

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

MEMORIAL SERVICE

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George M. Baurkot, Esquire
Paul A. Florenz, Esquire
Harold J. Funt, Esquire
Robert H. Littner, Esquire
Walter E. Morrissey, Esquire
Eric R. Shimer, Esquire
Charles A. Wilkinson, Esquire

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

9:00 a.m. Courtroom #1

Northampton County Courthouse

669 Washington Street

Easton, Pennsylvania 18042

1 JUDGE BARATTA: Good morning. Welcome
2 to the Northampton County Bar Association's annual
3 memorial service. This is an event that we hold
4 obviously every year in which the Bar Association
5 honors and celebrates the lives of our recently
6 departed members.

7 For those of you who are not lawyers,
8 family members, and friends who might not be here,
9 the lawyers we celebrate today were lawyers who
10 first began practicing when this was still a small
11 county. These lawyers knew each other intimately
12 and knew the judges very well. They socialized
13 together. They shared a professional camaraderie
14 and respect and they also enforced their own code of
15 conduct and expectations.

16 Now, although this Bar Association is a
17 professional society and we're trained to pursue
18 justice through the legal system, we are also
19 members of a professional family. A family that's
20 bound together in public and community service. We
21 help others in need. We help to keep our community
22 safe and strong. And in doing so, we create
23 lifelong friendships which we share success. And
24 today, as part of that camaraderie, we celebrate our
25 deceased members and mourn our loss.

1 Shortly, we will be reminded about
2 members whom we have known very well and some who we
3 may not know as well. Some of the lawyers you'll
4 hear about today have led quiet, humble,
5 professional lives. Others may have had remarkable
6 professional achievements and success. Some of our
7 members have lived amazingly rich and private lives.
8 And others have sired diverse and successful
9 families.

10 From time to time, we may also learn
11 about intimate details about their lives that were
12 instrumental in forming their character, and to give
13 you a better perspective and insight as to who they
14 were.

15 Today, one of the honorees is George
16 Baurkot. And I just want to take a moment just to
17 speak a little bit about Mr. Baurkot. I had the
18 privilege of knowing Mr. Baurkot my entire life. He
19 was one of my father's best friends, and they went
20 to law school together at Georgetown. And my first
21 memory of Mr. Baurkot was that he and my father were
22 talking about wiffle ball at the complex in
23 Washington, D.C.

24 Over the years, I knew George's family.
25 We socialized together as families. And when I

1 became a lawyer, my father used to drag me along
2 with him to lunch. And oftentimes we would go to
3 lunch with Mr. Baurkot. He was always a part of my
4 life.

5 However, when my father died 25 years
6 ago, I became even closer to George. He took me
7 into his inner circle. George had a very big inner
8 circle, family and friends who he cared about and
9 watched over him. And he was constantly asking me
10 how I'm doing and what's going on and how was the
11 family and things of that nature.

12 I just enjoyed the idea that George
13 stayed connected with lawyers, besides me, many
14 lawyers -- Judge Panella was one of them. Judge
15 Koury, Judge Murray -- who frequently interacted
16 with Mr. Baurkot. Not because of our professional
17 duties and responsibilities, but just because he
18 cared and he wanted to have a personal connection
19 with all of us.

20 But George was a really interesting
21 guy. I don't want to say crazy, but in some ways
22 George was a bit crazy. He had the best sense of
23 humor, very sarcastic but not in a condescending
24 way.

25 Now, let me just tell you a couple

1 quick stories that will better describe George. And
2 I know I'm not going to step on Danny's stories
3 because these are my stories. But as a lawyer, I
4 frequently went to George's office, sometimes two or
5 three times in a week if we were working, either
6 helping one or the other with a legal matter.

7 And when I would go into his office it
8 was just a mess. He had OCD and you couldn't be in
9 there. There were piles of papers against every
10 wall and every room. Just loose papers. The TV
11 would be on, and it would be on with no sound. I
12 think it's the off-track betting channel. That
13 would be running constantly. And that TV was
14 trained on George's desk. And you walk in there,
15 and there were just diverse people coming in and
16 out, everybody talking. Usually demanding things.
17 And George trying to deal with all kinds of people.

18 And I also remember that a lot of times
19 there would be this guy in a white sleeveless
20 t-shirt, old man, sitting on George's couch. Just
21 sitting there, like a cigar store ending. Except he
22 was alive. So his name was Ivan. And Ivan had no
23 place to go, so he just used to hang out at George's
24 office. And sometimes he'd run errands and do
25 things for George. But he just liked hanging out in

1 George's office.

2 So these people would be coming in and
3 out of George's office. He did a lot of
4 transactional work, real estate, liquor licenses and
5 things like that. And his clients never had
6 appointments, they would just run in and George --
7 they would scream at him about some problem or they
8 wanted some advice. And sometimes it would be about
9 a real estate transaction and he would turn to
10 Theresa, his secretary, and say, Theresa can't you
11 find that for me? And Theresa would throw her hands
12 up in the air and say, George, how the hell do I
13 know where it is. Look at these papers. You had it
14 last. You find it. And then George would like turn
15 to me and say, I can't fire her, she's the only one
16 who knows the combination to the safe.

