

JAMES F. PRITCHARD MEMORIAL  
June 21, 1976

(Remarks by William C. Cassebaum, Esquire)

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 James Flory Pritchard on April 23, 1976.

Jim Pritchard was born on December 11, 1923, the son of the late Mayor of Bangor, Hayden B. Pritchard, and Marion Flory Pritchard.

Jim's life was closely tied to the Slate Belt community. His forebearers were pioneers and leaders in the slate and milling industries that were the backbone of the Slate Belt economy. He carried forward this tradition of leadership until the day he died.

Jim attended the Bangor Public Schools. His college career was interrupted by World War II, and he entered the United States Army in 1942 and served with distinction in the European Theatre until the end of the War in 1945.

He resumed his college career and graduated from Williams College in 1946 and from the Rutgers University Law School in 1949.

He was admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and the several Courts of Northampton County in 1950, and returned to Bangor, where he began the practice of law in the Slate Belt with the late J. Lawrence Davis.

A "country lawyer" has been defined as one who performs every sort of legal service for every sort of client — no matter the size of the community. Jim Pritchard fit that description perfectly. There was a constant flow of clients in and out of his office; and every matter was treated as being equally important, whether it be a neighborhood boundary dispute, a domestic relations problem, or a business transaction.

He instilled confidence in his clients, they had complete faith in him; he was their counselor.

The partnership of Davis and Pritchard was formed in 1955; I joined the firm in 1959, and Alan McFall joined us in 1966.

Our association was a partnership in every sense of the word. As a younger lawyer, I was reassured by the very

presence of men of the caliber of Larry Davis and Jim Pritchard. In a busy practice, Jim had constant demands on his time. However, I cannot recall one single instance out of the many times that I came to him for advice on a legal matter that he did not set aside what he was doing and turn his undivided attention to my problem. Invariably, he had the right answer, for he had a special quality of being able to understand the problem, and the legal acumen and plain common sense to arrive at the correct and most practical answer.

In many ways, he was more like an older brother, and his absence has created a void that cannot be filled.

Larry Davis died on March 6, 1974. Although his passing was a tremendous personal loss to all of us, lawyers and secretaries alike, we were sustained by our awareness that Jim was there to take his place. But, it was not to be for long. On April 22, 1974, barely six weeks later, while searching a title in the Court House, Jim suffered a heart attack that was so severe that it forced him to withdraw immediately from the active practice of law.

During the next two years, he seemed to be making progress, his spirits were high, and his strength was returning. Nevertheless, the basic medical problem remained, and on April 23 of this year, he suffered another attack and passed away.

Jim is survived by his wife, Jean, and their three daughters, Kathy, Susan and Martha. He was a devoted husband and father, and his family was truly the focal point of his life. Their sense of loss is shared by clients, associates, neighbors, friends and, indeed, the entire community.

(Remarks by Alan B. McFall, Esquire)

It has been a pleasure and a great educational experience for me to have known Jim Pritchard. I will always remember his kind and encouraging words as I continue to practice the law.

Although my family and the Pritchard family had been friendly from the time of my childhood, I first really began to know Jim Pritchard in connection with my clerkship. I came to visit him while I was in law school to ask if he would be my preceptor. I remember after speaking to Jim that day, that I was impressed by his calmness, his easy manner, and his

abundance of confidence. My initial impressions were reinforced by my years of association with him in the practice of law. He always had time, despite his busy practice, to share his wisdom. I came to know and respect him as an able lawyer and as a warm and kind person.

If I were to describe Jim Pritchard but by a single word I would refer to him as a gentleman. The word gentleman implies not only the essential characteristic of gentleness, but also the absence of over-bearing manners, and a general consideration of people.

Perhaps my personal experience with Jim is a reflection of his best attribute, his sincere concern for people and his ability to relate to them, regardless of their station in life. I am sure we will not soon forget Jim's charm, his beaming air, his fun loving disposition, nor the optimism he constantly exhibited.

It is no secret that Jim Pritchard relished in telling stories. I frequently observed him exchanging jokes and stories with fellow lawyers and clients. He always had an open hand, a contagious smile, and a kind word for all.

The marvelous thing about Jim Pritchard is that he was interested in so many things. In the office we discussed sports, politics, history, antiques, and travel. Jim loved the law. He also loved his community because he was interested in and worked with a number of organizations which had the welfare of the community in mind. He was active in the Exchange Club and always found time to contribute his services to annual Blue Valley Farm Show. I have seen him judge the Pet Parade, sell tickets, and lend a hand wherever one was needed. He was a member of the Bangor Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, Bangor Elks Lodge No. 1106 and was also a member of the Pomfret Club.

But above all, Jim Pritchard was devoted to his family. I know of few men who took more fatherly pride in the accomplishments of their children or who were more willing to give of themselves for their advancement.

Another aspect of Jim's life worthy of comment is how well he came to be regarded by his clients and neighbors. I had the privilege of being born and of growing up in the Slate Belt as did Jim. He never lost his affection for his old friends and neighbors and they continue to hold him in high esteem. He enjoyed an excellent reputation both in the Slate Belt and in the surrounding area.

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

I respectfully offer the following resolution in memory of James Flory Pritchard and move its adoption.

RESOLVED, that the foregoing remarks and this Resolution be entered on the minutes of this Court, that copies thereof be sent to Mrs. Jean Pritchard, and that when Court adjourns this day, it does so out of respect for the memory of James Flory Pritchard.