

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

MEMORIAL SERVICE

COPY

**WILLIAM P. EXAROS, ESQUIRE
SAMUEL A. LITZENBERGER, ESQUIRE
THOMAS J. MALONEY, ESQUIRE
FRANK M. SKRAPITS, ESQUIRE
HON. FRANKLIN S. VAN ANTWERPEN**

NOTES OF PROCEEDINGS

BEFORE:

THE HONORABLE JENNIFER R. SLETVOLD,
Judge, Northampton County, Third Judicial District, Easton,
Pennsylvania, Courtroom No. 1, on Tuesday, September 20,
2016.

PRESENTERS:

**MARK S. SIGMON, ESQUIRE
ALYSSA LOPIANO-REILLY, ESQUIRE
DANIEL M. O'DONNELL, ESQUIRE
DEAN C. BERG, ESQUIRE
ZACHARY J. COHEN, ESQUIRE**

Karen A. Mengel, RPR, Official Court Reporter

1 THE COURT: Good morning. I would
2 like to welcome all of you to today's memorial
3 service during which we will commemorate and
4 celebrate the lives of William P. Exaros, Samuel
5 Litzenberger, Thomas J. Maloney, Frank Skrapits,
6 and Judge Franklin Van Antwerpen, all of whom
7 were members of the Northampton County Bar and
8 undoubtedly spent countless hours in this very
9 courthouse performing work for the public good.

10 Although their passing causes us
11 sadness, today we gather to celebrate their
12 lives and legacies. It is proper that we gather
13 here in this room so full of history where each
14 of the men being honored today once stood to
15 take an oath to represent a client or to serve
16 on the bench.

17 I would especially like to welcome
18 the family and friends of each of our colleagues
19 who are being honored here today.

20 I speak on behalf of all members of
21 the Northampton County Bar Association when I
22 tell you that we have deep respect for their
23 service. We grieve with you. And I hope that
24 we can learn from the examples set forth from
25 Attorney Exaros, Attorney Litzenberger, Attorney

1 Maloney, Attorney Skrapits, and Judge Van
2 Antwerpen.

3 They have in common a commitment to
4 community and a sense that the practice of law
5 was an honorable profession, not simply a job.

6 In remembering and celebrating the
7 lives of our colleagues, we will hear from
8 several individuals who will speak on behalf of
9 our honorees.

10 As they do so, I am certain that
11 these speakers will confirm what these gentlemen
12 lived as reflected in the words of the often
13 quoted Winston Churchill who stated, We make a
14 living by what we get, but we make a life by
15 what we give.

16 At this time the Court recognizes
17 Mark Sigmon to speak on behalf of William
18 Exaros.

19 MR. SIGMON: May it please the
20 Court, ladies and gentlemen, the Exaros family.
21 I see that Mike is here so now we can start, his
22 son. Fellow members of the bar, members of the
23 federal judiciary members who are here.

24 I knew Bill for a long, long, long
25 time. I met him when I was in 7th grade. And

1 the funniest part about that is Bill had -- for
2 some reason they put him in 713 and generally
3 they would assign people based upon their grade
4 school records. Bill is a smart guy. For some
5 reason he ended up in 713.

6 All of you who knew him, we had a
7 way somewhat in making fun of him and in Bill's
8 way other than laughing, he was the best. One
9 of the best people I've ever known. One of my
10 best friends.

11 We wrestled together in junior
12 high. We wrestled again in high school. And
13 then he went to Albright. I used to make fun of
14 him because he even wrestled there. At the time
15 part of it was when he was in Albright as an
16 undergraduate, they didn't have much in a
17 wrestling team. He wrestled one year and then
18 it was time to do some studying. The one time
19 he wrestled he didn't get to the match. He was
20 telling me was when the middle Atlantic
21 Conference had about 47 schools. It was a tough
22 conference. It included West Chester, which was
23 a power; Moravian had a good team and including
24 schools, he came down here and wrestled someone
25 from Moravian.

1 I remember him calling me after the
2 match. He ended up wrestling someone who was
3 also from District 11. He said, Mark, you know
4 what? I got my butt kicked but I didn't get
5 pinned. I said, yeah, well, that was great.
6 What was the score? Back then they didn't have
7 technical faults. Today if you get beat by 15
8 points, the match is over. Bill said he didn't
9 get pinned, that was great. What was the score?
10 30 to 2. What are you -- we didn't talk about
11 it after that.