17 That was George. George also, at one
18 point, in this life had a scare with regard to lung
19 cancer. He has spots on his lungs, and his doctor
20 was sending him to New York to see a specialist. So
21 a bunch of George's friends were driving him in.
22 George had his x-rays with him and he took his
23 x-rays out and was holding them up. And there were
24 apparently little spots on the x-rays. And George
25 reached into his pocket and he handed one of his

1 friends white out and said, see what you can do with
2 these spots.

3 He was just a great guy, and we're all
4 going to miss him. I especially will miss him
5 because he filled a big void for me when my father
6 dies. So that concludes my story.

7 All right. Now, we're going to begin
8 with the presentation in honor of our deceased
9 members. We will start first with Danny Baurkot,
10 George's son.

11 MR. BAURKOT: Esteemed members and
12 everybody else here today. I just want to thank you
13 all for coming. Judge Baratta, thank you for those
14 kind remarks about my father. I can't tell you how
15 much I appreciate that.

16 George Baurkot was born in 1934 here in
17 Easton, the son of Lebanese immigrant parents,
18 Raymond and Margaret Baurkot. He grew up on 4th
19 Street, which at that time was the heart of the
20 Lebanese community in Easton. His father, Raymond,
21 with no more than a grade school education, began
22 selling beer shortly after he came to America in
23 1929 and eventually purchased an Anheuser Busch
24 Distributorship. In addition to becoming a
25 successful businessman, Raymond Baurkot was known

1 for his benevolence and philanthropy. He was looked
2 upon as the patriarch of the Lebanese Community in
3 Easton having helped many other Lebanese find a home
4 in this country. Dad looked up to him very much and
5 he greatly influenced the man that Dad would become.

6 Dad was a member of Our Lady of Lebanon
7 Maronite Catholic Church and both his faith and his
8 Lebanese heritage were very important to him.
9 Growing up in Easton, Dad was very close to his
10 siblings, Unis, Sanna, Sammy and Raymond.

11 Dad graduated from Seton Hall
12 University in 1956 and was all set to attend Seton
13 Hall Law School that September. He was working one
14 day that summer on one of his Father's beer trucks
15 and was spotted by Attorney Charlie Hogan from the
16 second floor of the old Drake Building, where
17 Charlie's office was located. Charlie Hogan was
18 Jimmy and Billy Hogan's father and Theresa's
19 grandfather.

20 Charlie called down to Dad and asked
21 about his plans for law school. When Dad told
22 Charlie that he was going to be attending Seton Hall
23 Law School in a few weeks, Charlie told him in no
24 uncertain terms, "No you're not. You're going to
25 Georgetown Law School with Jimmy down in D.C." And

1 that's what happened. It turned out to be a great
2 decision for Dad as he and his great friend, Jimmy,
3 roomed together at Georgetown and then graduated
4 together in 1959.

5 Dad married Patrice Mahon Baurkot in
6 1958. It has been a difficult few months for our
7 family with Dad's passing in April and Mom, sadly
8 leaving us just one month ago. She was truly a
9 great woman in her own right and we were lucky as a
10 family to have shared with Mom and Dad a celebration
11 of their 60th wedding anniversary last August.

12 Dad loved Mom very much, but she still
13 could not escape his penchant for teasing as anyone
14 who happened to stop by our house while we were
15 having one of mom's cooked meals for dinner was
16 always implored by Dad to join us because, as he
17 would explain to them, "why should we be the only
18 ones to suffer?"

19 Mom and Dad had five children in six
20 years: George, myself, Bobby, Mary Sue and David.
21 And we were not very well behaved. In fact, we were
22 pretty bad. Judge Roscioli and Attorney John Lushis
23 were neighbors of ours growing up and can attest to
24 our less-than-stellar reputation in the neighborhood
25 and the fact that at one point or another in our

1 respective childhoods, all five Baurkot kids spent
2 time on the FBI Watch List -- or at least we should
3 have.

4 But as bad as we were, Dad still spoiled us as kids.

5 Mom and Dad had 15 grandchildren:

6 Elizabeth, Patrick, Mary Catherine, Sophia, Elena,
7 Juliana, Christopher, Christina, Nicholas, Matthew,
8 Anthony, Ava, Adam, Ryan and Shannon.

9 And one great grandchild, Addison.

10 If you think Dad spoiled us, you should
11 have seen the way he spoiled every single one of his
12 grandchildren. They affectionately knew him as
13 Gidho, the Arabic term for grandfather.

14 His love for his grandkids was
15 unconditional. They could do no wrong in his eyes.
16 Needless to say, he dealt with his own children
17 quite differently for our behavioral transgressions
18 when we were growing up. But we deserved it. Trust
19 me.

20 Shortly after graduating from
21 Georgetown, Dad formed the law firm of Malos,
22 Baurkot & Baratta with his good friend, Renald
23 Baratta, Judge Baratta's father. Dad always spoke
24 fondly about Renald and raved about his remarkable
25 courtroom presence. "Renald could charm the birds

1 out of the trees." He would often say. He
2 practiced there for a few years before starting his
3 own practice just across the street from this
4 courthouse.

5 After graduating from Law School
6 myself, I worked for a firm in New York City for
7 five years. I left that practice in 1992 to join
8 Dad, and we proudly hung the "Baurkot & Baurkot"
9 sign across the street from here. It was the best
10 decision I ever made. I learned more from Dad over
11 the past 25 years than I could have ever learned at
12 the New York firm.

13 As chaotic as things could get in our
14 office on a daily basis, Dad's cousin, Teresa, and
15 my sister-in-law, Becki, kept things in order over
16 the years. We were incredibly lucky to have them.

