

MEMORIAL FOR  
THOMAS C. KUBELIUS

Remarks by Richard F. Boyer

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT:

It is with a deep feeling of regret and sense of personal loss that I report the untimely death of Thomas Charles Kubelius on February 2, 1985.

Tom Kubelius was born on March 3, 1924 in Kewanee, Illinois, the son of the late Tony and Hazel Kubelius. He attended the Kewanee public schools and received both his Baccalaureate and Bachelor of Law Degrees from the University of Illinois. He was admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court of the State of Illinois in 1948. Shortly thereafter, he moved to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and joined the faculty at Lehigh University as a professor of law and accounting, a position he held in an adjunct capacity until 1972.

He was admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and the several Courts of Northampton County in 1952. Although he was briefly associated with the Bethlehem firm of Kolb, Holland, Antonelli, Kubelius and Heffner, he engaged in the practice of law as a sole practitioner throughout most of his distinguished career.

Mr. Kubelius was a "lawyer's lawyer." His love of the law, thirst for knowledge and work ethic were unsurpassed; as was his eagerness to share his time and knowledge with other members of the Bar. Tom was a student of the law, he was a tenacious advocate, he abided by the strictest of professional ethics, he was unrepachably honest, and he displayed compassion and concern for his fellow lawyers. He was fascinated with word processing and later, more sophisticated data processing techniques. He integrated this avocation, along with the use of para professionals, into his practice and became a local pioneer in modern law office management systems. On the other hand, he was possessed of uncanny common sense and was able to effectively communicate with his clients in terms clearly understood by laymen. As a result, he earned the loyalty and confidence of his clients, they had complete faith in him, and he was truly their friend and counselor.

Tom's affection for his young associates was, at times, disguised, but always recognized. His socratic methods inevitably ended with the querie: "Don't know, do you?" It was

well known throughout the Bar that a new practitioner seeking office space would be well advised to call Mr. Kubelius.

I came to work for "TCK", as he was known by his friends and associates, in 1972. I was not only his employee, but his pupil. He unselfishly devoted untold hours to the task of orienting a raw law school graduate not only to the law itself, but to establishing effective and meaningful client relationships, recognizing the concerns of other members of the Bar, upholding ethical and moral standards appropriate to our profession, and respecting the authority of the Court. Although our formal association ended in early 1975, I continued to seek his advice and expertise, which he gave freely and without reservation.

I returned to Mr. Kubelius' offices on Linden Street in 1985, shortly after his death. Since that time, I have attempted to practice law as he did. Although I am not possessed of his considerable talents, I frequently find myself asking, when reflecting on the problems and concerns of my clients: "What would TCK have done?"; "How would he have approached this matter?". As I have frequently mentioned to family, friends and clients, Thomas C. Kubelius taught me to be a lawyer. He was my employer, my friend, and above all, my teacher. My long association with Thomas Charles Kubelius was the singular, most valuable influence on the practice that I enjoy today. His absence creates a void that cannot be filled.

Mr. Kubelius is survived by his wife, Tina. She was the major focal point of his life and his strongest supporter, yet she willingly shared him with that most jealous of mistresses, the Law. He was a devoted husband and companion. Tina's sense of loss is shared by clients, associates, neighbors, friends and, indeed, the entire community.

I have lost a good friend, the Bar has lost an extremely able practitioner, and the community has lost a valuable citizen. While we all share in that loss, those of us who have been influenced by Tom are perhaps better people for the experience.

I respectfully offer the following resolution in memory of Thomas C. Kubelius and move its adoption:

**"RESOLVED**, that the foregoing remarks in this Resolution be entered into the minutes of this Court, and copies thereof be sent to Mrs. Kubelius, and that when this Court adjourns this day, it does so out of respect for the memory of Thomas C. Kubelius." (September 4, 1987)