

1 NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

2
3 **MEMORIAL SERVICE**

4
5 HONOREES

6
7 **JOHN J. BARTOS, ESQUIRE**

8 **DAVID H. MILLER, ESQUIRE**

9 **JOHN W. RYBAK, ESQUIRE**

10 **NORMAN SEIDEL, ESQUIRE**

11
12 **B E F O R E:**

13 The Honorable STEPHEN G. BARATTA,
14 President Judge, F.P. KIMBERLY MCFADDEN, EMIL
15 GIORDANO, PAULA A. ROSCIOLI, ANTHONY S.
16 BELTRAMI, MICHAEL J. KOURY, CRAIG A. DALLY, and
17 JENNIFER R. SLETVOLD, Judges of the Court of
18 Common Pleas, Third Judicial District, Easton,
19 Northampton County, Pennsylvania on Tuesday,
20 September 22, 2015, commencing at 9:00 a.m. in
21 Courtroom Number 1.

22
23 **SENIOR JUDGE LEONARD N. ZITO Presiding.**

24
25 **JEAN E. GENOVA: OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER**

1 SENIOR JUDGE ZITO: Good morning.
2 President Judge Baratta, may I
3 begin the ceremony?

4 PRESIDENT JUDGE BARATTA: Please
5 do.

6 SENIOR JUDGE ZITO: welcome to the
7 Northampton County Bar Association Memorial
8 Service, and especially to the family and
9 friends of Jack Bartos, Dave Miller, John Rybak
10 and Norm Seidel.

11 Judge Hogan expresses his sincere
12 regrets in not being able to attend today.

13 At this time, we will recognize
14 Attorney Abraham Kassis.

15 Mr. Kassis?

16 MR. KASSIS: May it please the
17 Court, members of the Bar, and family and
18 friends in attendance here today.

19 I would like to begin by first of
20 all thanking you for coming here today for this
21 ceremony as we do every year to remember those
22 members of our profession, of our Bar
23 Association, who passed.

24 We are more than just an
25 Association. And for all of us who practice

1 here in Northampton County, we consider
2 ourselves a community, friends, colleagues. And
3 whenever we have a member of our Bar Association
4 pass away, it's not just having someone who is
5 an attorney died, it's having a member of our
6 family pass.

7 And when we come here today, we
8 want to celebrate and remember all of those
9 people who have contributed to us, the young
10 lawyers, who helped us grow and become better
11 attorneys from knowing those who came before
12 them.

13 So today, we honor four members of
14 our Bar Association. We have speakers today who
15 are going to say some words about them. And we
16 hope it will be a fair homage to their memory
17 and to all that they contributed to us.

18 And with that, Your Honor, I'll
19 return to the Court.

20 Thank you.

21 SENIOR JUDGE ZITO: Thank you, Mr.
22 Kassis.

23 At this time the Court will
24 recognize Attorney Charles Bruno.

25 Mr. Bruno?

1 MR. BRUNO: May it please the
2 Court, members of the Bar, friends and family of
3 Jack Bartos.

4 It's a real honor to be here today
5 on behalf of Jack. And I want to thank Sallie
6 for asking me to be here. I want to say to all
7 of you, that I'm going to give this speech from
8 my perspective of knowing Jack.

9 Jack was a friend of mine. And I
10 hope I can get through this without much
11 emotion, but it's true that I miss him very
12 much. And I hope I can do him justice by this
13 speech.

14 Jack went to college in Mount Saint
15 Mary's, got his Bachelor of Science degree in
16 1971. He went to Duquesne Law, got his law
17 degree in 1974. He was admitted to the Bar in
18 1974.

19 Now it's funny that we're here in
20 Courtroom Number 1 speaking about Jack Bartos
21 because, quite honestly, this is probably the
22 last place that Jack would want to be; in
23 Courtroom Number 1.

24 Jack was not a litigator. Jack
25 would openly admit that he was not a courtroom

1 lawyer. As a matter of fact, I brought a
2 picture of him for all the litigators today so
3 that you know who Jack Bartos is because you
4 probably never saw him in the courtroom. And he
5 was proud to say that.

