

1 COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
2 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
3 CIVIL DIVISION

4 NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION -
5 MEMORIAL SERVICE

6 BEFORE THE HONORABLE EMIL
7 GIORDANO, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas,
8 Northampton County, Third Judicial District,
9 Easton, Pennsylvania, on October 2, 2007.

10 APPEARANCES:

11 Joel Ziev, Esquire-

12 President of the Northampton County Bar
13 Association

14 Memorial Service - Leonard Cohn, Esquire
15 Dominic Ferraro, Esquire
16 Elwood Malos, Esquire
17 Chester Reybitz, Esquire
18 Robertson Taylor, Esquire

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1 THE COURT: Good morning, everyone.
2 Today we convene for the annual Memorial Service of
3 the Court of Common Pleas of Northampton County and
4 the Northampton County Bar Association. Today is not
5 a sober day but it is a day that we can reflect and
6 reminisce and be grateful for lives well spent at the
7 Bar.

8 I'd like to welcome the family and
9 friends of Leonard Cohn, Dominic Ferraro, Elwood
10 Malos, Chester Reybitz and Robertson Taylor. I'd also
11 like to welcome all the members of the Northampton
12 County Bar Association that are here this morning.

13 On behalf of the Court I want to thank
14 Joel Ziev and Northampton County Bar Association for
15 this annual service and give our best regards to the
16 honorees and families and friends of the honorees.
17 There will be a recess following the service in the
18 jury lounge. These were 5 outstanding lawyers, whom
19 we remember with a great deal of respect and fondness.
20 It is appropriate today that we rejoice in their
21 outstanding contributions to this Court, the Bar and
22 to this community. I do also want to mention and ask
23 you to remember Attorneys Peter Karoly and Richard
24 Stevens, who passed away this year.

25 And with that, I recognize Joel Ziev,

1 President of the Northampton County Bar Association.

2 MR. ZIEV: Thank you, Your Honor. May it
3 please the Court, members of the Northampton County
4 Bar Association, family and friends and guests. It is
5 my pleasure laced with sadness to welcome all of you
6 to this courtroom today to recognize, honor and
7 observe the passing this year of 5 of our colleagues,
8 Leonard Cohn, Dominic Ferraro, Elwood Malos, Chester
9 Reybitz and Robertson B. Taylor. This is a time
10 honored tradition of the Northampton County Bar
11 Association. And we thank this Court for allowing us
12 time to gather here to preserve this ceremony. Today
13 you will hear about each of our colleagues who died
14 this year from friends and associates who had the
15 benefit of knowing them very well. And each of them,
16 I am sure, will provide you with aspiring stories and
17 uplifting moments. We know that each of them in their
18 own way brought honor to themselves, their profession,
19 their family and their community. I thank you for
20 taking the time to be here today to pause and share in
21 this experience and support of the families and
22 yourselves to recognize the lives of our departed
23 friends and how they may have touched you.

24 As the Court indicates, after the
25 eulogies you are invited to a reception in the jury

1 Lounge that is down the hall.

2 And now I ask the Court to recognize each
3 of the eulogists. First, may I ask the Court to
4 recognize Raymond C. Majczan on behalf of Leonard J.
5 Cohn.

6 THE COURT: Thank you. Mr. Majczan.

7 MR. MAJCZAN: May it please the Court,
8 distinguished guests, families, friends. If you look
9 at the program, Leonard was admitted in 1938 to the
10 Practice of Law. He practiced longer than a lot of
11 people live so when I was first asked by Sue to speak
12 today I thought, how do you condense and give justice
13 to a life that was almost 95 years and a career that
14 was 68 years? And the more I thought about it the
15 more I realized that it wasn't that complicated
16 because Leonard was not a complicated man. Leonard
17 was one part family, one part law. And that is pretty
18 much Leonard Cohn.

19 Leonard was born in 1912 in New York. He
20 was married in 1937 to his wife, Irene, and they
21 celebrated 69 years of marriage. They have 2
22 children, Susan and Randy; 3 grandchildren, Scott
23 Bilder, Dr. Mathew Bilder, and Hilary Crumley; and 4
24 great grandchildren, Quinn and Ashe Bilder, Jacob and
25 Ryder Crumley.

1 Randy had relocated to the State of
2 Georgia but Sue did stay local in the Lehigh Valley
3 and Leonard took a big part in helping raise that
4 family. Sue was a single parent and with 2 young boys
5 Leonard, in essence, took a father approach and did
6 whatever he could to help that family. And my
7 understanding is it was a great joy for him to go home
8 after work no matter how tough a day, no matter what
9 the challenge is he always made sure he got home to
10 the boys and he read. And they became successful
11 adults. And I'm sure in large part it goes back to
12 the care and concern he showed when they were very
13 young.

