

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
CIVIL DIVISION

IN RE: MEMORIAL SERVICE OF PEDRO BOONE and
NORMAN A. PEIL, JR.

BEFORE THE HONORABLE EMIL GIORDANO,
Judge, Northampton County, Third Judicial
District, Easton, Pennsylvania January 7,
2011.

APPEARANCES:

Jacqueline Taschner, Esquire
On behalf of Pedro Boone

Norman Seidel, Esquire
On behalf of Norman A. Peil, Jr.

1 JUDGE MCFADDEN: Good morning,
2 Ladies and gentlemen. It is with deep sadness
3 that this Court convenes today to reflect upon
4 the lives and the work of our esteemed members
5 who have passed away within the last year. As a
6 Court, we are honored to have the families and
7 friends of our deceased members with us for this
8 Memorial Service.

9 At this time I will turn over the
10 service to Judge Giordano.

11 JUDGE GIORDANO: Good morning,
12 everyone. Good morning on behalf of the Bench
13 of Northampton County. I'd like to welcome you
14 all to today's Memorial Service and I'd like to
15 extend a special welcome to the family and
16 friends of the deceased. When we think of a
17 Memorial Service we think of grief, we think of
18 sorrow, we think of loss. Today we gather for
19 the purpose of celebrating the careers of 2 men
20 of the Northampton County Bar who passed away
21 this year. I believe it is appropriate that we
22 gather here in Courtroom Number 1, a room so
23 rich in tradition, as I suspect both of our
24 colleagues who are being honored here today once
25 stood before this Bench and took their Oath of

1 Admission to practice before the Court of Common
2 Pleas of Northampton County.

3 while these men came from very
4 different locations within this County and
5 practiced in very different areas of the law,
6 they both had in common a commitment to
7 community and a sense that the practice of law
8 was an honor and a profession not simply a means
9 to earn a living.

10 At this juncture the Court
11 recognizes Magisterial District Judge,
12 Jacqueline Taschner, President of the
13 Northampton County Bar Association.

14 MS. TASCHNER: Thank you. As
15 President of the Bar Association, this is a
16 bittersweet task for me. During the past year
17 we have had to say goodbye to 2 members of our
18 Bar Association, Pedro Boone and Norman Peil.

19 Now, as lawyers we work long hours
20 often making personal sacrifices to promote the
21 causes of our clients. Because of the unique
22 challenges of our profession we develop strong
23 bonds with our colleagues. And in a way, we
24 become our own family. The Northampton County
25 Bar is just that, an extended family whose

1 members are adversaries within these walls yet
2 can walk through those doors and share a cup of
3 coffee, a summer outing, a meal, a vacation. We
4 congratulate victories, share the joys of
5 marriage and birth and other successes. And we
6 often offer our support when a colleague suffers
7 a personal or professional loss. This
8 collegiate and sense of family is what brings us
9 here today. We honor the memories of our
10 associations with Norman Peil and Pedro Boone.
11 We thank them for their dedication and their
12 service to their families, our family, the
13 Northampton County Bar, the profession and the
14 community that they loved. It is bittersweet
15 because Pedro and Norman are no longer with us
16 to share their wisdom, their values, their
17 passion for the law. We mourn them and we
18 continue to mourn them. But today, as Judge
19 Giordano stated, we are here to celebrate them,
20 their lives, their personal and professional
21 accomplishments. So as we pay tribute to our
22 colleagues we also say goodbye and we say thank
23 you.

24 I'm here today, as well, to talk
25 about Pedro Boone. Pedro Boone was an only

1 child born to Lula and Lemuel Boone in the small
2 farming community of Ahoskie, North Carolina.
3 Pedro's humble roots marked his life; his story
4 is best told in the words of his cousin, Beverly
5 Hill Murray, who spoke fondly of him at his
6 memorial service.

7 Pedro lost his father at a very
8 early age, and his mother remarried and moved up
9 into this area, up north. Pedro was sent down
10 home to Ahoskie during the summers, spending
11 time on his uncle's family farm.

12 As a teenager, he met and fell
13 head-over-heels in love with Kathryn Grantham,
14 his Kitty. Despite protests from both families,
15 the teenagers married. As youngsters, they had
16 4 children; 3 daughters and a son. For Pedro,
17 his responsibility to his family was his primary
18 concern. He possessed innate entrepreneurial
19 skills. He managed to own his own service
20 station and a car dealership, Pioneer Motors, at
21 an early age. His beautiful bride not only
22 cared for the family, but she also had a
23 successful catering business.