6 He was comfortable in the Recorder
7 of Deeds Office, he was comfortable in the
8 Register of Wills Office, but he wasn't
9 comfortable in court.

10 And that's why early in my practice
11 guys like Leo DeVito and myself would be asked
12 to cover the litigation matters on Jack's
13 behalf. And even in the later days, forty years
14 into practice, Jack would refer litigation cases
15 to me and he would say, Chuck, this case might
16 go to court, so I told the client you were the
17 right guy. I appreciated his confidence in me.

18 In return, I often times referred
19 any complicated business, real estate, or estate
20 planning matters to Jack. Because Jack was the
21 man when it came to that.

22 I would sit in meetings with Jack
23 when he would meet with clients that I would ask
24 him to come in and consult with, and Jack was
25 friendly, courteous, thorough, patient, and he

1 always exhibited the highest level of
2 competence.

3 He always impressed me with his
4 ability to grasp difficult issues and make it
5 easy for the clients to understand. He truly
6 had a gift.

7 In his last several years of
8 practice, Jack became dedicated to becoming one
9 of the Lehigh Valley's most prominent estate
10 planning lawyers, with a specialty in asset
11 protection. Over the years, Jack saved a lot of
12 money for a lot of people and the families they
13 left behind.

14 Jack had a solid effect on me as an
15 attorney. He was one of the first people to
16 have faith and confidence in me in my abilities
17 to practice law. Jack, along with Jim Broughal,
18 gave me my first job in the practice of law back
19 at Bartos, Broughal and Wasylik in 1988. I
20 learned a lot from Jack and Jim, and I'm forever
21 grateful.

22 Jack was involved in many
23 businesses besides the law; hotels, restaurants,
24 medical device companies, investments,
25 insurance. Oh, yeah, long-distance phone

1 service, vitamins. But the one thing Jack
2 always came back to as his best business was the
3 practice of law. He realized that was his
4 forte, he realized that was his talent, and he
5 always valued that.

6 Behind every good lawyer is a good
7 support staff. I would be remiss if I did not
8 mention Lisa Morano. She was his right arm, she
9 was his best paralegal, she was his office
10 manager, and good friend.

11 Lisa, you helped him grow as a
12 lawyer and as a person.

13 Now, let's talk about Jack the
14 family man.

15 Sallie, you were his loving wife
16 for the last nineteen years. Whenever I spoke
17 to Jack, I could tell that he realized that you
18 were his biggest inspiration in his life. You
19 changed his life. And he knew that he would be
20 lost without you.

21 And then I think about fifteen or
22 sixteen years ago you brought him a surprise
23 package. And your twins were born, and Alexa
24 and Drew came into this world. And I remember
25 how joyous he was telling me about that. And he

1 couldn't believe that he was being a father
2 again. Because Jack had been a father before,
3 he had been a father before four times before.
4 He had six children, Peter, Jennifer, Annie,
5 Kristen, Alexa, and Drew.

6 Jack was extremely proud of his
7 children. His face would light up when he spoke
8 about them. I knew that he was always there for
9 them when they needed him.

10 Jack was also blessed with eight
11 grandchildren. He treasured every moment that
12 he had with his grandchildren.

13 Jack was also the oldest of nine
14 brothers and sisters growing up. Nine children
15 were born to Doctor Joe and Ethel Bartos. And I
16 have heard that Jack was a great big brother to
17 all of them.

18 Now I have to talk about Jack the
19 golfer.

20 Jack's greatest passion was the
21 game of golf. Everyone knew it. All
22 conversations with Jack that I ever had usually
23 ended up with talking about golf. Whether it
24 was playing golf, watching golf, traveling to go
25 golf, it was always the main topic.

1 Jack grew up at Saucon Valley
2 Country Club; the most beautiful piece of real
3 estate in the Lehigh Valley. And he always
4 valued the fact that he had the opportunity to
5 be in Saucon Valley.

6 He developed into an outstanding
7 golfer. He was smooth as silk on the golf
8 course. His reputation as a golfer, was as big
9 as his reputation as a lawyer.