14 When I first met Leonard in the fall of
15 1999 and he was 87 at the time, I didn't really know
16 him at all. I hadn't dealt with him in practice.
17 Most of his work was transactional but I had heard he
18 was a pretty nice guy and was looking to possibly
19 allow some attorney to share some space with him. So I
20 approached him and we struck a deal on a handshake.
21 And I'll never forget, Leonard stated that he was in
22 Hellertown for over 50 years on a month to month
23 lease, verbal handshake. So if that was good enough
24 for him that was good enough for me. And until
25 Leonard retired in January of '06 that was the way we

1 did it, we did it on a handshake and we got along just
2 fine.

3 Leonard and Irene dined frequently in the
4 Lehigh Valley and often were seen with their daughter,
5 Sue. Florida was a tradition with them. They went to
6 Florida for 5 or 6 weeks every year. That goes back
7 into the mid 40s. And Leonard told me that that was
8 not only a vacation but that was a way to have family
9 time. Florida was an open door and Randy and his
10 family, Sue and her family would all come down and it
11 was a way to not only get away but to spend time as a
12 family. That tradition was so strong that about 4 or
13 5 years ago Leonard broke a hip sometime in November
14 and he managed to get himself together and get to
15 Florida with a walker. Because he told me he said,
16 that tradition is going to continue, he's going to get
17 to Florida and the door is going to be open for the
18 family to be there. That says something about the man
19 and it says something about what was important to
20 him.

21 I also found it very interesting that
22 they used to travel to Vegas. Now remember the first
23 time I met him he was in his late 80s and these people
24 used to go to Vegas every year for about a week in the
25 summer just because they loved the entertainment and,

1 of course, that was another excuse to have the door
2 open and the family was welcome to join them, as they
3 often did.

4 I saw one very sad situation. You are
5 not supposed to survive your children. In January of
6 '05 Randy passed away and actually a little bit prior
7 to that Mrs. Cohn had broke a hip. And I'll never
8 forget Leonard told me, he said, Raymond, it has been
9 a lousy year. So that was tough to see him have to
10 deal with that but the bottom line is Leonard was
11 about his family and everything was in furtherance of
12 his family.

13 Leonard's other love was the law.
14 Education, he graduated from Easton High School in
15 1930, Temple University in 1934 and Dickinson School
16 of Law in 1937. As I said, he was admitted to the Bar
17 in 1938. He was in Hellertown for over 50 years.
18 Many of you will remember him in practice with Craig
19 Mayrosh from I believe it was 1972 to 1993.
20 It was a very successful partnership. He represented
21 many of the local municipalities and had a very good
22 private practice. What I found interesting in my
23 observation and my interaction with Leonard was his
24 open door policy. It was very nice to see people come
25 in for visits. Yeah, they were clients and if it was

1 business, it was business but it didn't have to be
2 business all the time. People would come by just to
3 say hi and he always found time for that. And it was
4 nice that people felt they could come, and it was nice
5 that they wanted to come, and it was nice the way he
6 received them.

7 Also, what I thought Leonard was
8 especially keen at was his problem solving ability.
9 In this day and age it seems like a lot of our
10 profession is labeled with the delay tactics and
11 things of that nature. And it was unbelievable the
12 way Leonard would focus on the problem and that is
13 what his goal was, to solve it. He was very creative
14 and he did whatever he could within those boundaries
15 to get a good result for his client. He was also
16 incredibly resourceful. Those of you that knew him
17 and those of you that don't can imagine a gentleman in
18 his late 80s, his eyesight was failing, his hearing
19 was failing, he didn't drive for the last 10 years or
20 so of his life. It was incredible when he would--he
21 relied on his secretary for 23 years, Donna Lavella,
22 and it was incredible to watch them go through the
23 mail because Leonard didn't want to miss anything and
24 he wanted to be ready to start the day so Donna would
25 read the mail and she'd read everything. Leonard

1 would listen to everything there. If he wanted her to
2 read it again she'd read it again. That was the way
3 they had to start the day and the way he had to deal
4 with it. She was his driver to work, back to home but
5 it was incredible how he got around, he got things
6 done. And it was never any disadvantage to his
7 clients.

8 On December 19th of '05 Leonard announced
9 that January 31 of '06 was going to be his last day of
10 practice. And he was still sharp. But physically he
11 was really failing and we also had--we didn't want to
12 believe it because he said he was going to practice
13 until he was 100. I used to tell him he was crazy but
14 I understood he loved it. I mean, he absolutely loved
15 it. I can think of the times that when we would
16 bounce things off of each other we were never partners
17 but I would ask him if I had a complicated fact
18 pattern what he thought and you'd see the wheels
19 turning, see the smoke coming off his head, he'd love
20 it. I know we have some disappointed Mets fans
21 here but I know we have some very happy Philllies fans
22 here. If you would have talked to a Philly fan right
23 now they are beaming, believe me, that is how Leonard
24 was when he would talk about an issue. And I
25 complimented him often, I couldn't believe that he had

1 that much fun at his age.

2 I liked Leonard. I consider myself
3 fortunate to have known him. I learned a lot from
4 him. I considered him a friend. Those of you who
5 knew him I'm sure enjoyed your engagement with him.
6 His family certainly misses him but I'm sure his
7 message would be, carry on. Thank you.