24 And Pedro and Kitty were partners
25 in every sense of the word. Pedro would be a

1 bartender at Kitty's catering events and Kitty
2 would work with Pedro in his automotive
3 business.

4 Pedro and Kitty realized the
5 importance of education. And both had an
6 insatiable desire to continue the education
7 which had been interrupted by their youthful
8 romance and marriage. After being a
9 businessman, after raising a family, Pedro
10 obtained a BA from Moravian College, an MBA from
11 the University of Southern Illinois and his JD
12 from Temple University. Pedro, in fact,
13 received his law degree in the same month as his
14 daughter, Tricia. And that was an
15 accomplishment. And they were both very proud
16 of that.

17 Throughout his life, Pedro wore
18 many hats. He was a financial consultant for
19 and President of Venture Development; a real
20 estate broker and President of Venture
21 Development Properties; Syndicator and President
22 of Hydroelectric Corporation; a securities
23 broker and Corporate Secretary for the
24 International Investor's Services of Abington,
25 Pennsylvania. And he eventually established his

1 private practice as a wills and trust attorney
2 here in Northampton County. He was licensed to
3 practice law in both Pennsylvania and New
4 Jersey.

5 Pedro's heritage was that of
6 serving his community. His great grandfather,
7 Lemuel Washington Boone, was an educator,
8 clergyman and political activist, 1 of the most
9 influential African Americans in North Carolina
10 in the mid to late 19th Century. Pedro, too,
11 loved his community and served it in various
12 ways. He was Secretary of the Advisory Board
13 for the Salvation Army; Past President of the
14 Torch Clubs International, and a member of the
15 Pennsylvania Bar Association and the National
16 Association of Security Dealers.

17 Pedro succeeded in most everything he tried and
18 believed that necessity was the mother of
19 invention. Pedro, with the help of his
20 stepfather, built his family's home from the
21 ground up. He was an amateur photographer and
22 this hobby became an avocation. He documented
23 many, many family events. In fact, 2 short
24 weeks before his death, Pedro attended the Boone
25 Family Reunion in Greensboro, North Carolina.

1 It was an annual event that he helped organize
2 37 years ago.

3 Pedro loved life. He was eager to
4 embrace new ideas, new friends, new cultures.
5 He traveled to India, China and Egypt. He was
6 planning a trip to Greece at the time of his
7 death.

8 In summarizing the life that was
9 Pedro Boone, Ms. Murray said, Pedro came from
10 distinguished but humble beginnings. He
11 overcame the obstacles he faced and with talent
12 and determination, he seemed to have achieved
13 everything he set out to accomplish, and then
14 some. When he reached an age when many others
15 would have been counting down the years to
16 retirement, he was happily reinventing himself.

17 He enriched the lives of others
18 through his professional expertise and knowledge
19 of law and finance. He took great pride in the
20 accomplishments of his children and his
21 grandchildren. Pedro's final bequest, that his
22 body be entrusted to the Humanity Gifts Registry
23 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for medical
24 education and research speaks volumes about his
25 selflessness and his character.

1 For 85 years, Pedro L. Boone was a
2 mover and shaker who would not be deterred by
3 situation or circumstance. He took his
4 obligations as a husband, father, attorney and
5 friend very seriously.

6 On a personal level, I was saddened
7 to learn of Pedro's death. I knew Pedro had
8 been practicing law part-time when he passed
9 away on July 30th and I was amazed that he was
10 still practicing law at age 85. And then I look
11 at Norman Seidel and I know he's still
12 practicing law in his 90s. And that is quite an
13 accomplishment. We'll miss seeing Pedro at our
14 activities. More so, I'm going to miss the
15 impish little grin, that twinkle in his eye when
16 he tried to be the curmudgeon.

17 The time for mourning is past,
18 today we celebrate his life, his dedication, his
19 spirit. He met life's challenges head on with
20 gusto and determination. I am honored to have
21 been his colleague, his friend, his family.

22 Now I'm going to ask Norm Seidel to
23 say a few words about Norman Peil.

24 MR. SEIDEL: May it please the
25 Court, we are assembled in this historic

1 courtroom to honor the memory of a colleague,
2 fellow advocate and good friend, Norman A.
3 Peil, Jr, who left us on June 7th of this year.