17 His open-door policy brought many
18 people into the office. The flow of traffic in the
19 office boggled my mind at times. So many facets of
20 Dad's personality were on display on any given day
21 in our office with the different people that came in
22 with such a wide array of legal problems and issues.
23 He truly amazed me with the way that he was able to
24 handle the chaos and even embrace it at times.

25 Dad loved his daily routine and never

1 wanted to stray from it. No greater evidence of
2 this could be seen than his Cal-Ripken-like streak
3 of eating lunch at Oscar's every day for almost 30
4 years straight. Oscar's was owned and run by Oscar
5 Canone, his wife, Chris, and his children, Joe, Sam,
6 Jimmy and Rosie.

7 Dad and Rosie had a great relationship
8 and were constantly teasing one another over the
9 years. Dad represented Rosie at an unemployment
10 compensation hearing on one occasion, years ago
11 after Rosie was let go from her job at the old Orr's
12 Department Store on Northampton Street.

13 I wish Dad could be here with Rosie to
14 tell the story because their respective versions of
15 the story were drastically different. Rosie's
16 version has her as a free-spirited, young woman who
17 was let go because she brought too much joy to the
18 office. She recounts how Dad showed up late for the
19 hearing and asked opposing counsel for a pen and
20 piece of paper to write on. Rosie thought she was a
21 sure fire winner, though, when Dad walked into the
22 courtroom and the Judge said, "Hey, George, how you
23 doin'?"

24 On the other hand, Dad's version of the
25 story has him showing up well prepared for the

1 hearing, and after Orr's laid out its case of Rosie
2 playing music too loudly on her transistor radio and
3 being late for work a little too often, Dad put
4 Rosie on the witness stand.

5 Dad began by asking; "Ms. Canone, You
6 weren't late 30 out of the last 90 days at work,
7 were you?"

8 Rosie shot back: "Yes, I was."

9 Dad was taken aback by her response,
10 but forged ahead: "Well you weren't playing music
11 loudly on your radio at work, were you?"

12 Rosie shot back again: "Yes, I was."

13 At which point Dad asked the Judge for
14 a brief recess to speak with his client to which the
15 Judge said, "I think you need one, George."

16 Dad got Rosie out in the hall and said: "Rosie,
17 what the hell are you doing to me up there, you're
18 killing me."

19 And Rosie said: "George, what do you
20 want from me, I'm under oath, I can't lie."

21 I don't think I have to tell you that Dad's
22 relationship with the Judge did not help Rosie in
23 this particular instance.

24 On another occasion, Dad represented
25 his friend, Joe Marchi, at a Social Security

1 Disability hearing. Dad may have been laying it on
2 a little thick when recounting to the Judge the many
3 ailments Joe had, including congestive heart
4 failure, diabetes, lung issues and so on. Dad
5 looked over at the table and was surprised to see
6 Joe crying and immediately asked the Judge for a
7 recess. When they got out into the hall, Dad asked,
8 "Joe, what's the matter? Why are you crying?" And
9 in between sobs, Joe said, "George, I didn't know I
10 was that sick, am I dying?"

11 Over the years, I think Dad represented
12 half the Lebanese community and the rest of the
13 population in Easton at one time or another for a
14 speeding ticket or some other motor vehicle
15 infraction. And in 99 percent of those cases, was
16 able to work out a plea to 3111(a), a violation that
17 carries zero points on your driver's license.

18 In fact, on one occasion Dad was
19 appearing before Magistrate Judge Gay Elwell on a
20 speeding ticket. And before Dad arrived, Judge
21 Elwell was told by the younger police officer that
22 was prosecuting the case that he wasn't sure if he
23 had ever met Dad. Judge Elwell said to the officer,
24 "Just look up 3111(a) in the Pennsylvania Vehicle
25 Code and you'll see his picture right there."

1 On those rare occasions when a plea
2 deal to 3111(a) could not be struck, the testifying
3 officer was usually in uncharted waters with Dad.
4 While attempting to present his or her case, Dad
5 would continually interrupt the Officer's testimony,
6 asking, "Are you finished, are you finished?"
7 Flustered and thrown off by Dad's intrusive and
8 incessant tactics, the officer would invariably
9 forget to testify to one or more of the required
10 elements of the offense, the case would get
11 dismissed, and out the door we would go.

12 He had it down to a science, and while
13 his technique was a bit unorthodox, it was always
14 with the best intentions. To zealously represent
15 and advocate for his client. Although the reality
16 is that he was simply in a rush to get out of there
17 so we could get back in time for lunch at Oscar's.

18 While time doesn't permit me to recount
19 to you all the stories, I can assure you there are
20 many more. Inevitably, Dad's health and memory
21 began to fade on him in recent years. He was a
22 proud man and fought hard, coming into the office
23 every day, both when he battled cancer years ago
24 and, more recently, when time began to take its toll
25 on Dad's body and memory. He did not want to accept

1 the fate that had befallen him at the end.

2 About a year or so ago, Dad and I went
3 to see his physician, Dr. Manja, to attempt to
4 assess the extent of his memory loss and to see if
5 we could somehow stave it off. At the beginning of
6 the office visit, Dr. Manja gave Dad three words to
7 remember to see if he could recall them at the end
8 of the visit. Something along the lines of house,
9 cat, and tree. Dr. Manja left in the middle of the
10 appointment to take an urgent phone call. The
11 second he left our examination room, Dad immediately
12 turned to me and said, "Quick, Danny, what were
13 those three words I was supposed to remember?"
14 So you see, even unwittingly at times, Dad kept his
15 sense of humor until the very end.