12 In any event, Bill went to Seton
13 Hall Law School and he graduated in 1976. By
14 the way, Bill was born on October 30, 1950, in
15 the wonderful state of New Hampshire; live free
16 or die, they say. Bill was free.

17 Bill, he practiced law in New
18 Jersey for 11 years until 1987. And after 1987,
19 we were in touch all the time. And he said,
20 Mark, I want to come back. What do you think
21 about us getting together? It took me about
22 three seconds and that was it. Because at that
23 time our former partnership had split up. It
24 was just my dad and myself and my dad was
25 getting along in years.

1 And for the next 29 years we were
2 partners. The name of the firm was Sigmon and
3 Sigmon but we were partners. We didn't have a
4 partnership agreement or stockholders agreement
5 because we were friends. We trusted each other.
6 And we were the best of friends.

7 Now, Bill the lawyer. Everybody
8 who knows Bill, at least who knows him well,
9 knew that his word was his bond. Didn't need
10 letters, didn't need confirming e-mails, didn't
11 need messages. Bill told you something, that
12 was it.

13 And that was one of the best things
14 the same way with how we practiced law. Bill
15 was great to write briefs. And myself not so
16 much. And he was really good at spinning stuff
17 and he did a great job.

18 Most importantly, Bill was a great
19 family man. His wife is here. Two outstanding
20 children, boys Michael and Scott. And he was as
21 proud of them as he was in his practice of law.
22 I can tell you that anybody who knew Bill,
23 whether it was as a lawyer or as a friend or
24 even as a mere acquaintance, never forgot after
25 meeting him one time whether it was his

1 infectious laugh, his strong handshake, or when
2 he was an umpire saying, you're out! in only the
3 way he can do it.

4 As Judge Murray can tell you, he's
5 familiar with Bill. He was that way. He was
6 the best of the best. An outstanding lawyer.
7 Fantastic person. A wonderful family man. An
8 incredible partner. I was blessed to be his
9 partner for 29 years.

10 I remember when my dad was getting
11 older and getting sick, I remember my dad said,
12 you know, how long is this Exaros going to be
13 around? Because when he was young, Bill would
14 come over to my house and play ping pong. He
15 was a ping pong player. My dad was a good
16 player. Bill would kick his butt. Those of who
17 knew my dad, he would go crazy.

18 My dad was getting older. He said,
19 do you think Exaros is going to be your partner
20 forever? I said dad, until one of us dies,
21 that's how it's going to be.

22 And that's how it was. No
23 agreements. No letters. Just friends. A man
24 of his word. He was a wonderful person. A
25 great lawyer. Great with his clients. His

1 clients loved him. His friends loved him. His
2 family loved him. And I loved him. Thank you
3 very much.

4 THE COURT: Thank you, Attorney
5 Sigmon. I would like to take a moment to
6 welcome our special guests, Judges Leeson,
7 Hogan, Simpson, Freedberg, and Smith. Welcome.

8 And Judge Giordano wished me to
9 express his regrets. He is assigned to motions
10 court this morning and he's there conducting
11 that business for the public.

12 At this time we next recognize the
13 president of our bar association, Attorney
14 Alyssa Lopiano-Reilly, who will say a few words
15 about Samuel Litzenberger, Esquire.

16 MS. LOPIANO-REILLY: Thank you,
17 Your Honor. I'm sorry to say that I never had
18 an opportunity to know Sam Litzenberger. I've
19 heard stories about him. I've heard from many
20 members of our association that he was a fine
21 man. I'm going to give you what I know about
22 him and hopefully that will do some honor to his
23 memory.

24 Sam is survived by his wife Jane.
25 His was a 47-year marriage. He was father to

1 Sarah of Bethlehem and Greg Litzenberger of
2 Florida. He had two grandchildren, Emily and
3 Kimberly. His brother Ralph is known to many of
4 us, was also an attorney and a district
5 magisterial district judge from our county.
6 Ralph now resides in Florida.

7 Sam was 79 years old when he died.
8 He had practiced law since 1962, well over 50
9 years. He didn't join the Northampton County
10 Bar Association until 1999. And with the help
11 of Mary Beth Leeson -- I looked up that record
12 -- Marty Cohen and Phil Lauer were his sponsors.

13 Sam was in solo practice for the
14 general practice of law in both Quakertown and
15 Riegelsville. He graduated from Palisades High
16 School and then the University of Notre Dame.