8 THE COURT: Thank you.

9 MR. ZIEV: Thank you. Your Honor, I ask
10 the Court to recognize Gregory Reed to speak on behalf
11 of Dominic Ferraro.

12 THE COURT: Mr. Reed.

13 MR. REED: Thank you, Joel. May it
14 please the Court, honorable members of the Bench,
15 members of the Bar, family, friends.

16 On March 31, 2006, I had the honor of
17 speaking at our annual reception for the Courts on
18 behalf of Dominic Ferraro's 50 years as a member of
19 the Bar. Little did I know that the next time that I
20 would be called upon to speak on his behalf, my
21 friend, our friend, would be gone.

22 Nazareth lawyers are a collegiate group.
23 We have always gotten along. We do many of the same
24 things. There is a lot of probate work in Nazareth, a
25 lot of estate work, a lot of real estate, a lot of

1 business.

2 Dominic and I had a lot of common things
3 to share. When his mother died around 1980, the
4 business that his parents had run for many years, the
5 Commercial House in an old block building on South
6 Main Street in Nazareth, closed down. But Dominic
7 continued to practice in a small corner of that
8 building. And it used to be my afternoon break I'd
9 walk over to Lafayette Bank, take care of business and
10 then walk across the street to where I knew Dominic
11 was sitting in his big desk in the back room, in the
12 back little corner. And I would walk in, walk all the
13 way back and there was Dominic, hello Gregory. And
14 we'd sit there and talk, solve the problems of the
15 world. Eventually we began to refer cases one to
16 another. One day he took me on a tour of that old
17 building, didn't look like much from the outside but
18 inside I was awestricken by the golden oak woodwork,
19 the stained glass and he and I mused that if we were
20 30 years younger we would pull our resources and
21 restore that old building to its original grandeur.
22 But we realized that that was not realistic for 2
23 aging lawyers so that project never did get off the
24 ground.

25 After awhile that building began to

1 crumble. And that concerned the officials of the
2 Borough of Nazareth. Dominic realized it was time to
3 sell. He quickly found a buyer who promptly tore it
4 down. And that raised another issue where would
5 Dominic practice? Well, I said, I have been coming
6 over to your place for years it is about time you came
7 over to mine. And he said, I will. And come over he
8 did. And for the next 15 months until his retirement
9 we practiced together at 141 South Broad Street. It
10 was a time of a lot of fun. Dominic and I and Terry,
11 our secretary, would always pick Tuesday to have lunch
12 together. We'd jump in one of our cars and drive up
13 to Detzi's Tavern in Wind Gap. On occasion, Dominic's
14 wife, Peggy, would join us. And it was there that we
15 enjoyed camaraderie and good food as well as a time
16 when County motivations were discussed and cussed.
17 Unfortunately, some health problems began to
18 intervene. He had a very serious fall just before he
19 joined my office. And then he began to experience
20 problems with both his heart and his eyes. And on
21 January 1, 2002, Dominic announced his retirement. He
22 did not fade into the woodwork, however. He continued
23 to come to most Bar functions. Whenever I would get
24 there I would wait for him to sit down beside me,
25 which he did for several years. He would attend all

1 the business meetings. Sometimes the issues of the
2 day got spirited, sparks flew a little bit but often
3 the calm wisdom of Dominic Ferraro prevailed. Dominic
4 Ferraro was not a trial lawyer. The people he
5 represented and the cases which he took did not
6 engender the headlines that those of trial lawyers
7 often do. But the Northampton County Bar and perhaps
8 the very profession of law itself is just a little
9 better for having known him.

10 THE COURT: Joel Ziev.

11 MR. ZIEV: Let the Court recognize Frank
12 Poswistilo, please, on behalf of Elwood Malos.

13 THE COURT: Mr. Poswistilo.

14 MR. POSWISTILO: May it please the Court,
15 it is my privilege to make remarks commemorating the
16 the life of my friend and colleague, Elwood M. Malos,
17 who died on June 24, 2007, at the age of 79 years.
18 Elwood was the son of the late Hannah and Louis Malos
19 of Phillipsburg. He was graduated from Lafayette
20 College in 1951 and the University of Michigan Law
21 School in 1954 and, thereafter, was admitted to the
22 Bar in the States of Michigan, New York and
23 Pennsylvania. Elwood served in the U.S. Merchant
24 Marines from 1945 to 1950 and the U.S. Army from 1954
25 to 1956. He served as First Assistant District

1 Attorney during Bernie O'Hare's administration from
2 1964 to 1968. Elwood was an active voice in Bar
3 Association affairs and was elected President of the
4 Northampton County Bar Association in 1982.
5 He was a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's
6 Committee on Legal Ethics and Professional
7 Responsibility for a period of 17 years, during which
8 time he was instrumental in drafting many of the
9 Committee's opinions, advising lawyers who had issues
10 concerning ethics.