16 In finishing up, it's important for me
17 to convey how important this Bar and you people were
18 to Dad. The members of this Bar, this Bench, and
19 the people in this Courthouse, whether it was tip
20 staff, the sheriff's office, recorder of deeds,
21 prothonotary or the register of wills, you all
22 treated him so well over the years and he
23 appreciated it very much. He not only knew the
24 names of most of the people in this court house, he
25 knew your stories because it was important to him to

1 know them. You mattered to him and he wanted you to
2 know that.

3 A little over one year ago in this
4 Courtroom, during his induction ceremony as
5 President Judge, Judge Koury kindly spoke about how
6 Dad mentored him and many Lebanese and other
7 attorneys in this area over the years. I was moved
8 to tears as many of you here today so graciously
9 honored him with a standing ovation. He was
10 somewhat uncomfortable though, as he was a very
11 humble man and never one to seek the spotlight.

12 I grew up wanting to be just like him.
13 It's the reason I became an attorney in the first
14 place. He was an inspiration to me personally, and
15 he always made me want to be a better attorney and a
16 better person.

17 Over the years, George, Bobby, Mary
18 Sue, David and I saw firsthand many acts of
19 kindness, generosity and charity from Dad in the
20 office and at home, but he never did them for show
21 or adulation. He was a great example to each one of
22 us and we are so thankful and so proud that we were
23 able to call him our Dad.

24 Thank you.

25 * * * * *

1 JUDGE BARATTA: We now recognize
2 Attorney Constantine Vasiliadis.

3 I'm sorry. Judge Koury has some brief
4 remarks as well.

5 PRESIDENT JUDGE KOURY: We have
6 gathered here today to recognize and pay tribute to
7 the members of our Bar Association who recently
8 passed away.

9 On behalf of the Court of Common Pleas,
10 I would like to offer my condolences to the families
11 and friends of our departed members.

12 Judge Baratta is the presiding judge
13 here today and has spoken on behalf of the Court of
14 Common Pleas. However, I would like to say just a
15 few words regarding the late George Baurkot, a man
16 who I admired and respected since I was a child.

17 George Baurkot was one of my mentors.
18 He was an inspiration for several generations of
19 Easton's Lebanese community, as he was the first
20 parishioner to attend and graduate from law school.
21 He was a man of unparallel character.

22 George was a very special man. To
23 understand what made George such a special person,
24 you need look at who were his parents and how he was
25 raised. George's father, the late Raymond Baurkot,

1 immigrated to the United States in July of 1929,
2 just three months before the start of the Great
3 Depression and four years before the end of
4 prohibition.

5 Like many immigrants, Raymond came to
6 the United States with very little. He came in
7 search of a better life, and he believed that in the
8 United States, one could better himself through hard
9 work and perseverance. In 1933, in the middle of
10 the Great Depression and just as prohibition was
11 coming to an end, Raymond believed that there would
12 be a void in the beer industry.

13 At the age of 20, Raymond opened a
14 closet-size beer wholesaler next to his mother's
15 butcher shop on North 3rd Street in downtown Easton.
16 He was the only employee. And as they say, the rest
17 in history.

18 Raymond transformed this one-man
19 business into a thriving company. But Raymond and
20 his wife, Maggie Baurkot, never forgot their humble
21 beginnings and they never let their children forget
22 it either.

23 It was these parents, Raymond and
24 Maggie Baurkot, who's kindness, humility, and
25 generosity touched entire generations of Easton's

1 Lebanese Americans in Easton. It was those parents,
2 Raymond and Maggie Baurkot, who taught George to be
3 respectful and polite. They taught him to serve God
4 by serving his church and his fellow human beings.
5 They taught him not to be concerned with the riches
6 of this world. And they taught him that the only
7 thing that one takes with them from this life is the
8 strength of his character and his good deeds.

9 Throughout his life George helped so
10 many people with legal issues, often asking nothing
11 in return. It has been said that the true measure
12 of a man's character is how he treats someone who
13 can do him absolutely no good. If we measure
14 George's character by that standard, it certainly
15 must have been one of the strongest around.

16 George Baurkot crammed a lot of living
17 and a lot of work into his 84 years. He rose from
18 very modest beginnings to become a pillar of this
19 community. He was a respected member of the
20 Northampton County legal community. He was a
21 devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He was a
22 loyal friend to many. He was an inspiration for
23 several generations of Easton's Lebanese community,
24 as he was the first parishioner to attend and
25 graduate law school.

1 William Penn once said, "He who does
2 good for good's sake seeks neither paradise nor
3 reward, but he is sure of both in the end."

4 Throughout his life, George Baurkot did
5 good for good's sake. He sought neither paradise
6 nor reward, but I am confident that in the end he
7 received both.

8 George was a polite, respectful, kind,
9 humble, generous, and gentle man who loved to help
10 others, and we can learn from George Baurkot. So
11 what can we learn from George Baurkot? We learn
12 that we should always be respectful and polite. We
13 learn that we should never forget our humble
14 beginnings. We learn that the only thing one takes
15 with them from this life is the strength of his
16 character and his good deeds. And we learn that
17 every so often nice guys finish first.