10 I was impressed and also envious
11 with his ability to effortlessly swing a golf
12 club and always have great scores. A bad day on
13 the golf course with Jack was a good day on the
14 golf course for most of us. He was always
15 trying to improve. He was never satisfied. And
16 his golf cursed, the better you get the more you
17 want to get better. We would always talk about
18 how he was working on his game.

19 Me, on the other hand, I am a
20 former baseball player trying to learn how to
21 play golf.

22 And I'll never forget my first golf
23 experience with Jack back in 1988, when I was a
24 young lawyer. He invited me to come to Saucon
25 Valley Country Club and play golf with him and

1 one of his best clients and good friends. I
2 didn't even own golf clubs. I didn't even own
3 golf clothes. Jack said, I'll give you a set of
4 clubs to use. He brought out an old set for me
5 to use.

6 I knew Saucon had some kind of
7 dress policy, but I wasn't sure what it was.
8 And I ended up there with long pants, because I
9 knew you had to wear long pants, but I had a
10 golf shirt, and I had sneakers and a Yankee
11 baseball hat. It definitely wasn't proper golf
12 attire. Jack looked at me when I showed up and
13 he didn't say a word, he just said, let's play
14 golf.

15 well I tried, but what I played
16 that day wasn't golf. But Jack was very
17 patient, but it was probably the longest round
18 of my life.

19 I played a lot of golf with Jack
20 over the years. And although I made progress, I
21 got better. I still have the old set of clubs.
22 And this year I brought out one of the putters
23 that was in that set. It was a classic Ping
24 putter, for those of you who know golf. And I
25 played it, played with it in every round that I

1 played this year. And when I make a good putt,
2 I say, Jack would be proud of that. I say,
3 thanks, Jack, for letting me use the putter.
4 When I make a bad putt I say, I'm sorry I let
5 you down.

6 The last day Jack and I had time
7 together was last fall. It was last September,
8 early October, sometime around there. I was
9 once again his guest at Saucon Valley Country
10 Club on a Friday afternoon. It was a great day.
11 The course was beautiful. We played the Old
12 Course. The weather was beautiful. We both
13 played well. He seemed proud to see me hit good
14 shots, and I was excited to have him see me hit
15 good shots.

16 We sat down afterwards, we had a
17 beer together at the 18th green. We spoke about
18 family, we spoke about business, and, of course,
19 we spoke about golf. It was a perfect day.

20 At golf he was the master. I was
21 fortunate to be able to occasionally escape the
22 pressures of reality with Jack and play on any
23 golf course with him and have a great time.

24 I was fortunate to call Jack my
25 friend. And I will adopt the wishes of his

1 family by saying to my old friend today, we will
2 not say goodbye, rather until we meet again on
3 the first tee in heaven.

4 Thank you very much.

5 SENIOR JUDGE ZITO: Thank you, Mr.
6 Bruno.

7 At this time the Court will
8 re-recognize Attorney Abraham Kassis.

9 Mr. Kassis?

10 MR. KASSIS: May it please the
11 Court, Honorable Judges of the Northampton
12 County Court of Common Pleas, Judge Simpson,
13 Judge Smith. Thank you.

14 It is my solemn honor to stand here
15 today to speak on the life of David H. Miller,
16 who passed away on November 19, 2014.

17 Mr. Miller's family could not be
18 here today and I wanted, on behalf of the
19 Northampton County Bar Association, to remind us
20 all of the exceptional attorney and wonderful
21 person that he was.

22 David Miller was born on
23 February 15, 1919 in Easton. A graduate of
24 Easton High School in 1936. He went on to serve
25 his Country in World War II in the Navy on the

1 USS Warrington.

2 When he returned from the war he
3 continued his education, and in 1951 he
4 graduated from Lafayette College with his
5 Bachelor degree. He went on to UPenn, graduated
6 in 1954 with his law degree.

7 David Miller stayed loyal to the
8 Lehigh Valley, he stayed loyal to this area,
9 this is where his home was.

10 Several months before his death, he
11 celebrated his sixty-third wedding anniversary
12 with his beloved wife, Nettie. He had one son,
13 David Miller, who had a wife, Robin, and two
14 grandsons, Jerry and Jordan, who I'm told he
15 loved very, very much.