11 In addition to Elwood's Bar Association
12 activities, he was active in community affairs. He
13 served on the Lehigh and Delaware Development Council,
14 the City of Easton Planning Commission for many years.
15 He was active in the United Fund Drives and was an
16 advisor to the Registrants in the Selective Service
17 System.

18 Elwood had an active civil practice. His
19 main expertise was in the field of school law. He
20 served as Solicitor of the Easton Area School District
21 for a period of 28 years from 1974 to shortly before
22 his retirement in 2000. In 1984 he became President
23 of the School Solicitor's Association of Pennsylvania.
24 Also, in the same year he was appointed to the
25 Governor's Task Force on the Suspension and Exclusion

1 of Handicapped Students. He served as Solicitor for
2 the Colonial Intermediate Unit #20 and as Solicitor
3 for the Bethlehem Area Vocational Technical School.
4 He was an expert in student discipline matters and
5 served as Special Council for the school boards of
6 many school districts including the Bethlehem Area
7 School district among others. As a result of Elwood's
8 expertise and knowledge of school law, he was called
9 upon to participate in many workshops and academic
10 forums, among which were the Bucknell Summer workshop
11 for the PA School Board Association and the Education
12 Institutes at Lehigh University. He lectured on
13 school law to graduate students at Lehigh, to students
14 at Northampton County Area Community College, and to
15 the professional staff at Delaware Valley School
16 District.

17 Elwood had a great love for the law and
18 that love of the law was evident even in the depths of
19 his illness. In his later years, Elwood suffered from
20 a form of dementia associated with his Parkinson's
21 Disease. As a result, his speech was very difficult
22 to understand. However, a short time prior to his
23 death, at a Friday evening service, Elwood put up his
24 hand and the Rabbi said, "Elwood, do you want to say
25 something?" And to the astonishment of the Rabbi and

1 Elwood's colleagues at the nursing home, Elwood stated
2 in a loud, clear voice, "May it please the Court," and
3 continued in a loud, clear voice to articulate a
4 well-reasoned 5 minute closing argument.

5 Although the law may have been Elwood's
6 mistress, his greatest joy in life came from his
7 family. Elwood and his wife, Marjorie, the former
8 Marjorie Walsh, were married for a period of 49 years
9 and for many years were members of Bnai Abraham
10 Synagogue. They have 3 children, a son, Robert,
11 whose first love is acting; however, at Elwood and
12 Marjorie's direction, Bob was graduated from Michigan
13 State and is presently employed as a Computer Data
14 Expert by the University of Minnesota. He,
15 nevertheless, pursued his acting career and it gave
16 Elwood great pleasure to travel to Minneapolis to see
17 Bob perform at the Guthrie Theater. In 2004, Bob
18 arranged for a school to be built in Cambodia
19 dedicated to his parents, "the Marjorie and Elwood
20 Malos School." At the time, Bob said to his parents,
21 "My sisters gave you grandchildren, I am giving you a
22 school."

23 Bob's sisters are Debra Hauss and Joan
24 Ashley. As could be expected with a father involved
25 in school law a mother being a schoolteacher, both

1 daughters are involved in education. Debra, an alumna
2 of Penn State, and her husband reside in West Orange,
3 New Jersey, where she's president of the West Orange
4 School Board. Debra is the mother of 3 children,
5 Allyson, Samuel and Jacob. As an aside, when Allyson,
6 who is now a student at Oberlin College, was a little
7 girl, Elwood wrote a story for her in which he
8 described the mischievous antics of a little tot and a
9 grandfather who always came to her rescue. He
10 entitled the story, "Allyson and Grandpa, In Trouble
11 Again."

12 Joan Ashley was graduated from
13 Millersville University. She and her husband reside
14 in Southern California where Joan is presently
15 teaching first grade. They have 2 children, Jonathan
16 and Sara. Elwood enjoyed his grandchildren and having
17 grandchildren on both the east and west coast, gave
18 him the opportunity to visit the beaches of the
19 Atlantic and Pacific oceans. He spent hours sitting
20 on the beach while watching his grandchildren jumping
21 the waves.

22 In closing, I want to read to you the
23 words of Elwood's daughter, Debra, spoken at a
24 "Gathering for Elwood", following his death.
25 Debra addressed her remarks to her father. After

1 reciting a number of memories of Elwood's conduct and
2 attributes, including his love for animals, his
3 reading poetry to his children and his love for
4 sports. Debra concluded with these words, and I
5 quote, in part, "Most of all I think your greatest
6 legacy is the people you've influenced in your
7 lifetime. So many school children have benefitted
8 from your work; you charmed and amused those around
9 you until the day you were unable to speak-and your
10 children and grandchildren are good human beings who
11 carry on your legacy by their own kindness to animals,
12 dedication to work and helping others, and just
13 bringing joy to others. Thank you for giving us those
14 gifts. We will carry on your legacy by striving to be
15 our best. "Unquote. What greater legacy could a
16 father have? Thank you.