17 At Dickinson Law School, he was a
18 member of the Law Review. In our bar
19 association, Sam served on several committees
20 over varying years, including the bench/bar
21 committee, the legal ethics and professional
22 response committee, solo practitioners
23 committee, workers' compensation committee, and
24 the ARIS Program.

25 As I said, I didn't personally know

1 Sam and I wish I had. I'm told that he was
2 known to love the simple things in life and he
3 was not afraid to just be himself.

4 I'm told that he had an inner child
5 that was admirable to those who knew him. One
6 of the stories that I was told, which I find
7 admirable myself, is when Sam wanted desert he
8 was seen dunking cookies in a glass of milk when
9 everyone else was having coffee and cake. I
10 find that admirable.

11 And so I see that as a reflection
12 of the inner child that people were telling me
13 about. And the fact that he was simply not
14 afraid to be who he was no matter where he was.

15 Thank you.

16 THE COURT: Thank you, Attorney
17 Lopiano-Reilly. The Court now calls upon
18 Attorney Dan O'Donnell to speak on behalf of Tom
19 Maloney, Esquire.

20 MR. O'DONNELL: Thank you, Your
21 Honor. May it please the Court, ladies and
22 gentlemen. I'm really proud to be here today to
23 talk on behalf of my long time friend and
24 partner, Tom Maloney. Known to his friends as
25 Bones for his exceptional height; known also as

1 Big Blue for his affinity for the New York
2 Giants.

3 He left us a little over nine
4 months ago. He was a towering and unforgettable
5 figure in our legal community and his loss has
6 been the true definition of leaving behind very
7 big shoes to fill.

8 His dear friend and partner, Frank
9 Danyi, wanted to be here today to speak but
10 Frank's health is not good. Frank, who always
11 has a way with words, shared with me his
12 thoughts about Tom.

13 He referred to Tom as being a
14 superhero in Frank's heart. And that stuck with
15 me. Frank fondly remembered their decades
16 together as friends and partners and how
17 generous and kind Tom always was through thick
18 and thin. As they both would proudly tell you,
19 they never had had a cross word between
20 themselves in all those years.

21 Now I wish I could say that I never
22 had a cross word with Tom Maloney but I
23 reiterate, he was a New York Giants fan. There
24 was only so much I could take in the office.
25 That was his one true personality flaw.

1 But I note, always the politician,
2 when pressed on the matter, Tom would say he
3 preferred the Giants but was really a fan of the
4 whole NFC East. Very diplomatic.

5 I have Judge Freedberg to thank for
6 introducing me to Tom, and I really appreciate
7 that. The first time I met Tom was sort of like
8 stepping back in time.

9 There sat this giant, dressed to
10 the nines, smoking cigarettes in his office,
11 beautiful wood-lined office, with all of this
12 old west and cowboy themed artwork. It was kind
13 of intimidating scene; that is, until he took
14 out what I distinctly recognize to be bright
15 pink pair of Dollar Store reading glasses to
16 look at my resume. I always wondered about
17 these glasses.

18 I figured out years later it's
19 because in the 13 or so years I was there he
20 probably lost over about 600 pairs to the point
21 where he was buying them in bulk and I think
22 even today we still find them sitting around.

23 There's other images that stick
24 with me over time. Shortly after I started to
25 work with him, he and his wife Lois invited me

1 down to Florida. We had a great time fishing,
2 golf. The one figure that stuck with me years
3 later was seeing Tom dancing with Lois next to
4 the pool drinking his lemonade and singing as
5 loud as he could Jimmy Buffet, his favorite
6 musician.

7 And another image that I can't get
8 out of my head when I think about Tom when my
9 wife and I were coming back from our honeymoon
10 and we landed in Philadelphia. Tom volunteered
11 to come and pick us up. After trudging through
12 customs and got our luggage and we come down the
13 escalators and there's Tom. And again, what I
14 remember being a bright red running suit with
15 beautify polished wingtips, the kind of thing
16 you can't get out of your head, with a sign
17 standing there with all the limousine drivers.
18 Mr. and Mrs. O'Donnell.

19 I saw him lean over to one of the
20 other drivers saying, my passengers are here.
21 He went over and grabbed the bags and that's
22 just the kind of friend that he was.

23 Frank was right, I think. Tom
24 really was a superhero. And obviously one with
25 many colorful disguises.

1 Tom was born and raised in Fountain
2 Hill and considered Lehigh valley the only place
3 he would ever call home. In 1957 he graduated
4 from Bethlehem Catholic High School, went on to
5 St. Joseph's. In 1964 got his law degree from
6 Temple University Law School.