16 Those are the set facts for Mr.
17 Miller.

18 And when we talk about his life, we
19 are going to talk about the person that he was.
20 And in trying to do so, I reached out to those
21 who were close to him. And one of the people
22 who spoke to me was his Pastor, Paul Brady. And
23 Paul has sent me a note that he wanted to say to
24 me, to tell me the things that he remembered
25 about David. And with his permission, I'm just

1 going to read it, as he sent it to me.

2 David was a hard worker. As a
3 young man, he served in the Navy in World
4 War II. And he attended Lafayette College and
5 then the University of PA Law. But for Dave,
6 being a lawyer was more than just a career, it
7 was a way of life.

8 He was always so concerned for the
9 welfare of his clients. I can remember him
10 giving my dad and I good advice on many
11 occasions. And in his later years, he was only
12 too eager to help elderly folks at places like
13 Country Meadows.

14 Dave had a variety of interests
15 outside the law. He was crazy about animals of
16 all sorts. Dave served for ten years as the
17 president of the Northampton County SPCA. His
18 wife, Nettie, told me how Dave wouldn't even let
19 her squish a spider. You were to place it
20 gently in a tissue and carry it outside.

21 He was, of course, an avid pilot.
22 He loved his Cessna 170. And he was a proud
23 member of the Quiet Birdmen for decades.

24 Dave was an upbeat person. He
25 loved to talk, and he was especially good at

1 telling stories. Even through the last year of
2 his life, he was still regaling the residents of
3 Country Meadows with his World War II stories.

4 Dave Miller was remembered by his
5 friends and family as a person who cared, as a
6 person who was considerate of them, and as a
7 person who loved to take care of other people.
8 It's a reason why we are proud to say that he
9 was a member of the Northampton County Bar
10 Association. It's a reason that we are proud to
11 say that we knew him.

12 He will be missed. And we send our
13 condolences to his family and we wish them the
14 best.

15 Thank you.

16 SENIOR JUDGE ZITO: Thank you, Mr.
17 Kassis.

18 Ladies and gentlemen, at this time
19 we will recognize Attorney Samuel Murray.

20 Mr. Murray?

21 MR. MURRAY: Thank you, Your Honor.

22 May it please the Court, Your
23 Honors, Judges of the Northampton County Court
24 of Common Pleas, Judge Simpson, Judge Smith,
25 members of the Bar.

1 My acknowledgements and sympathy to
2 the Bartos, Miller, Rybak, and Seidel families.

3 When Tony Rybak first suggested
4 and when John's wife, Pat Broscius, asked me to
5 make these remarks, I was reminded of John's
6 passing, and it seemed surreal. My generation
7 of lawyers is not used to losing one of its own.

8 At John's funeral mass, many
9 beautiful and wonderful things were said about
10 John as a husband, father, brother, and son.
11 Today John's family and his colleagues,
12 especially from Juvenile Court, wanted me to
13 speak about his service to this Court, his
14 church, his community, his clients, and
15 especially the children at risk in Juvenile
16 Dependency Court.

17 John graduated from Liberty High
18 School in 1975, from Penn State University in
19 1979, and the University of Mississippi Law
20 School in 1982.

21 I just learned, and it should be no
22 surprise to many of us, that while establishing
23 his residency in Mississippi for law school,
24 John worked full time in a poultry plant while
25 also managing a mobile home park in exchange for

1 free housing. For anybody who knew John, that
2 was John.

3 After law school, John came back to
4 Northampton County to practice with his late
5 father, the late State Representative William C.
6 Rybak. From his first year in practice, until
7 his untimely death thirty-three years later,
8 John never shied away from tough cases.

9 Early on, he served as the
10 solicitor for the Domestic Relations Section,
11 while also establishing a successful general
12 practice in the fields of criminal law, divorce,
13 custody, juvenile, and estate practice.

14 In addition to all the time John
15 put into his office, his clients, and his
16 family, he also devoted a significant amount of
17 time to his church, the Lion's Club, and other
18 organizations.