18 May George rest in peace.

19 * * * * *

20 JUDGE BARATTA: The Court now
21 recognizes Constantine Vasiliadis.

22 MR. VASILIADIS: Thank you, Your Honor.

23 May it please The Court, members of the
24 Bar, family and friends of the attorneys that we are
25 memorializing today. I have the honor, though

1 sadly, to tell you something of Paul Andrew Florenz.

2 Although The Court and older members of
3 the Bar knew Paul, many of the younger lawyers may
4 not have had that opportunity to know or interact
5 with him. That is unfortunate because Paul was a
6 gentleman, an outstanding lawyer, and one who was a
7 joy to practice with.

8 He had an office practice that centered
9 on wills, trusts, estate administration and business
10 law. Paul was a member of this Bar nearly 40 years.
11 His journey to Northampton County from his native
12 Maine began at Dickinson College, where he met and
13 later married Jane Kolb, the daughter of the late
14 Jacob Kolb, an esteemed and respected member -- 50
15 year member -- of our Bar.

16 At Dickinson, Paul had a double major
17 in English and Geology. Upon graduation, Paul and
18 Jane went to Hawaii for a year where he pursued his
19 interest in marine geology. Fortunately for the
20 law, he changed direction. And after a year went to
21 New England School of Law.

22 Paul, after graduation, began his
23 practice with the firm of Kolb, Holland, Antonelli &
24 Heffner. And thereafter, he and Jake practiced
25 together until 1991 when Paul and Jake merged our

1 practices.

2 To his clients, Paul was not only a
3 trusted advisor and counselor, but also a warm,
4 caring friend. If there was any description of
5 Paul's character, it was that. Warm and caring.

6 Paul represented a wide variety of
7 clients that included Lehigh University, Moravian
8 College, car dealerships, Lutheran Manor, as well as
9 innumerable estate planning clients.

10 Paul was a fixture in adoption court,
11 where his expertise helped create many new families.
12 At the heart of all of his client relationships was
13 a genuine regard for the welfare of his clients.
14 And they loved him.

15 Paul, although was he not aggressive,
16 his toughness was shown at the very end of his life
17 when he was in court representing the interest of
18 his clients almost into the last week before he left
19 us.

20 Practicing law with Paul was an
21 unrivaled pleasure. His dry sense of humor shared
22 at the end of the day -- of a long day -- helped put
23 into a proper perspective why we were lawyers.

24 Who can forget Paul in his vintage
25 Santa Claus hat handing out presents at the office

1 Christmas party. And of course, the office always
2 rang in the new year with a glass of Paul's bourbon
3 egg nog, painstakingly prepared the night before and
4 he assured us, taste tested to ensure that it was
5 perfect.

6 No birthday party for the office staff
7 was complete unless there was cake and a rousing
8 birthday song led by Paul in his melodious voice.

9 Paul gave generously of his time and
10 talents to many civic groups. He held leadership
11 positions with the Bach Choir, the Lutheran Home,
12 and the Bethlehem Rotary.

13 Paul was a loving family man. He and
14 his wife, Jane, raised three wonderful children,
15 Andrew, Katie and Martha. Who are a credit to their
16 parents and their community. Paul spoke often about
17 how proud he was of them and their accomplishments.

18 Andrew, a career army officer.

19 Katie, a former marine and State
20 Department Officer.

21 And Martha, a nurse and personal
22 trainer.

23 Paul had a profound effect on all who came in
24 contact with him. Jane and his children miss him.
25 I miss him. The Northampton County Bar is a better

1 organization for his participation and his
2 contributions to it and the legal profession.

3 Thank you.

4 * * * * *

5 THE COURT: The Court now recognizes
6 Kristie Beitler.

7 MS. BEITLER: May is please The Court,
8 Judge Panella, members of the bench, members of the
9 Northampton County Bar Association, family and
10 friends. Thank you for the honor to speak today
11 about Harold J. Funt.

12 I had the honor and privilege of
13 working for and with Harold Funt for the last 15
14 years. Harold passed away June 27th at the age of
15 72. Harold, or Hal as we called him at the office,
16 attended the University of Pittsburgh, where he
17 earned both his undergraduate and juris doctor
18 degrees.

19 After graduation, he began working on
20 the staff at PA Legal Services and later served as
21 the Executive Director of Lehigh Valley Legal
22 Services.

23 After Hal's passing, several attorneys
24 approached me and remarked to me, I remember when
25 Hal hired me at legal services. It was so nice to

1 hear that, besides me, Hal had given so many other
2 attorneys the opportunity to start their legal
3 careers.

4 Hal was very proud of his work through
5 Legal Services and being known as Legal Services'
6 pioneer.

7 Hal began in private practice with his
8 best friend Lee Rothman, after his time at Legal
9 Services. Unfortunately, Lee Rothman also left us
10 in 2017.

11 In 1991 Hal became a sole practitioner
12 and also served as a Juvenile Master in the Lehigh
13 County Court of Common Pleas. He remained a sole
14 practitioner for a few years before forming
15 Margolis, Duckworth & Funt; and in 2000, Mosebach,
16 Funt, Dayton & Duckworth.

17 Also in 2000, Hal served as the
18 president of the Bar Association in Lehigh County.
19 Over the years, Hal was very involved in many
20 community service activities. Recently, he was very
21 active in the Bethlehem Rotary, serving as the
22 treasurer last year.

