

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 like to take this opportunity to remind the Court and the honored guests that following the ceremony there's a reception at the jury lounge.

At this time I would like to ask the Court to acknowledge Jeanette Reibman.

JUDGE MORAN: Senator Reibman.

SENATOR REIBMAN: Thank you very much.

May it please the Court, Judge Black, beloved wife Bobbie Margolis, sister Skip, son James, daughter-in-law Meredith and family.

I was, indeed, honored to be given the privilege when Bobbie Margolis asked if I would say a few words about our great friend Bob. Many of you knew him personally and professionally. But many of you did not really know him as a witty, compassionate, caring person, generous of his time and wealth, in service to the community, particularly the community of the mentally challenged people.

As a lawyer, he was a consummate lawyer, professional, dignified, full of integrity and really a shining member of the bar.

Bob was a graduate of Lehigh University and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, with a Master's Degree in taxation from New York University. He was admitted to the Northampton County Bar in April of 1949. He was born in Brooklyn, New York. His father, Harry Margolis, came to Bethlehem as a revenue agent for the IRS, which was not a naughty word at that time in the 1920s. He was a successful CPA and later became a deputy auditor general in Pennsylvania in the 1930s in the Earl administration under Warren Roberts, who was an insurance person elected from Bethlehem to be the Auditor General in Pennsylvania.

Harry told Bob, his son, that he was going to be—Bob was going to be a CPA. In those days when your parents told you what you were going to be, that's what you were going to be. There was no question that you might have had an affinity for some other kind of a profession. But when your father said you were going to be a CPA, Bob became a CPA, but not until after he had gotten his law degree. Harry also told Bob—and he was a shining example of that—that you must give back to the community not only your money but your time, as well. Bob made his focus as a lawyer the practice of law and, in the practice of law, to serve people in the community. He was a trial lawyer in the Department of Justice of the Tax Division.

He met his wife Bobbie—they have been married over 54 years—on a blind date. She recalls that she, a person quite tall for a young woman, was so conscious of being tall that she decided to wear on this blind date low heel flat shoes that were not as pretty as they are now these days. Bob told her he liked her looks, but where did she get those gosh awful shoes? But that did not impair this lovely relationship that they have enjoyed over these years.

Bob immersed himself early on in volunteering in a number of community activities, realizing and recognizing his philosophy was that every person had a dignity to be a person. And he believed in the dignity of work, particularly for those who are mentally challenged. And he was instrumental with Wiley Post, who was the executive director of the Northampton Lehigh Airport Authority, to become active in those kinds of activities benefiting mentally challenged people.

But before that Bob also was very active in educational circles. He helped in the merger and sparked the merger of the Moravian Prep School and the seminary into what is now the Moravian Academy. He became chairman of the board and honorary alumnus of the academy, even though he was not a graduate, although Bobbie was a graduate of the seminary and Bob's grandchildren are students at Moravian.

Wiley Post and Bob got together, and they formed what was then called the Lehigh Association of Retarded Citizens. Bob became its president, helped raise a great deal of money for LARC as it was called, and employed—it was an organization, a training school, and employed mentally challenged people so that they could be productive citizens. LARC then merged with Lehigh County and Northampton County. Today it is known as VIA. He was also instrumental in starting the Kurtz Training Center, also for mentally challenged people. It was organized by both Bob and Wiley, and the work is now a workshop and training center for these people and permits them to become productive citizens.

One thing about Bob was in carrying out his commitment to citizens who were mentally challenged, he helped found what is called the Camp Hill Foundation. This is a network of villages for mentally challenged people founded on the philosophy of Rudolph Steiner, a European who had started this kind of movement in Europe and then came to America. And Bob became very much interested in this, and now there are nine villages in the United States and a hundred throughout the world.

Bob and Bobbie's son Andrew lives in Kemberton Village, one of these village homes. In the village the youngsters live at the school in the homes just as if they were a member of a family and are treated exactly as a member of the family. Everything is age appropriate. They go to school, and then when the children become the age of 18 they move on to the Camp Hill Farm where, according to whatever their abilities are, they are assigned to work as well as to school. This, too, carries out the philosophy

of the dignity of work as a human being and contributes to self-esteem of people who are mentally challenged. And I think that's a very important thing to do.

Bob served as a Democrat, as his father was, served as a treasurer in several campaigns. He served as a treasurer in the campaign of Fred Rooney, our Congressman, served in my campaign, served in our son Ed's campaign as the treasurer. As such, all of our reports were filed on time. They were meticulous. Every contributor's check was scrutinized, for which I'm very thankful that there was such a person with that kind of integrity who was so interested in politics and to make sure that everything was correct as it should have been.

This is in addition to all that he did for the mentally challenged people. He was a philanthropist. He founded, for example, the Jewish Family Service serving Lehigh County. He was active in the Jewish Federation in Allentown, Lehigh County, and now merging with Northampton County. He was very instrumental in setting up a kosher chicken—kosher kitchen where they use kosher chickens—in setting up a kosher kitchen in Family Manor Care for the Jewish residents there. They could not afford a complete facility, but he made it possible to at least found that kind of a kitchen.

Bob was a boatman. He had a boat which is anchored in the Chesapeake and then in the winter down in Florida. He loved his boat, and in his wit he called it Bob-N-Bob. Here is where he relaxed and entertained friends, and we had many joyous moments with him and his family on that boat. He also taught boating to a class, but he always considered, and this was in his teachings, that the owner of the boat or the person who ran the boat or sailed the boat or whatever you would call it was to be called the captain.

His first mate was the admiral, Bobbie. She said that one time she was at her hairdresser, and her hairdresser mentioned the fact that she was taking boating lessons from a Mr. Margolis, who was a captain of a boat. And Bobbie turned to her and said, "Well, I'm Mrs. Margolis." And she said, "Oh, you're the admiral then."

Bob's grandchildren, Michael, Rebecca, and Daniel, were the joy and pride of Bob. He lived the dream of every Jewish grandparent, to live to see a grandchild become bar mitzvah or bas mitzvah. That happened. Michael was bar mitzvah. Three days later Bob died. So he lived long enough to see one of his dreams fulfilled.

He was a wonderful person, and I hope that you got a glimpse of the kind of person he was, generous, kind, witty, unassuming, a true loyal friend to many, many people in the community to whom he served.

Thank you very much.

THE COURT: Thank you, Senator.

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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