19 At Saint Josephat's Ukrainian
20 Catholic Church, he served as the church
21 attorney and lector. With the Bethlehem Lion's
22 Club he was not only an officer, but the cook
23 for the annual chicken dinner and pork-dinner
24 fundraisers. He was the guy then who also
25 cleaned up after those dinners.

1 As a lawyer, John would become
2 defined in his role as Guardian Ad Litem in
3 Juvenile Dependency Court. John was appointed
4 to this position in the late 1990's, and served
5 dependent children until his passing.

6 I personally know that the current
7 Guardians agree that John was the paradigm for
8 this position. He established office hours at
9 Children and Youth to review files, to meet with
10 caseworkers regarding the status of dependent
11 children, and to work on his case files in
12 preparation for Court. He never relied only on
13 the Juvenile Court Summaries prepared for court,
14 but read each and every professional's report
15 and/or attachments, and we had to be ready,
16 because he would let us know if we didn't read a
17 particular document.

18 When children at risk had to be
19 removed from their parents or caretakers and
20 placed in foster or residential care; or the
21 opposite, when determining if children should be
22 returned to their homes after successful Court
23 involvement, he made his recommendations without
24 hesitation.

25 Also, John did not see his role

1 limited to Dependency Court and trials involving
2 termination of parental rights. If one of his
3 cases involved a custody conference or
4 delinquency hearing, he would also attend those
5 matters. Even if one of his dependent children
6 was charged with a summary offense before a
7 Magistrate or Judge in another county, John
8 would travel to represent that child pro bono.

9 John was a good, loyal friend to
10 many of us. He never said no, when any of us
11 asked for a favor. And John didn't tell you
12 what you wanted to hear, he would always tell
13 you what you need to hear. There was no
14 sugarcoating with John Rybak. As a friend,
15 there was never an agenda. What you saw, is
16 what you got with John.

17 with the exception of those times
18 when John was hospitalized or seeing his
19 oncologist in Philadelphia, he would make it to
20 Court every week, even during the last few
21 months before his passing.

22 Despite our protests, he came to
23 Court in obvious pain and in a state of
24 weakness. He only compromised by allowing
25 someone to drive him to and from court, carry

1 his files, and bring his cases into the
2 courtroom without having to get up from his
3 chair. Somehow his strength of mind or
4 willpower overcame his physical weakness. Not
5 once did we ever hear him complain or say, why
6 me? Instead, he focused his energy on
7 representing dependent children and serving this
8 Court.

9 I truly believe that at the end,
10 John could state the words of Saint Paul: I
11 have fought the good fight, I have finished the
12 race, I have kept the faith.

13 Thank you, Your Honor.

14 SENIOR JUDGE ZITO: Thank you, Mr.
15 Murray.

16 Ladies and gentlemen, at this time
17 the Court will recognize Attorney Philip Hof.

18 Mr. Hof?

19 MR. HOF: Your Honor.

20 May it please the Court, visiting
21 members of the Commonwealth and the United
22 States District Court, my colleagues, friends,
23 and family of Norm, and our other friended
24 colleagues who we've spoken of today.

25 On December 29th, 2014, Attorney

1 Norman Seidel left this earth at ninety-six. He
2 was still practicing law, actively advising a
3 group of clients in their business affairs.

4 Let's go back ninety-six years. In
5 1918, almost nine months to the day that
6 President Woodrow Wilson declared our country's
7 involvement in world war I, Norman Seidel was
8 born in Philadelphia.

9 His dad passed away, he grew up in
10 Easton, being raised by his mom. He attended
11 Lafayette, and he went on to attend Penn Law
12 School, graduating number one in his class,
13 being awarded the Order of the Coif. He was
14 invited to join Law Review. Of course, Norm
15 declined. Instead he worked in a Philadelphia
16 shoe store in order to support his law school
17 tuition and send money to his mom every month.

18 World War II Sergeant, United
19 States Air Force, Norm served for four years.
20 To quote our partner Danny Cohen, Norm marveled
21 at how he always had parts left over when he
22 took his rifle apart. Still, we won the war, no
23 thanks to him.

24 Actually, Norm's first case was
25 during the war. It was a pro bono, and he was

1 defending an AWOL case. And afterwards, he won.
2 And he said, I won because I was the only one
3 who actually read the Statute.