23 Although around the beginning of 2019,
24 Hal started commenting he was semi-retired whenever
25 he took on a new case, he was really working full

1 time. No matter how many times he would say he was
2 semi-retired, he remained dedicated to his practice
3 until the time he was hospitalized in late April.

4 As many of you know, Hal focused
5 primarily on family law during his 47-year career in
6 civil litigation. And he represented countless
7 numbers of clients during their most trying and
8 emotional times. Hal never took that responsibility
9 lightly and served them all with integrity and
10 empathy.

11 The evidence of Hal's impact on his
12 clients became clear when I started the daunting
13 task of cleaning out his office a few weeks ago.
14 Tucked inside his bottom desk drawer were several
15 thank you notes he accumulated throughout the years.
16 Anyone in this room who practices family law knows
17 that sometimes it is difficult to have happy
18 clients. While we frequently receive emails and
19 letters from clients complaining about the court
20 process, the other party or opposing counsel,
21 letters and thank you cards are the affirmation that
22 you're doing right by your client.

23 I'd like to share just a few of the
24 kind words written to Hal. One client wrote: "Just
25 wanted to let you know how truly thankful I am for

1 you for taking on my case. I was so scared, but
2 after meeting with you and then today in court, I
3 feel safe again. I know it's your job, but it's my
4 life and I appreciate your sensitivity."

5 Another client wrote: "I respect and
6 admire you as an attorney, but more importantly as a
7 person and a friend."

8 And I believe this thank you note most
9 embodies Hal's demeanor towards his clients: "Thank
10 you so much for your expert counsel, your
11 encouragement, your support, your honesty, and your
12 listening ear, especially when I went on and on. I
13 also appreciate all the hand-holding you did. As
14 well as all of those pep talks. I suddenly feel why
15 at the age of 46. In case you have had a bad day
16 and wondered why you ever entered law, please
17 re-read this letter."

18 I will always remember the talks I had
19 with Hal. In the beginning of my career when I was
20 shadowing Hal in court, I can recall the very first
21 day I started with him. He brought me here to this
22 courtroom and we had a family law case.

23 When I would shadow Hal in court, we
24 would discuss the case, and Hal would always make
25 sure I understood what transpired. Usually when one

1 of us would return from court, from a particularly
2 interesting client meeting, we would debrief. We
3 would talk about the meeting, about a particular
4 moment, or maybe even gossip about the other side.

5 Hal also loved to catch up and talk to
6 his colleagues outside the courthouse. If Hal got
7 on the phone with a friend or a colleague, it was
8 shoes off, feet up on his desk, and continuous
9 laughter from his office.

10 Hal was truly a gentleman, a devoted
11 husband to his wife, Carol, of 33 years. A proud
12 father to Jessica, Thomas, and Michael. And a
13 doting grandfather to his four grandchildren, and to
14 his four-legged best friend, Leo.

15 He was proud of the accomplishments of
16 his children. And would often be seen at a lacrosse
17 game that one of his grandkids was playing in. Hal
18 and his family were also so very kind to my children
19 as well.

20 I will miss Hal not only for his
21 kindness, his mentorship, his love of silly things
22 like the General Hospital soap opera, Broadway show
23 tunes, the Pittsburgh Panthers and Rays Pizza. But
24 most importantly, his guidance and sage advise.

25 Hal always told me to maintain my

1 integrity with the court, always be prepared, and
2 most importantly never send an email or a letter
3 when you're mad.

4 In recent years, Hal sometimes
5 questioned the lack of manners among lawyers. And I
6 know that if there was one thing he would like
7 members of the legal profession to remember about
8 him is that he treated his colleagues with respect.

9 Consistent with his family wishes, I
10 ask that each one of you pass on a random act of
11 kindness, whether it be in your professional or
12 personal life.

13 I will remember all the lessons he
14 taught me and continue to employ them in my practice
15 of law. And I hope that each of the young members
16 of the Bar also take his thoughts to heart.

17 I speak for all the attorneys and staff
18 at my firm when I say that Hal will be so very
19 missed. His presence was always known whether he
20 was yelling from his office to his long-standing
21 paralegal to bring him the file or to get somebody
22 on the phone. If he laughed, his hearty belly
23 laughed, everyone in the office heard it. It's very
24 quiet in our office now, but we're trying to move on
25 from that. His son, Michael, has just started with

1 us and we're very happy to have him. Hal was a
2 great attorney and an even better man. And it had
3 been an honor to learn from him and work alongside
4 him.

5 Thank you.

6 * * * * *

7 THE COURT: We next recognize Attorney
8 Hank Barnette.

9 MR. BARNETTE: Good morning, Your
10 Honor. May it please The Court, members of the Bar,
11 the families of the deceased members of the Bar we
12 recognize this morning, and the ladies and
13 gentlemen. It truly is a very great honor to be
14 present in this courtroom on this occasion to speak
15 in memory of the deceased members of our Bar.

16 While I'm privileged to comment on one
17 Robert H. Littner, may I also pay my very deep
18 respects to the others who have died and are being
19 recognized and their families. And in particular,
20 Charles Wilkinson and Walter Morrissey, with whom I
21 had the pleasure of working with at Bethlehem Steel.