17 THE COURT: Thank you.

18 MR. ZIEV: I ask the Court to recognize
19 Deborah DeNardo, who will eulogize Chester Reybitz.

20 MS. DeNARDO: Good morning. Chester A.
21 Reybitz was born on October 2nd, 1940. He would have
22 been 67 today. His secretary, Holly and I would have
23 just spent the past few weeks wracking our brains
24 trying to think of what to get the guy who seemed to
25 have everything.

1 Then we'd go out for lunch together where
2 Chet would order a screwdriver in a big snifter and
3 after 2 of them, he'd be telling us some hilarious
4 stories. Afterwards we'd stop at Wawa for his
5 favorite coffee and go back to the office for cake.

6 But Chet died on February 12th, 2007, so
7 instead of celebrating his birthday today we're here
8 to celebrate his life.

9 I remember the day that Chet took Holly
10 and I to the library to tell us that he had cancer and
11 that the prognosis was poor. I can't remember saying
12 one word to him that day, just feeling shocked and
13 devastated and trying and failing to imagine him not
14 being in the office some day. Chet himself was very
15 calm about it though and he just continued to work as
16 long as he could.

17 During the next 8 months and during
18 several surgeries, hospitalizations and pain he never
19 lost his calm acceptance of his fate. And when he
20 could no longer get to the office, he worked at home.

21 I remember thinking if I were in his
22 shoes I probably wouldn't be coming to the office but
23 Chet loved being a lawyer. And in fact, he proclaimed
24 it about once a month, usually after a client said but
25 my wife's aunt said, to which Chet would reply not so

1 quietly, I'm the lawyer. So I always thought he'd be
2 one of those lawyers who was still coming to the
3 office in his 90s like Lenny.

4 Chet was an old school lawyer. I
5 remember as a young secretary how different the
6 practice of law was in those days. Two lawyers would
7 reach an agreement and literally or figuratively they
8 would shake hands and rarely was there a dispute about
9 what had been said.

10 I first learned that Chet was trustworthy
11 when I worked for him. I met Chet in August 1970 when
12 I arrived for my interview. Through a mutual
13 acquaintance I had heard that there was a lawyer in
14 Bethlehem who was looking for a secretary and the job
15 paid 120 dollars a week.

16 At that time I was in my first job out of
17 high school making minimum wage. And I knew I had to
18 move on. I knew nothing about being a legal secretary
19 and my only skill was typing. But I went.

20 When I first saw Chet, 6 foot 4, thick
21 glasses and already a little bald, I thought he was
22 old. He was 29.

23 The whole interview was comical but the
24 best part came at the end when I knew I was going to
25 get this job and Chet said, let's talk about the pay.

1 And he says how about 70 dollars a week? with all the
2 diplomacy and tact of a 19 year old on her first real
3 interview, I said, I thought it was 120. Chet seemed
4 surprised that I knew that but then he explained to me
5 that he and his friend, Dennis Monaghan, had been
6 sharing a secretary paying 60 dollars each, he
7 couldn't afford 120 dollars. with even less diplomacy
8 and tact I replied, but I'm making 74 dollars now and
9 I think that is awful. So Chet said, I promise I'll
10 give you a raise every 6 months. I said okay. And
11 every 6 months like clock work he gave me a 5 dollar
12 raise. It took me 5 years to get to 120 dollars but I
13 knew that I was never going to leave because he was
14 such a great person to work for.

15 Chet was generous in many other ways. He
16 was constantly buying donuts and coffee and lunch. He
17 never went on vacation, no matter how short it was,
18 without bringing back gifts. And he frequently went
19 to New York to buy food and he came back with bagels
20 and other goodies.

21 About 20 years ago he went to New York
22 and he came back and he brought me some smoked salmon.
23 I do not like salmon but I didn't want to be rude so I
24 took it home and I fed it to my cats. When Chet asked
25 me how I liked it I confessed. And he exploded and he

1 said that was 30 dollars a pound. I said, well, my
2 cats loved it, if that makes you feel any better. It
3 didn't.

4 Chet was a fun-loving and funny guy-
5 sometimes unintentionally. He had a penchant for
6 using sayings like, "a rolling stone gathers no moss",
7 but he always goofed them up and I said many times
8 that I wanted to write those Chetisms down and I never
9 did. Now I can only remember a couple of them. For
10 example, one day he was trying to impress on a client
11 something would be simple, he shouldn't worry but what
12 he said was, "it will be as easy as shooting fish in
13 the ocean." I know I was confused. I don't know what
14 the client thought. Another one of his favorites was
15 that you shouldn't open a bag of worms, which I
16 thought was gross.

17 But he also messed up his client's names
18 occasionally with some humorous results. One day I
19 said Mrs. Williams is on the phone and Chet says,
20 "hello Esther." Now, you have to be old to get that
21 one because Esther Williams was a famous swimming star
22 from the 40s and 50s and his client's name wasn't
23 Esther. Another day I said Mr. Tracy is on the phone
24 so, of course, Chet says, "Hi, Dick." I got
25 hysterical. When he realized what he did he started

1 to laugh, too.