7 Served our community and the
8 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in various
9 political positions over the years, most notably
10 delegate for Lehigh and Northampton Counties for
11 the Republican National Convention in 1972.

12 He was very active in our bar
13 association, long time editor of the Bar
14 Journal.

15 But more importantly throughout
16 that career, he made so many lasting friendships
17 and bonds. He left the practice of law and he
18 said, you don't practice law, you practice
19 people. And he showed that every day the type
20 of relationship he built. There's not a day
21 that goes by nearly ten months later that
22 someone doesn't contact me and say, boy, I
23 really miss Tom and love Tom.

24 I remember he would always go out
25 of his way. We had a client that was going out

1 to San Francisco to talk to another lawyer out
2 there. I said Tom, by any chance do you happen
3 to know someone in San Francisco? Of course I
4 do. I know three different lawyers. And when
5 they're out there, they should go to this
6 restaurant and stay in this hotel and better go
7 to the Buena Vista, that's where they invented
8 the Irish coffee. He had this wealth of
9 knowledge. Even though they hadn't talked to
10 each other in years, he had great memory of Tom.
11 The client when he came back he said not only
12 was that attorney great, he told us great
13 stories about Tom. But the bartender at the
14 Buena Vista recollected Tom, too.

15 That's the kind of guy that Tom
16 Maloney was. He always went out of his way to
17 do whatever he could. He lived life to the
18 fullest and loved to travel. He loved to fish,
19 although I always called him the most humane
20 fisherman I'd ever met because I never actually
21 saw him catch a single fish.

22 He took down a celebrity or two
23 golfing. He loved to talk about a tournament
24 that he played in years ago, and he made it to
25 the finals of the long-drive competition with

1 none other than Dallas Cowboys quarterback Troy
2 Aikman. Tom said he was nervous as he and
3 Aikman took turns hitting three drives each. It
4 came down to the final ball with Aikman in the
5 lead. And with the match on the line, Tom took
6 a big final hack. With the ball still in the
7 air, knowing he'd just hit the winning shot, Tom
8 being Tom, couldn't help himself, but look over
9 to Aikman and say, Go Giants! That's the kind
10 of competitor he was.

11 Somebody like that disappears
12 initially you start to feel like it's left a
13 huge void in the office. But then you start to
14 think about stories like this and start to think
15 the time that Tom had and find yourself saying,
16 well, I'm in a particularly tough spot. How
17 would Tom handle this? Then you hear things
18 like Judge Sletvold, I don't know if it was
19 intentional, Tom was always quoting Winston
20 Churchill. When I heard that today, it was like
21 he was here with us today.

22 That's really what helped us get
23 by. Our good friend Tom will always be here
24 with us. Thank you very much.

25 THE COURT: Thank you, Attorney

1 O'Donnell. If I can deviate from my script for
2 a moment. I worked for Tom early in my career,
3 which Judge Freedberg also help facilitate. And
4 I see his family and my former beloved
5 colleagues are all here. He was a gentleman and
6 a friend and a really wonderful mentor, and I
7 know he was loved and adored by his family and
8 friends and by his staff and by me.

9 I share in your loss and we will
10 honor Tom by forever maintaining the friendship
11 and relationship that we created by working
12 together with him. And dogs and babies were
13 always welcome in his office and on any
14 different day there were any number of those
15 crawling across the floor. And Dan gave Tom his
16 own Twitter account to honor Tom. We all
17 enjoyed that, too. Thank you again.

18 We will recognize Dean Berg who
19 will speak on behalf of Frank Skrapits, Esquire.

20 MR. BERG: May it please the Court,
21 honorable judges of the Court, other honorable
22 guests, ladies and gentlemen. I feel honored to
23 be asked to speak on behalf of my friend and
24 colleague, Frank Skrapits.

25 Attorney Charles Stopp would have

1 liked to speak for Frank. They shared office
2 space together. Unfortunately, Charles Stopp
3 isn't here. He's on vacation in Europe.

4 I am Dean Berg, a country lawyer
5 from Northampton, same as Frank, and he and I
6 never practiced together. Over my 39 years of
7 practice, we had perhaps three cases together.
8 But he was a monumental figure in Northampton as
9 I will tell you about later.

10 Frank Skrapits was born of
11 immigrant parents from Hungary. Frank never
12 expected to attend college. He made other
13 plans. So to be practical, he took the
14 commercial courses in high school. He studied
15 shorthand and typing. He graduated high school
16 in 1945.