22 Bob Littner passed away just over a
23 year ago at the age of 86. He was the son of a
24 doctor and a nurse. He was the husband of Jean
25 Littner and father of Wendy Littner Thompson and

1 Robert V. Littner, who is a member of our Bar.

2 Bob had four grandchildren.

3 Jenine, his wife; Rob, his son, and his
4 wife, Jenine, and his two children, Maxine and Grace
5 are present with us this morning.

6 The Barnette family has known the
7 Littner family for more than 50 years. One of the
8 first families we met when we came here from
9 Connecticut. And over this time, we have known the
10 family in very different ways. And I expect many of
11 you have known at least some of those ways. So
12 share with me, for just a minute, about whether you
13 have known Bob and the family, as a husband, as a
14 father, a grandfather, and a distinguished lawyer.

15 A senior law firm partner, leader of
16 our Bar. Some believe the dean of the trust and
17 estates practice. A long-serving officer and board
18 member of Saucon Valley Country Club. The most
19 loyal of the alumni of Lehigh University.
20 Lehigh recognized Bob with many prestigious awards.
21 But his best recognition from Lehigh was that he
22 attended more than 50 Lehigh/Lafayette football
23 games. After those games, whatever happened on the
24 field, Lehigh won that evening.

25 He had been part of the legal and

1 voluntary service to many nonprofit's, especially
2 with his work ethic. And he was a very good
3 athlete. Particularly tennis.

4 Bob was a graduate of Liberty High
5 School, Lehigh University, Georgetown University Law
6 Center. He was a member of this Bar since 1957, and
7 he had also been a member of the Supreme Court of
8 Pennsylvania and the Supreme Court of the United
9 States.

10 He was, in fact, a family and lifetime
11 long residence of Bethlehem. I just -- I'd just
12 like to make some brief comments on two different
13 subjects sort of -- about Bob as the person, and Bob
14 as the lawyer.

15 My first is Bob the landlord. Leaving
16 Bethlehem Steel and beginning my practice with an
17 international law firm, it was really helpful to
18 have an office in Bethlehem. And Bob suggested that
19 I consider 512 North New Street. And it worked out
20 very well, and I'm still there.

21 And Bob, as the landlord, had three
22 very specific instructions. One, pay your rent on
23 time. Two, replace the paper in the copy machine if
24 it runs out. And three, if you're the last one out,
25 turn the lights out and lock the door. That's

1 pretty good landlord advice.

2 Bob was a good tennis player. And so
3 was Jean. And he was often called from the courts,
4 EBB Littner. EBB Littner. Every ball back. And
5 when the serve was on, look out.

6 Even the food enthusiast -- some of you
7 know that he loved good food, and we would have
8 regular lunches weekly over the years at some very
9 nice places. One particular place, Bob would look
10 at that menu, everything on it, carefully, and then
11 he would order pizza.

12 Not just any pizza. He would say, put
13 some hamburger on it. And at this present time, the
14 Littner Hamburger Pizza is one popular dish.

15 He had a wonderful sense of humor.
16 Even in his last days as I was visiting with him in
17 his home, I kid with him on a couple of subjects. I
18 said, Bob, there's a vacancy on the Court of Common
19 Pleas in Northampton County, are you considering it?
20 He said, no, you know I'm qualified, but I might be
21 a little too old.

22 When I asked him about a trip abroad
23 was being planned, he very seriously said, "No.
24 It's too long. I'll just stand by the phone in case
25 you need anything.

1 Bob the lawyer -- Bob was, of course,
2 the senior partner of Littner, Deschler & Littner
3 Law Firm. He founded this firm in 1976. He's
4 worked with Mike Deschler for over 40 years. And
5 they're joined now by their two sons, Rob and Matt.

6 As the years have passed, my personal
7 legal experience, in private and corporate practice,
8 non-profit public service, it's become increasingly
9 clear to me that we can always identify good
10 lawyers, great lawyers as several characteristics.
11 And in four -- just that stand out in my mind -- and
12 the first, of course, is integrity.

13 The second is you follow the law. But
14 the third all important -- whatever your knowledge
15 of the law is, your experience and your ability to
16 solve problems. It's often said there really is
17 only two kinds of lawyers. There are complicators
18 and problem solvers. Bob was a problem solver.
19 Extraordinarily complex issues, and you have to
20 clarify any decision with which he recommends.

21 And the other service Bob was answering
22 emails and telephone calls. And Bob was absolutely
23 unlimited in his capacity to render service.
24 Weekend meetings, midnight calls, 3 a.m. trips to
25 the emergency room.

1 Jean was often helpful in also
2 answering phone calls, while she did not know the
3 names of the clients, or the legal issues involved.
4 Bob would sometimes come out for different events.
5 And we often kidded him that if anyone ever had a
6 place reserved in heaven, Bob did because of the
7 service that he had rendered. Bob was truly a very
8 distinguished lawyer and a great lawyer.

9 So may I just close this by -- because
10 you can continue to discuss -- I could continue to
11 discuss these great lawyers we're recognizing this
12 morning with great honor to have these brief
13 comments. We've lost an exemplary husband and
14 father and grandfather, a very distinguished lawyer,
15 a great lawyer who cared about his family and his
16 friends and his law firm and his clients, this
17 community, and those that he served.

18 His law firm -- and I'm associated with
19 the firm -- was of a high quality of work at the
20 firm, and it's reputation and Bob's founding of the
21 firm and his leadership of that firm, is a wonderful
22 legacy. For Bob and the firm, thank you, Your
23 Honor.

