adoption by the members of the bar composed by their intimate associates. The Court is grateful for those appropriate and deserved tributes. We concur and join in the sentiments expressed.

Each of those we honor today stood in the well of this courtroom and took the oath of attorney "to behave himself within this Court according to the best of his learning and ability" and "not to delay the cause of any person for lucre or malice." Each fulfilled that oath with distinction. We are here today to pay tribute to one whose career was felled midstream as well as one who was in the sunset of a long and active life.

Edward Danser was admitted to practice in December of 1948 after graduating from Temple University and with honors from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Mr. Danser was a talented attorney, accomplished gymnast, and avid aviation buff. His son Dwight, also a member of our bar, continues the tradition of excellence begun by his father.

Dennis Hudak held a master in labor law from N.Y.U. and conducted his practice in downtown Bethlehem. He served this Court and community for nearly 24 years with distinction and is missed by our bar, this bench, and his clients.

To the families of our deceased brethren, we express our deep sense of sorrow and loss. There is a measure of consolation in the knowledge that theirs were useful and active lives. Their records remain unblemished and will continue to bring honor to them, to you, their families, and to the courts they served with fidelity and devotion.

In recognition of the distinguished careers of Edward Danser and Dennis Hudak, the resolutions presented are unanimously adopted. The record of this proceeding is ordered spread on the minutes of this Court. Copies thereof shall be sent to the families of our deceased brethren.

When the Court stands adjourned today, it will do so in honor of and out of deep respect for Edward Danser and Dennis Hudak.

THE COURT: Thank you, Judge McFadden. And thank you to the eulogists for your eloquent tributes to our departed members.

The Bar Association will hold a brief reception in the jury lounge for our guests and for the members of the bar at this time. We will take a recess at this point. The argument list will be called in this courtroom at a quarter of ten for those who are here for the argument list.

At this point the court is in recess so that we may greet the families of Attorneys Danser and Hudak. Court stands in recess.

(The proceedings concluded.)