17 From high school, he went to the
18 Marines. You don't just go to the Marines to
19 become a Marine. Marines are special. Marines
20 makes all the difference. He was a constant
21 Marine. He served the Marines for four years.
22 It taught him discipline, neatness, less small
23 talk, being professional, not to complain about
24 little things. He was not a quetcher. Marines
25 opened doors for him.

1 He received the GI bill. He went
2 to undergraduate at Dickinson. He went to
3 Georgetown Law School, and some of you may know
4 Bob Littner from Bethlehem. They would
5 sometimes carpool to Georgetown. What could be
6 better? Always prepared, always resourceful.

7 As a lawyer, Frank Skrapits was
8 proud to be Hungarian. He spoke Hungarian but
9 he also conversed in Pennsylvania Dutch. He
10 connected very well with those in Northampton.
11 I did not start practice until 1977, and I heard
12 a lot of things about Attorney Skrapits, always
13 positive, and I was intimidated to meet him for
14 the first time. From all the good things I
15 heard about him, I thought maybe he was 6'6".

16 So he was sort of a legend.
17 Finally I met him and he was approachable. He
18 was down to earth. He was patient. He was a
19 good listener. Good story teller. He was the
20 kind of guy who was never too busy to talk to
21 you. He never gave you the bum's rush.

22 He was respectful. He was humble.
23 Not self-promoting. But he was competent, sure
24 footed, unwavering, and rock solid. I practiced
25 in the same town as Frank. I always wondered

1 wow, I hear Frank's name so much. What is this
2 about Frank? He was very much loved and
3 respected in that town. He treated people well.
4 He had time for people.

5 Charles Stopp always said he was a
6 consummate Marine. He dressed impeccably. His
7 family said they never saw him in jeans. Always
8 professional. He was a good, faithful Catholic.
9 He belonged to Our Lady of Hungary Church.

10 He knew and recollected what it was
11 like to be poor. He knew many of the local
12 people could not afford lawyers. He gave
13 discounts and did pro bono work. He wanted to
14 remain part of the community and wanted to make
15 it better. My former secretary Roma had once
16 worked for Frank Skrapits, that was in the early
17 '70s. She said she was taking dictation one
18 time and he had a phone call. She was busy
19 jotting down her grocery list in shorthand as he
20 was on the phone.

21 He gets off the phone and he reads
22 back her grocery list. He not only understood
23 shorthand but he could read it upside down.

24 But truly Frank was very special --
25 he was always a gentleman, always fair. But

1 Frank, if he had to deliver bad news, he had the
2 knowledge, sensitively, and strength to deliver
3 it well. He helped the practice of law less
4 intimidating.

5 Frank's wife Jeanette is here.
6 They were married 54 years. They have three
7 children: A daughter who's with us here, and
8 she is a writer, an award-winning journalist. I
9 enjoy speaking with her almost as much as her
10 father. His sons Matthew and Frank both live in
11 Northampton. He loved history. He was an avid
12 Civil War historian.

13 He collected clocks and antiques.
14 He was really a good and exceptionally good man.
15 He was strong. He was competent, friendly, and
16 approachable. All of us who knew and worked
17 with him are better off for it. Thank you.

18 THE COURT: Thank you, Attorney
19 Berg. The Court now calls upon Zachary Cohen to
20 say a few words on behalf of Judge Franklin Van
21 Antwerpen.

22 MR. COHEN: May it please the
23 Court, Judge Sletvold, President Judge Baratta,
24 other members of the bench, family, friends, and
25 colleagues. It's really an honor for me to

1 memorialize my father-in-law, Judge Van
2 Antwerpen, in the very same courtroom where I
3 began my legal career 13 years ago as a judicial
4 clerk and also in the same courtroom where Judge
5 Van Antwerpen moved for my admission to the bar
6 as a newly minted lawyer fresh off the high of
7 passing the bar exam that he helped me study for
8 while his daughter and I lived at their house in
9 Easton the summer we first moved back.

10 Even though the bulk of my practice
11 is in Lehigh County, fortunately my caseload
12 brings me back regularly, and I am comforted
13 every time I step into motions court because I
14 feel I get to spend time with the judge in
15 Courtroom 4 where his portrait hangs in this
16 courthouse.