4 Solely because of my age, I am not
5 a stranger to this time honored tradition of the
6 Bar Association. As a matter of fact, 2 of
7 Norman's late colleagues, Gus Milides and
8 Robertson Taylor, both much younger than I, for
9 years would argue in my presence about which 1
10 of them would have the dubious honor of doing my
11 eulogy. Unfortunately, I had the sad privilege
12 of doing both of them.

13 For you, Elda Mathias Peil,
14 Norman's life mate, and Karen, Cindy, Chris and
15 Steve, and yes, even his brother and special
16 friend, Ray, this ceremony provides the Bar with
17 an opportunity to let you know the high esteem
18 in which Norman was held by his fellow lawyers.
19 Norman's reserved, low key demeanor did not lend
20 itself to his telling you on his own of his
21 sterling accomplishments in his chosen
22 profession.

23 When I came to the Bar, the County
24 was governed by 3 county commissioners. The law
25 required at least 1 be a member of the minority

1 party. Northampton County was then solidly
2 Democratic. Norman Peil, Sr, often referred to
3 as Nick, Norman's dad, was the perennial
4 Republican elected every 4 years to serve in
5 that office. The high regard in which he was
6 held by the community at large and particularly
7 by his political adversaries, augured well for
8 the place his son, Norman Jr, would eventually
9 take as a respected member of our Bar.

10 Norman was born on July 22, 1925,
11 was graduated from Easton High School Class of
12 '43 and received a Bachelor of Science in
13 Economics at the Wharton School of the
14 University of Pennsylvania in 1946. Completing
15 what was a 4 year course in just 3 years at such
16 a prestigious university gave early indication
17 of Norman's industry, intensity and zeal in
18 whatever he undertook. He then studied
19 accounting, leading to his Pennsylvania CPA
20 certification in 1948, and practiced that
21 profession for a highly regarded center city
22 Philadelphia accounting firm for 2 years, part
23 of it with Peat Marwick & Mitchell. Yet he
24 managed to attend law school and while working
25 received his L.L.B, later a Juris Doctor degree

1 from Temple Law School in 1951. He was admitted
2 to practice before the Pennsylvania Supreme
3 Court that year and later admitted to practice
4 in Northampton County, in this very courtroom.

5 On December 10th, 1962 he was
6 admitted to practice before the United States
7 Supreme Court. That admission was not a mere
8 formality, for Norman was just 1 of possibly 2
9 possibly or 3 members of our Bar who would ever
10 have the privilege of actually arguing a case
11 before the highest Court in the land.

12 I got to know Norman when he was
13 doing his then required clerkship for 1 of the
14 County's eminent attorneys, Bernard M. Goodman.

15 It was not long thereafter that our
16 Bar came to recognize his exceptional
17 qualifications as a tax lawyer. His experience
18 as a CPA and his work in the Office of Chief
19 Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service in
20 Newark, New Jersey, served him well in achieving
21 this measure of expertise.

22 Because of his exceptional skill,
23 he managed to attract as clients most of the
24 then giant companies in the Valley, including
25 Alpha Portland Cement Company and Weller

1 Electric Company General Supply Company, just to
2 mention a few.

3 Over and above his professional
4 qualifications, there were 2 virtues that struck
5 you on your very first meeting with Norman Peil,
6 integrity and competence.

7 Norman needed no Professional Code
8 of Ethics to dictate his conduct as a
9 professional. His personal ethics were far more
10 stringent than those promulgated by any
11 professional society. Norman Peil, in fact,
12 exemplified the highest standard of professional
13 ethics, standards which his fellow lawyers could
14 seek to achieve. His colleagues might well have
15 referred to him as quote, Mr. Integrity, end
16 quote. In the parlance of the day he was called
17 quote, a straight arrow, end quote. Few of us
18 would measure up to the high standard Norman
19 Peil had set for his own professional conduct.

20 In addition, most of us, including
21 his secretary of 50 years, Mary Wing, knew
22 Norman as the consummate workaholic. So much so
23 that it became a standing joke among his
24 colleagues that Norman had become a traffic
25 hazard, reading tax cases and tax reports and

1 commentaries while he was crossing Center Square
2 on his way to his office in the Alpha Building
3 from his home in Phillipsburg, New Jersey.
4 I personally witnessed some close calls he had
5 with traffic.