2 Chet loved sports-especially his alma
3 mater, UNC. whenever he could he would attend their
4 basektball games. His vacations were frequently
5 centered around sporting events like basketball,
6 football and horse racing.

7 I know one year he went to the Kentucky
8 Derby. I still have the gold chain and horseshoe
9 pendant he brought back for me. He frequently
10 attended those events with his good friends and with
11 his sons, Ron, Jeff and Chet.

12 Chester graduated from the Universty of
13 North Carolina in June 1966. He started his career
14 with Justin Jirolanio. Then he moved to 133 East
15 Broad Street, where he shared space with Joe Leeson.
16 Sr, John Barrett, and Dennis Monaghan.

17 Chet worked in the Public Defender's
18 Office for many years and was the Chief when he
19 resigned from that position. He had a general
20 practice but he took every case seriously and he made
21 all of his clients feel that they were in good hands.
22 I know this personally from the many times he
23 represented me for speeding. He frequently went to
24 the homes of his elderly clients and he never charged
25 them extra for that.

1 When I told Chet that I was going to law
2 school he was a little upset about losing his
3 secretary but he was always very supportive. After a
4 few disastrous replacements in 1994, he had the good
5 fortune of hiring his last and his best secretary,
6 Holly Nolf.

7 Holly is an intelligent, extremely
8 capable and devoted secretary. When Chet could no
9 longer make it to the office she took work to his
10 house. And when he could no longer work at home, she
11 spent countless hours at the hospital and at the
12 hospice doing whatever she could to make him
13 comfortable. They had a very special relationship.

14 When I graduated from law school and I
15 returned to the office, Chet did everything he could
16 to help me get going and he and Larry Briody let me in
17 my office rent free for a couple years.

18 In addition to being a lawyer, Chet, of
19 course, was a family man. He married Georgia Thoder
20 on October 22nd, 1966 and they shared 40 wonderful
21 years together. They had 3 sons, Ron, Jeffrey and
22 little Chet, who is actually taller than all of them.

23 I always found it amusing that Chet could
24 be a little gruff at times, was such a complete softy
25 for what he called his grand dogs. Jeff's dogs,

1 Marley and Basil. Chet loved those dogs. He would
2 baby sit and play with them and the dogs loved him.

3 Sadly, Chet missed becoming a real
4 grandfather by one month. He died on February 12 and
5 on March 23rd his granddaughter Ava was born to Ron
6 and Kim Reybitz. But I know that Ava will learn all
7 about her grandfather through the many funny stories
8 told to her by her parents, her grandmother and her
9 uncles.

10 As for the office, it's as quiet and
11 empty as I feared it would be but Holly and I and his
12 friend, Dennis, frequently get together and discuss
13 Chet and remember funny stories about him. And I know
14 that we'll all cherish our friendships with him.

15 For 37 years Chet was a part of my life.
16 He was my boss, my peer and my friend. I owe my
17 career to him and I think I'm a better person having
18 known him. And I know that I will never forget him.
19 Thank you.

20 MR. ZIEV: Norman never passes up a
21 chance to kiss a pretty girl.

22 Your Honor, I ask you now to recognize
23 Norman Seidel to eulogize Robertson B. Taylor.

24 THE COURT: Mr. Seidel.

25 MR. SEIDEL: Deborah, you are a very

1 difficult act to follow.

2 MS. DeNARDO: Thank you.

3 MR. SEIDEL: Brought as the oldest member
4 of the Bar I'll try to do my best.

5 That we honor the memory of our friend
6 and colleague, Robertson Blaylock Taylor, in this very
7 courtroom is most fitting. For it was here at the
8 counsel table trying a case that Robbie was the most
9 comfortable, the most convincing and I might add, the
10 most successful.

11 His booming stentorian, yet sonorous
12 voice and his imposing physical presence were mere
13 reflections of his kind love of the law, his respect
14 for it and his skills as a very talented lawyer.

15 He was proud of these skills and the
16 favorable results they brought. Yet, there was not
17 one ounce of self-praise or egotism in his makeup.
18 Even as he recounted to his friends his successes in
19 the courtroom, he could at the same time enjoy a
20 hearty laugh at his own expense.

21 His joviality and high spirited demeanor
22 during a trial were infectious-all to the delight of
23 his friends and colleagues and to the chagrin of his
24 adversaries.

25 As Judge Cahn recently described him,

1 Robertson was the consummate defense counsel. It was
2 a measure of his character that as he retained the
3 respect of the Court, before whom he gave no quarter,
4 the very plaintiffs' counsel against whom he fought so
5 fiercely and vigorously became and continued to be his
6 closest friends, not only at the end of the fray but
7 in many cases for a lifetime.

8 His strenuous advocacy against his
9 colleagues never marred his personal friendship for
10 them and more importantly, never diluted their regard
11 for him or their respect for his skill, competence and
12 his fairness.