17 Judge Van Antwerpen is not an
18 Easton native. He came here by way of New
19 Jersey and New York in 1971, just after he and
20 my mother-in-law wed. He took a job as chief
21 counsel for Northampton County Legal Aid
22 Society. He loved his job because he loved
23 helping people.

24 He also really loved Easton and was
25 proud of it. For those of you who knew Frank,

1 he was quite a history buff and story teller,
2 too. In hearing the way he talked about Easton
3 and its people, you would think he'd been living
4 here continually since the local reading of the
5 Declaration of Independence in the 1700s.

6 He became a judge on this court in
7 1979 at the age of 37, where he and our former
8 president judge, Bob Freedberg, became great
9 friends. Some of Judge Van Antwerpen's more
10 notable achievements in this court included
11 rewriting the Domestic Relations Code, and while
12 having his lunch with the other judges here at
13 the courthouse and noticing the soup tasted a
14 little off, he put an end to the long time
15 practice of having the prisoners prepare the
16 judges' food.

17 His talents as a judge quickly
18 catapulted him higher in the legal ranks, and in
19 1987, President Ronald Reagan appointed him to
20 the federal bench, bringing Easton its own
21 federal judge. On the federal bench, Judge Van
22 Antwerpen presided over many high profile cases,
23 which varied from putting the entire
24 Philadelphia mob behind bars, to the titillating
25 trademark litigation over Victoria's Secret's

1 Miracle Bra.

2 In 2004 he was nominated by
3 President Bush and confirmed to the Third
4 Circuit Court of Appeals, just one rung below
5 the United States Supreme Court and the last
6 stop for 99 percent of the nation's cases.
7 While the ceremonies surely had a serious tone
8 with all the accompanying pomp and circumstance
9 one would imagine for such an occasion, Judge
10 Van Antwerpen kept it fun, too, by making sure
11 that every governmental official and dignitary
12 knew who the real guest of honor was that day,
13 insisting that all of them shake hands with his
14 two-month old first grandchild, Brendan Franklin
15 Cohen.

16 My introduction to the judge's
17 family came when I was a young teenager in high
18 school. I, a bit of a wild child, by chance had
19 befriended his daughter Ginny in 10th grade.
20 Having never been around a judge before and not
21 knowing some of the rituals and formalities that
22 went along with that, I frequently went to visit
23 Ginny at their house and simply called the judge
24 by his first name, Frank. And once in a while,
25 I may have even managed a Mr. v if I was feeling

1 particularly formal. He never corrected me or
2 displayed disapproval. He was never
3 pretentious; simply knowing his daughter
4 considered me a friend was enough to meet his
5 approval.

6 As a high-schooler and being
7 curious by nature, I asked him about what he did
8 for a living. Instead of lecturing me in some
9 lofty way about legal mumbo jumbo, he said,
10 well, I'll show you. He took me to his
11 courtroom down in the Larry Holmes building
12 where we toured his chambers. I met Tony T, his
13 long-time personal protector and friend, as well
14 as Sarah, his secretary, who faithfully kept the
15 judge looking polished and out of trouble for
16 nearly 40 years.

17 The next stop was a holding cell
18 where for kicks the judge locked me up and
19 abruptly walked away. I wasn't totally sure he
20 was joking, but after he sprung me out, he then
21 let me watch him do a real live sentencing. The
22 person being sentenced that day was guilty of
23 some potpourri of serious crimes that included
24 racketeering and the trafficking of massive
25 amounts of drugs and weapons.

1 Here stood one of the toughest
2 looking gangsters and yet to my surprise, at
3 this moment, the man was crying like a baby. I
4 expected Judge Van Antwerpen to sternly throw
5 the book at him, not fall for the questionable
6 display of last minute remorse he put on, and
7 lecture this felon about how he'd destroyed
8 people's lives and was a menace to society.

9 Judge Van Antwerpen took a
10 different tack. Sure, this gangster still got
11 sentenced to real time but he patiently listened
12 to what this man had to say and listened with
13 compassion and empathy, understanding that the
14 man before him, despite doing all the illegal
15 and harmful things, still had a family and wife,
16 and had children that will miss their father
17 while he was in jail. And that this criminal
18 had done what he did, at least in some part, as
19 a product of his own rough upbringing and
20 unfortunate circumstances that someone in our
21 shoes could hardly ever imagine.

22 It was clear to me that Judge Van
23 Antwerpen recognized that this man standing
24 before him had more than one dimension;
25 dimensions that weren't necessarily products of

1 his choosing, and that more than likely they
2 were products of his circumstances just as much
3 as his volition.