4 He returned to Easton in 1945,
5 opening solo practice under mentors like Johnnie
6 O'Brien and Charles Hogan.

7 And in 1968 he was joined by Danny
8 Cohen, in what would be a long and equally
9 satisfying partnership that lasted just shy of
10 forty-seven years. Norm had actually been
11 Danny's guardian after Danny's parents passed
12 away at an early time.

13 When I was coming out of this
14 clerkship in 1980 and looking for permanent
15 employment, we'd refer to Seidel and Cohen as
16 the gold standard by which we would vendor other
17 law firms where we were applying for a job.

18 And it's not despite, but it's
19 because of this solid bond between Danny and
20 Norm, and because they were so close, that
21 Danny, concerned about his own emotion, asked me
22 to substitute and proxy his deserved spot at
23 this podium.

24 At our Bar Association last week,
25 Danny did deliver an eloquent tribute to some of

1 Norm's lessons. One of them, he said, Norm
2 taught us, he never forgot where he came from.
3 He grew up in a poor family, and a significant
4 part of his practice involved work for the needy
5 and the downtrodden, representing the NAACP, the
6 American Civil Liberties Union Association, many
7 churches and synagogues, Community Action
8 Committee of Lehigh Valley, PROJeCT, and other
9 works. In other words, he remembered where he
10 came from and he gave back to the community in
11 large measure.

12 Upon my joining the firm
13 thirty-five years ago, I was struck by Mr.
14 Seidel's trance-like focus on his work. You
15 could walk into his office, talk to him, grab a
16 book, drop two books, trip over your own feet,
17 and he wouldn't look up from his legal pad and
18 his number two pencil, where he focused on a
19 legal issue.

20 He'd read every word on every
21 contract. If a Notice to Plead arrived and it
22 had been photocopied and recopied thousands of
23 times and it'd have a little defect in it, Norm
24 would find it.

25 He'd be reading one of the last

1 paragraphs of a contract, perhaps with an
2 integration clause or venue selection, and he'd
3 seize up a phrase. He'd write it down on his
4 legal pad in pencil, he'd read it, he'd read it
5 again, he'd research it, he'd spill coffee on
6 it, he'd sleep on it, and then he'd hurry to work
7 the next morning to read it again and think
8 about it again.

9 And then he'd call us in. I know
10 lawyers are too busy for the law anymore, can
11 you just give me a minute? We would go in and
12 listen to what he had read, we'd listen to his
13 interpretation. Sometimes we'd disagree, he
14 would yell at us. He'd get so excited once he
15 decided on his position with his interpretation.
16 and then he'd excitedly tell the client, and
17 then he'd litigate.

18 And Norm would litigate with
19 exasperating passion. And when on occasion the
20 learned Judge declined to accept a novel,
21 well-reasoned, but perhaps strained
22 interpretation that could create a completely
23 unintended consequence, Norm listened patiently
24 to the adverse decision and Norm moved on.

25 He'd forgive the Judge, he never

1 held a grudge, he'd forget about it the next
2 day. Forgive and forget, that was Norm Seidel.

3 Ooops! Wrong eulogy.

4 In reality, Norm had no problem
5 letting the jurist know that alas, His or Her
6 Honor had not properly read the Statute, had not
7 properly read Norm's brief, had not heard Norm's
8 argument, or perhaps that Judge just never
9 really went to law school.

10 And if the critique to the Judge
11 was delivered in person, Norm's comments would
12 continue, and so would the decibel level of this
13 assault. And somewhere along the line Norm
14 honestly came to believe in his heart that this
15 verbal attack was not an ex parte communication,
16 as long as there were other people in the
17 restaurant.