6 His studious attention to all
7 nuances of the Internal Revenue Code and their
8 interpretation made him a constant source of
9 research for all of us just general
10 practitioners not able on our own to fathom the
11 labyrinth of the Federal Tax Law Code.

12 He did find time, however, to be a
13 loving husband, father and grandfather. He
14 enjoyed his annual family jaunts to Stone
15 Harbor, New Jersey, where he did some part-time
16 fishing. And I'm sure a full-time reading of the
17 new amendments to and/or cases interpreting the
18 U.S. Tax Code. He found time to take part as a
19 member of the Kiwanis, the Pomfret Club, Friends
20 of the state Theatre, St. Peters Lutheran Church
21 on College Hill and St. John's Lutheran Church
22 on 4th Street. He served as a particularly
23 valued member of the Board of the Warren
24 Hospital in New Jersey, serving as President of
25 its Foundation as well as the Boards of the

1 Lafayette Ambassador Bank, Visiting Nurse
2 Association and the Phillipsburg Free Public
3 Library.

4 As busy as he was, he found time to
5 teach accounting at Farliegh Dickinson
6 University and Lafayette College, form a law
7 partnership with Michael Egan and later act as
8 counsel to the firm of Funt, Dayton and
9 Duckworth in Bethlehem.

10 Amidst all of his work, study and
11 professional responsibility, he was always
12 grateful for having had the opportunity to teach
13 Sunday School in East Orange, New Jersey for it
14 was there that he met his wife, Elda, who at the
15 time was still a young Upsala College student
16 whom he married on September 7th, 1957.

17 As his Pastor commented, Norman was
18 a man of great faith and immense commitment to
19 the church.

20 Norman and Elda traveled
21 extensively, visiting 50 states and 10 Canadian
22 provinces, including the Yukon Territory,
23 managing, nevertheless, to spend some winters in
24 Venice, Florida.

25 while an unrepentant New York

1 Yankees fan, he did find time to root for
2 Philadelphia Athletics or Phillies, that is,
3 when they weren't playing the Yankees.

4 His quiet, unassuming manner
5 managed to mask the zeal with which he furthered
6 the interests of his clients. I know from
7 personal experience the high regard in which he
8 was held by the Tax Court and the Federal
9 District Court. In 1957, he successfully
10 handled an estate tax matter on behalf of 1 of
11 my clients. The acumen he exhibited in
12 bypassing the Tax Court and convincing the
13 Middle District Federal Court of the merits of
14 his case made him immediately my quotes, go to,
15 end quote, guy whenever I had a client who had
16 an issue with the Internal Revenue Service.
17 Many of my colleagues soon followed suit.

18 There were 3 pillars to Norman's
19 make up; family, church and profession. He
20 managed each with 3 characteristics; modesty,
21 integrity and competence.

22 His presence will be missed not
23 only by his colleagues but by all who knew him.

24 JUDGE GIORDANO: Thank you, Ms.
25 Taschner.

1 Thank you, Mr. Seidel.

2 Ladies and gentlemen, as we heard
3 this morning, these men wore various hats during
4 their legal careers. They were community
5 leaders, public servants who contributed their
6 time and effort to the needs of the less
7 fortunate and working for the public good, not
8 out of a desire for position, or reward, or
9 recognition but rather a sense of public service
10 and professional obligation. It shouldn't come
11 as a surprise to any of us that as that is part
12 of our calling as lawyers, today was a pause to
13 remember our departed colleagues. We take time
14 to reflect on their noble contribution to our
15 community as lawyers of the Northampton County
16 Bar. Yes, we certainly grieve their loss but
17 let us celebrate their careers and honor their
18 memories and express our gratitude for the years
19 of service as members of our Bar Association.

20 The Bar Association is sponsoring a
21 reception immediately following this service in
22 the Jury Lounge. Please join us for this.

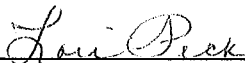
23 We will reconvene the call of the
24 list at 9:45.

25 Thank you.

1 (CONCLUDED.)

2 CERTIFICATION

3
4 I HEREBY CERTIFY that the proceedings
5 are contained fully and accurately in the notes
6 taken by me in the above cause, and that this is
7 a correct transcript of the same.

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10 

11 _____
12 Lori Peck
13 Registered Professional Reporter

14
15 The foregoing record of the proceedings
16 in the within matter is directed to be filed.

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19 _____
20 EMIL GIORDANO, JUDGE

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