4 That this defendant wasn't just a
5 thug. And while surely deserving of some
6 punishment, he was also someone who needed help
7 and rehabilitation, if such was possible.

8 I can honestly say that that day,
9 that experience, seeing Judge Van Antwerpen in
10 action and the enormity of what he did each and
11 every day and the impact of the tough decisions
12 he had to make, changed the trajectory of my
13 life. It was a huge influence in landing me
14 where I am today in practicing law.

15 I also learned that day after
16 seeing no one else in court calling him by his
17 first name Frank that maybe I should ease up on
18 calling him that, too. But I settled on judge,
19 which for me, still carried enough informality
20 and yet I felt the moniker showed respect, too.

21 When Ginny and I got married and he
22 and Kathy took me in as a true member of their
23 family, that nickname of judge quickly turned
24 into dad. When we started having children, dad
25 faded into what the grandchildren affectionately

1 knew him as, and that was judgie, which of all
2 the names I've called him, I liked the best, as
3 to me it meant family, informality, love, and
4 respect all wrapped up into one.

5 At times over the last two years
6 when his illness stole many of his best physical
7 gifts, in large part, his ability to talk and
8 tell stories -- and man could he tell stories --
9 or his ability to enjoy his daily steak and
10 mashed baked potatoes, which he never got bored
11 of, he never lost his mental gifts, nor his
12 fervent desire to use them for promoting
13 justice.

14 When bedridden for months, when
15 most would have called it quits or at least just
16 taken a break, he still had his clerks transmit
17 memos to him that his staff dutifully delivered
18 to the hospital and his home, and he still
19 performed his duties as an appellate judge
20 admirably up until weeks before his passing,
21 even participating in a panel argument when he
22 no longer even had the strength to stand.
23 That's how much he loved and cared about what he
24 did. Being a judge and using his mind to serve
25 the people make everything to him.

1 The only thing he loved more than
2 his job as a judge and his corny jokes, of which
3 he had an endless supply, was his family. His
4 wife, Kathy, of 45 years was the love of his
5 life, his closest confidant, and someone he
6 simply could not get through a day without.

7 He also fiercely loved his three
8 children and their spouses and his four
9 grandchildren, always seeing to it that they all
10 had every opportunity he and Kathy could
11 provide.

12 One of my favorite memories is from
13 about six years ago when Judge Van Antwerpen and
14 Kathy were invited by President Obama to a
15 reception at the White House. Kathy, being the
16 selfless person she is, convinced Judgie to
17 attempt to get special permission to bring our
18 then five-year-old son, Brendan, as his date in
19 Kathy's place.

20 Judgie pulled some strings and
21 permission was granted. While they waited in
22 the security line to get in the White House,
23 Brendan started getting squirmy and Judgie asked
24 him what the matter was, to which Brendan
25 replied that he had to go, like right now.

1 Judgie quickly flagged down the
2 secret service and when he explained the nature
3 of the emergency, the secret service,
4 acknowledging this crisis of enormous
5 proportions, immediately rushed them both to the
6 front of the security line and then right into
7 the white House to the nearest lavatory, which
8 just happened to be the First Lady's private
9 bathroom.

10 When they got back from Washington
11 and we asked them what the best parts were,
12 Judgie, a lifelong republican, laughed and said
13 he was so proud of his grandson, Brendan, for
14 not only did he make it to the bathroom in time,
15 but he also left Michelle Obama's private toilet
16 seat up for good measure.

17 I could go on and on about personal
18 stories involving the judge and vacations we
19 took, all the time we shared together as family
20 his brilliant encyclopedic mind, et cetera.

21 But to wrap things up and be brief,
22 two of my favorite things he did for me in his
23 capacity as a judge involved his being the
24 officiate at our wedding 15 years ago, where he
25 walked Ginny down the aisle, then stood up front

1 and put on his robe and then with his booming
2 voice that needed no microphone married us in
3 front of all our friends and family.

4 And then secondly, when a few years
5 ago, he helped orchestrate a swearing in
6 ceremony for a sizable group of Northampton
7 County lawyers who wanted to be admitted to the
8 Supreme Court of the United States, and where
9 after the ceremony, as if standing in the
10 Supreme Court in front of the justices wasn't
11 enough of a treat, he arranged for us all to
12 have a private audience with Chief Justice
13 Roberts and a couple of other justices where we
14 got to chat with them just person to person.
15 It's an experience that most lawyers can only
16 dream of.