18 And to its credit, our Court here
19 locally had measured patience for Norm,
20 especially around the time of his last court
21 appearance at age ninety. I inferred that our
22 Court understood that Norm was showing more
23 passion and impatience, less than anger. And
24 his motivation was not simply to win and make a
25 buck, but to know that his interpretation of the

1 Law had been vindicated.

2 But the Pennsylvania Supreme Court
3 was not familiar with Norm Seidel. And when he
4 and Steve Kreglow squared off on a Lafayette
5 College case, Norm had become agitated,
6 suggesting that one of the Justices would not
7 have asked such a question, had the Justice
8 simply read his brief. The Chief Justice leaned
9 forward toward the microphone and admonished
10 Norm. Mr. Seidel, calm down, we don't want you
11 to have a heart attack. And not realizing that
12 his stage whisper would carry through the
13 courtroom, Steve Kreglow was heard to say, where
14 we live, he doesn't get heart attacks, he gives
15 them.

16 Joining our firm after her
17 clerkship for now President Judge Baratta, Jill
18 Kelly McComsey headed into Norm's office to
19 re-introduce herself, because it had been a few
20 months since the interview. He was not in the
21 mood for any chitchat. He knew she had been a
22 law clerk, he asked her to sit down, and he gave
23 her a scenario of facts. He then asked her if
24 the contract failed for inadequacy of
25 consideration or for lack of consideration. And

1 having gone through the same hazing myself, I
2 knew that there was no right answer, and she'd
3 be in there an hour. And it was her
4 indoctrination to the reasoning of Norman
5 Seidel.

6 But his intellectual love for the
7 law was matched by his genuine love for the
8 profession. He took a special interest in young
9 lawyers. As Mike Shay was heard to say in his
10 remarks about Norm last week, Norm didn't talk
11 down to any young lawyers, he really treated
12 them with respect. He liked hearing about their
13 families, he like hearing about their practice,
14 he liked hearing about where they thought things
15 were going, and he liked baiting them into a
16 legal discussion. And as they would be looking
17 for a way to get out the door, he would spin his
18 web.

19 I was a decade behind Danny, and
20 Chris Reid two behind me. And with all the
21 changes in the profession, Norm would
22 occasionally bristle at partnership meetings as
23 we would discuss the unfortunate necessity of
24 advertising, and computers, and copy machines
25 that make double holes when they also copy.

1 But, you know, he listened with interest and he
2 always helped keep us grounded at these meetings
3 and stay close to our core values of service to
4 the client, service to the community, as much as
5 the practice of law can permit.

6 He became especially fond of our
7 partner Chris Reid, who genuinely enjoyed
8 spending time with Norm. The conversation
9 usually beginning with a tough legal issue that
10 Chris was facing, Norm yelling a little, then
11 moving on to national politics, and always
12 ending up with the latest line on the Eagles
13 game.

14 And Norm had a real love for our
15 staff, for our legal secretaries and
16 paraprofessionals. He always treated them with
17 genuine respect and with affection. And because
18 Norm hugged and occasionally kissed each of us,
19 we never had too many problems with his
20 well-known showing of physical affection for
21 everyone.

22 We're still fortunate enough to
23 have three members of our staff who take
24 shorthand. And although he knew how to use the
25 Dictaphone, Norm preferred sharing his thoughts

1 with his very loyal legal secretary, Joanie
2 Barlieb, and having her prepare a typewritten
3 memo for him. Please, by first thing in the
4 morning.

5 Norm was generous. He was generous
6 with his time, he was generous with his
7 compliments, he was generous with his financial
8 contributions to others. We would only argue
9 about money as a partnership when he would
10 insist on lowering his partnership share, so
11 that younger partners could pay their bills.
12 And Norm never saw a restaurant check that he
13 did not grab and pay.

14 In the weeks before he died, I'd
15 visit Norm at the home and sit next to his bed.
16 He told me was ready. He said at that point in
17 ninety-six years of age his only real joys were
18 when his children and grandchildren walked
19 through the door. But he was running out of
20 time. Not to live, but to finish his CLE
21 credits.

22 He became obsessed with not wanting
23 to get that letter if you're behind in your CLE.
24 So we played CLE CD tapes from the PBI on a
25 laptop on his bed on the computer. But it was

1 tough to get through because I'd have to stop
2 the computer and he'd tell me in a loud voice
3 why the lecturer was wrong, how could PBI let
4 someone who obviously doesn't understand the
5 restatement of torts tell us how it's changed.

6 Norm was grounded on what was
7 really important. Law was everything to him,
8 but it was nothing to him compared to his
9 family.