13 What was it about Robbie that endeared
14 him to the jury of his peers? Not in the least
15 patronizing, he managed to relate. His zest for life
16 and exuberance were real and translated into a
17 sincerity easily recognized. Thus, rendering his
18 arguments not only cogent and believable but downright
19 convincing. No one would even suggest that Mr. Taylor
20 was not convinced of the righteousness of his client's
21 cause. His ability to relate to a jury as a folksy
22 self-deprecating peer, gave him a one-up on most
23 lawyers.

24 These very qualities that gave Robbie
25 great jury appeal were the same that endeared him to

1 his many associates, co-counsel and partners over the
2 years. From the start, with Ray Haggerty, to his
3 association with Taylor & Taylor, no relation, through
4 Kolb, Holland, Antonelli & Heffner, later the
5 partnership of Holland, Taylor and Sorrentino, then
6 the Philadelphia firm of Labrum & Doak, and finally as
7 a partner in his last 8 years with Thomas, Thomas &
8 Hafer, this Beckley, West Virginia native continued to
9 be the go-to guy. Each of his partners would have, in
10 his arsenal a great weapon, settle the case with us or
11 you may have to try it before a jury against
12 Mr. Taylor. While his adversaries in the courtroom
13 were well aware of his skills before a jury, they
14 found it downright upsetting that Robbie actually was
15 having a good time throughout the trial. One could
16 tell from his demeanor that he was thoroughly enjoying
17 what he was doing, while he was doing it.

18 In the same vein, out of the courtroom,
19 he could fend off the many taunts directed at him by
20 his friends. How did he do that? Simply by making it
21 clear that he enjoyed those very taunts.

22 When he was taunted for doing a voice-over commercial
23 for his courtroom arch-enemy, Martye Cohen, he smiled
24 and said, but Martye is my friend.

25 When he was confronted by what appeared

1 to be an untruth, Robbie would simply reply, sir, I
2 believe you are revising history.

3 He could, however, give as well as he
4 got. He could, for example, easily blame his doubles
5 partner, Bob Littner, for any of their tennis defeats.
6 He did not hesitate a moment to point out their
7 foibles to his Dickinson Law School classmates,
8 Michael Riskin and Ron Shipman.

9 I had the misfortune of losing an
10 argument to Robbie before the Pennsylvania Superior
11 Court. He never let me forget it, nor did he allow me
12 to forget the fact that he once whipped me in a
13 singles tennis match when I was only 80 years old.

14 One of his friends remarked that Robbie
15 had a flair for converting a non-event into a
16 happening.

17 It can be said that no matter what the
18 venue, you could be sure that his presence would be
19 felt and that he would be a major player. Whether at
20 his early morning coffee klatches in Bethlehem, at the
21 law library here in Easton, or at dinner or a social
22 gathering, or even in the locker room, or while taking
23 a shower it was Robertson Taylor who held court. He
24 set the agenda. He managed to direct the
25 conversation, at one point to law, at another to

1 literature or music, at another to sports but
2 eventually getting around to politics. He had a knack
3 for changing the subject with a loud, hear, hear.

4 In many respects he was the designated
5 maverick, always challenging the conventional wisdom
6 of the day, often just to initiate a lively
7 discussion.

8 Never hinting that in the late 60s he was
9 a registered Republican, he took personal delight in
10 castigating his close friends with diatribes for
11 committing a mortal sin—just being a Republican or
12 even worse, just being a Conservative.

13 It must be said that he gave each of us
14 an opportunity to express our views, for he relished
15 more his demolition of our arguments than in
16 sustaining his.

17 Even with his non-lawyer friends he
18 worked the room, giving them the facts of one of his
19 current cases and getting their reaction, as if to get
20 a preview of what a jury might do with the same facts
21 before them.

22 In the same manner in which he maintained
23 lifelong friendships with the very lawyers who opposed
24 him in Court, he likewise retained lifetime
25 friendships with the very Republicans he castigated

1 for their political views.

2 He was a fierce competitor and exuded a
3 youthful, almost boyish enthusiasm in everything he
4 did. From his days at Fountain Hill High School,
5 where he starred on their championship basketball
6 team, to his long association with the Saucon Valley
7 Country Club, where he often won the doubles
8 championship in tennis and then, to the Presidency of
9 the Northampton County Bar Association in 1981. Even
10 then, as President of the Bar, he managed to transform
11 the meeting from a staid gathering into a vigorous
12 no-holds barred debating society. It was Robertson
13 who challenged the age-old formula for selecting its
14 officers.

15 He was an avid devotee and patron of the
16 Bach Choir, which he always described as a national
17 treasure. He gave back to the community in many ways
18 without notoriety. He had never told me that he had
19 been President of the Bethlehem Public Library and the
20 Bethlehem Girls Club or that he served on the
21 Bethlehem Redevelopment Authority from 1968 to 1974,
22 two years as Chairman. He probably never told me that
23 because he was appointed by a Republican Mayor.