17 So I close by saying, fare thee
18 well, Judgie, till I see you next time in
19 Courtroom 4, that is. You were a hero to me and
20 many others and a legal giant that left a
21 lasting impression on our community. Thank you.

22 THE COURT: Thank you, Attorney
23 Cohen. We will now have some remarks from the
24 president of the bar association, Attorney
25 Lopiano-Reilly.

1 MS. LOPIANO-REILLY: Before I
2 start, I'm going to go off script for a moment
3 and say that I have to compose myself. Mark and
4 Dean and Dan and Zach, all four of you did a
5 phenomenal job and great honor to the people you
6 have honored here today.

7 Now for the formal remarks. May it
8 please the Court, honored judges, our appellate
9 judges, our federal judges, and our Northampton
10 County bench, family members and friends of the
11 deceased, colleagues and members of the
12 Northampton County Bar Association.

13 The annual memorial service is a
14 time honored tradition of our association. We
15 gather here today in a spirit of unity as
16 colleagues in a shared profession with shared
17 experiences.

18 while we mourn the loss of Bill
19 Exaros, Sam Litzenberger, Tom Maloney, Frank
20 Skrapits, and Judge Van Antwerpen, we are here
21 to honor their memory and remember their
22 contributions.

23 We've just heard very moving and
24 sometimes very funny statements about each of
25 these men, which gave us insight into their

1 individuality.

2 But I think we'd all agree that
3 memorial services make us uncomfortable. They
4 make us consider our own mortality. They may us
5 think about what we accomplished and what we've
6 have not yet accomplished.

7 They may make us think about the
8 loved ones that we will all leave behind when we
9 pass away, our own personal legacy.

10 Hopefully they make us think about
11 what is truly important. The five men we honor
12 this year leave behind them wives, children,
13 grandchildren, family, and friends all of whom
14 have their own special memories, funny stories,
15 and warm feelings about them.

16 I'm here to talk about these five
17 men and how they have each in their own way been
18 important parts of the Northampton County Bar
19 Association.

20 I think of our association as a
21 patchwork quilt with an indefinite pattern.
22 Each one of our members are important patches on
23 that quilt and they add to its size, its
24 structure, and its strength.

25 Some lawyers have public law

1 practices and bold personalities. They might be
2 considered the brighter colors and the bigger
3 shapes on the quilt.

4 Some lawyers have more discrete,
5 transactional practices and more introverted
6 personalities. They might be considered the
7 background patches on the quilt, which are
8 valuable in lending distinction to the various
9 patterns.

10 Most of us fall somewhere in
11 between. Some parts of the quilt that is the
12 Northampton County Bar Association have been
13 there for many years. Our association is nearly
14 143 years old having been formed in 1874. Over
15 time, some of the individual patches on the
16 quilt may feel tattered in this very stressful
17 profession that we all share. Those patches,
18 though tattered, are still needed to bind our
19 quilt together.

20 When we lose a member of our
21 association, this patch is not taken from our
22 quilt. It remains an important part of the
23 history of the NCBA. It may over time become
24 faded, but it helps to form who we are.

25 The thread that binds all of us as

1 lawyers and as an association is our desire to
2 see justice done, our love of the law, and our
3 service to our clients and to the public.
4 Belonging to our association means bringing our
5 individual gifts to something bigger than
6 ourselves; to our quilt.

7 These five men that we honor today:
8 Bill Exaros, Sam Litzenberger, Tom Maloney,
9 Frank Skrapits, and Judge Franklin Van Antwerpen
10 were and still are important parts of our
11 multicolored, multi-patterned, fresh and new,
12 old and torn, proud and strong patchwork quilt
13 that is the Northampton County Bar Association.

14 I am honored to be a very small
15 part of it. The memories of these five men,
16 like a big quilt, bring us warmth and comfort.
17 We are all better for having known them. May
18 God bless them, their family, and each us.

19 THE COURT: Thank you to all of our
20 speakers to honor the memories of William
21 Exaros, Sam Litzenberger, Thomas Maloney, Frank
22 Skrapits, and Judge Franklin Van Antwerpen. Let
23 us move forward in the same spirit of integrity,
24 friendliness, kindness, and goodwill that they
25 embody.

1 we leave here today not with a
2 sense of loss but a sense of gratitude for who
3 they are.

4 A reception will be held in the
5 jury lounge immediately following today's
6 memorial service and then reconvene for the call
7 of the argument list.

8 * * *

9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25