10 For sixty years, he was a devoted
11 husband to his wife, Myriel. In his final days,
12 he was surrounded by his daughters, Jan and
13 Judy, and his sons-in-law, Joe and Bruce, and
14 his granddaughters, Samantha, Casey, and Buckley
15 Waldman. And Norm knew, he told me how grateful
16 he was that he could celebrate the wedding of
17 his grandson, Jack, who had recently passed the
18 bar, as Jack married his new bride, Christina,
19 just months before Norm passed away. And Norm
20 made it to the Penthouse at the SoHo Hotel to be
21 there. I should only be half as blessed as Norm
22 was with such an attendant family in my final
23 days.

24 These remarks have not been
25 entirely brief, but it's tough when someone

1 lives a life like Norm does and lives it for
2 ninety-six years. And Danny Cohen said,
3 although Norman Seidel ceased appearing in court
4 at approximately age ninety, yes ninety, he was
5 truly a legend. A term that is all too loosely
6 used. To the attorneys who saw him in court,
7 whether in trial or in Argument Court, just like
8 today, his intellect was gigantic, his tenacity
9 legendary, his memory prodigious, his
10 preparation total, and his influence on dozens
11 of young lawyers incalculable.

12 So let me end these remarks not
13 with my words, but with those of Norm himself in
14 2011 in response to an interview question
15 somebody asked him.

16 Ego, Norman said, is probably the
17 most important thing in a human being's life. I
18 mean, here I am telling you about all these
19 things and I'm starting to like myself better.
20 Usually, I walk around wondering what I have
21 accomplished in life. Now I'm thinking maybe I
22 did accomplish some good things. I know it
23 sounds funny, but it's true.

24 Norm's accomplishments were felt.
25 They were felt at home, they were felt in our

1 community, they were felt in this courtroom, and
2 his presence will be missed.

3 Thank you.

4 SENIOR JUDGE ZITO: Thank you, Mr.
5 Hof.

6 MR. HOF: Your Honor.

7 SENIOR JUDGE ZITO: Members of the
8 Bar, ladies and gentlemen, at this time we
9 especially recognize our distinguished former
10 colleagues, Judge Robert Simpson of the
11 Commonwealth Court, and Judge Edward Smith of
12 the United States District Court for the Eastern
13 District of Pennsylvania. We thank them for
14 attending.

15 Two thousand years ago, the old
16 Testament Psalmist wrote, that the days of our
17 lives were like those of grass. As flowers in
18 the field we grow and we bloom, and then a wind
19 sweeps over us and we are gone, and our place
20 does not remember us.

21 Today, in a small measure, we defy
22 the observations of the psalmist by remembering
23 our colleagues, who were swept by the wind and
24 are now gone. Today we fondly remember our
25 special and unique Attorneys John Bartos, Dave

1 Miller, John Rybak, and the incomparable Norm
2 Seidel.

3 I close today with the admonition
4 of one of my current judicial colleagues who
5 says often, we are all in the book. We know not
6 the day or the hour that the wind will sweep
7 over us. However, we expect in some small
8 measure that others will do as we did today, to
9 defy the Psalmist in our place where we
10 remember.

11 Mr. Fusachio, call the Court to
12 order please in remembrance and out of respect
13 for our colleagues, Jack Bartos, Dave Miller,
14 John Rybak and Norm Seidel.

15 MR. FUSACHIO: All rise please.
16 This Honorable Court is now adjourned.

17 SENIOR JUDGE ZITO: The Bar
18 Association welcomes you to a reception in the
19 jury lounge.

20 Thank you.

21 * * *

22 (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: October 8, 2015

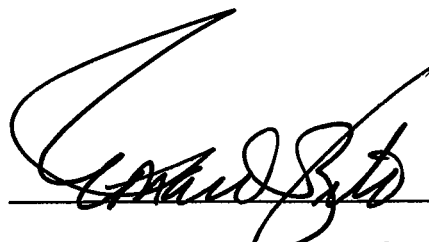


JEAN E. GENOVA
Official Court Reporter

II.

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

Date: October 21, 2015



LEONARD N. ZITO, SENIOR JUDGE