24 He was keenly interested in the Celt and
25 Anglo culture. At the drop of a hat or better yet at

1 the donning of a bowler, or entering George
2 Heitzman's British cab, he could easily play the part
3 of a Londoner.

4 His adventuresome nature was well
5 documented by his cross country motorcycle trip-3600
6 miles on his 50th birthday.

7 The untimely passing of this unique
8 person and lawyer evoked an incredible reaction. In
9 my 65 years at the Bar, I have never witnessed such an
10 outpouring of emotion from his otherwise hard-nosed
11 colleagues.

12 One group felt it necessary to
13 immediately convene a gathering of a group of his
14 friends. The agenda, there was none. It did,
15 however, give each of us an opportunity to reminisce,
16 primarily so that each of us could tell our favorite
17 Robbie Taylor story. The stories were as diverse and
18 memorable as they were numerous. That his friendship
19 had an impact on all of us was self evident.

20 His 42 year love affair with the law was
21 overshadowed by his 44 year love affair with Joan
22 Penvenne. For she was not only his gate keeper and
23 motivator, but the real source of his strength. This,
24 he repaid with the greatest love, affection and
25 respect, with a clear acknowledgement of the influence

1 she had on his life. That she was much more than just
2 his spouse. He showed his regard for her as a very
3 important persona in her own right.

4 One never heard Robert say, take that up
5 with my wife. It was always, Joan Taylor will answer
6 that question.

7 He was happy with his son, Drummond's
8 decision to practice law and proud that it was to be
9 independent of his father. Proud of the
10 accomplishments of his daughter, Megan, and her
11 husband, David, but his eyes lit up even more brightly
12 when he spoke of his grandson, Jack Taylor Williamson.

13 It can be truly said that Robertson
14 Blalock Taylor was an unforgettable character who
15 loved life and the profession he chose, a profession
16 upon which he made a significant impact.

17 And finally, to those young lawyers who
18 didn't have the opportunity to know him, I think you
19 get the idea. We really loved the guy.

20 THE COURT: Thank you. Let's take a
21 moment to acknowledge the presence of two of our
22 distinguished former members of this Bench,
23 Commonwealth Court Judge Robert Simpson and James
24 Hogan.

25 I cannot begin nor would I repeat the

1 eulogies that were delivered by Mr. Majczan, Mr. Reed,
2 Mr. Poswistilo, Ms. DeNardo and Mr. Seidel. I do
3 think it is important to note that each of these
4 outstanding lawyers were well respected by their peers
5 and enjoyed a long successful practice at the Bar. I
6 personally had the grand experience of practicing law
7 with all of the honorees and having some of them
8 practice before me at the Bench. And I'm personally
9 grateful for this opportunity to acknowledge that.

10 The Bench knows Leonard Cohn as a
11 wonderful man. I personally remember having several
12 real estate settlements with Mr. Cohn over the years
13 and always found him to be well prepared and always a
14 gentleman.

15 I came into contact with Attorney Malos
16 prior to my entering the Bench and in my role as
17 Solicitor of the North Catasauqua Borough, as well as
18 some defense work that I did with the firm of Holland,
19 Taylor and Sorrentino. I think we all agree Attorney
20 Malos was a tough minded, dedicated litigator, who was
21 well respected by his peers and the members of this
22 Bench.

23 The next 3 are more difficult because
24 they were all personal friends of mine. Prior to
25 entering the Bench I worked with Dominic Ferraro on

1 political campaigns. He and his wife were very
2 instrumental in my election to this Court and I am
3 eternally grateful for the time that we shared
4 together.

5 Attorney Chet Reybitz was a lawyer's
6 lawyer. When I first met Chet he was Chief Public
7 Defender and like many of the senior members of this
8 Bar, he was never too busy to give a young lawyer in
9 need a bit of advice or a helping hand. We
10 represented numerous co-defendants together at
11 preliminary hearings and he always allowed me to ride
12 on his coat tails. But most importantly as Ms.
13 DeNardo stated, he was a man of honor.

14 Final honoree is Robertson Taylor. Some
15 of you may know I had the pleasure of working with
16 him. It was my first job in the civil field after
17 leaving the District Attorney's Office. I had
18 numerous cases where I served with Mr. Taylor as
19 second chair. It was an experience that I'll never
20 forget. His presentation to a jury was mesmerizing
21 and the distinction that he brought into Court was
22 profound. Though he never castigated me for being a
23 Republican, though he probably wanted to.

24 Ladies and gentlemen, I want to thank you
25 for coming today and joining this Bench in honoring 5

1 members. And once again I want to thank Mr. Ziev and
2 the Bar Association for providing the service. And I
3 want to remind everyone that there is a reception to
4 follow in the jury room. And I believe we stand
5 adjourned. We will convene at 10:30 for the call of
6 the Argument List. Thank you.

7 (CONCLUDED.)

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CERTIFICATION

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.

Lori Peck

Lori Peck
Registered Professional Reporter

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

of Emil Giordano

EMIL GIORDANO, JUDGE