24 * * * * *

25 THE COURT: The Court now recognizes

1 Ned Morrissey.

2 MR. MORRISSEY: If it pleases The
3 Court, members of the Bar Association.

4 Ladies and gentlemen, I want to thank
5 you today for the honor to speak about my father,
6 Walter Edward Morrissey. I wanted to do two things
7 -- share two things with you today.

8 One was a little bit of background
9 about my father. And then, like Mr. Barnette shared
10 some of the characteristics that make a good lawyer,
11 as a non-lawyer, I wanted to share three
12 characteristics about my father -- three little
13 stories that I think really exemplify some unique
14 characteristics that lawyers as a fraternity, if you
15 will, I think, share in common.

16 My father was born on January 19th,
17 1948 in Bennington, Vermont to Gerald and Phillis
18 Morrissey. He was one of seven children, almost
19 nine two miscarriages. Grew up in town. Went to
20 the catholic high school. Was an all-state
21 linebacker and then went to Harvard University,
22 where he graduated in 1970. Started working for the
23 Bethlehem Steel corporation. And then in 1974,
24 graduated from Georgetown Law School.

25 That's when he moved here to the Lehigh

1 Valley and the Northampton County area. And served
2 as an immigration lawyer for Bethlehem Steel for
3 over 30 years. After that, he worked for a few
4 years with Thomas, Thomas & Hafer. And then finally
5 for the last ten-plus years, he was in his own
6 private practice in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

7 He was the president of the Saucon Valley Community
8 Center for over ten years. And he raised three
9 boys, myself and my brothers, Andrew and Robert.

10 And two wives -- two marriages, my mother, Kim, and
11 my stepmother, Theresa Morrissey.

12 So that gives you a little bit of
13 background on my father, but I want to give you,
14 from a non-lawyers perspective, some of the things
15 that throughout my life I noticed about my father
16 that I think really exemplified a lawyer. One was
17 -- and Judge, you shared a somewhat similar story
18 earlier -- was a tendency towards an incredibly
19 brilliant mind but perhaps a bit disorganized.
20 The story you gave about the pile of papers really
21 hit home immediately for me because as my dad was
22 struggling -- he suffered a major stroke in November
23 of 2018 -- I'm sorry. November, 2017.

24 You know, towards the end, one of my
25 brothers and I went to his office in Bethlehem and

1 started cleaning things out. And he had a main
2 desk, a table very similar to the table in front of
3 me here, and there was a pile that was large enough
4 that if my dad had been sitting across from a
5 client, they would have had to look around to speak
6 to each other. And as we sorted through it, I said
7 to my brother, this is -- this is like a timeline
8 almost. We start at the top and we're at 2017. By
9 the time we got to the bottom, I think it was 2008
10 or something like that.

11 So one of the things that I think my
12 dad exemplified, and what I think a lot of lawyers
13 share, is that brilliant mind but disorganized at
14 times. But that was the really great thing about
15 him, and I know in his years at Bethlehem Steel,
16 there was no one more that he appreciated than his
17 secretary, Jan. And as a family member, I know we
18 appreciated it more -- his secretary Jan because she
19 helped organize dad.

20 The second example would be a -- an
21 almost desire to argue. My dad would find that
22 little difference and all of a sudden he and I would
23 be arguing. He and I saw eye-to-eye on most things,
24 but I remember particularly a debate -- or to put it
25 more apply, a shouting match -- we had back in the

1 -- in 2012, when the election was going on.

2 And my dad and I saw eye-to-eye about
3 99 percent when it came to politics. But on this
4 particular occasion, we were talking about some of
5 the candidates and we had a disagreement, and I mean
6 a shouting match. And boy could he argue. Because
7 we agreed on about 99 percent of everything about
8 this particular candidate, that one percent he found
9 and we argued for about a good half an hour.
10 Literally, yelling at each other. But at the end, I
11 remember that the really neat part of my father --
12 and I think about lawyers, too -- is at the end,
13 finally there was silence and we both turned to each
14 other and said, what's for dinner? So that was the
15 second thing I remember about my father that I think
16 is distinctly characteristic of a lawyer.

17 The third one, and I want to apologize
18 to the officers and the Court right off the bat
19 here, but my father had -- to put it lightly -- a
20 reputation to have a lead foot. I have never known
21 any person who even comes close to the level of
22 aggressive driving that my father was known for. We
23 would always make camping trips way earlier than we
24 were supposed to. But he was a great guy, he was
25 just not patient.

1 And I remember one very distinct time
2 where he did get pulled over for speeding, and
3 without question he was speeding. And he had some
4 very unique choice words for the officer who pulled
5 him over. I will not repeat them, but needless to
6 say, the officer kind of stopped, paused and was
7 really processing what he had just heard. And said
8 back to my father, what did you call me? And it --
9 you could tell in the officer's face that it wasn't
10 just that it was probably not something particularly
11 common or respectful, but he was even more amazed by
12 the words that my dad used. He was creative in that
13 sense. And I think that's one of the unique
14 characteristics that my father had, an incredible
15 way with words that I think he shared with many
16 members that are here today from the Bar
17 Association.

18 So in closing, I again want to thank
19 everyone for allowing me to speak today. My father
20 was an incredibly passionate lawyer. You know, I'm
21 still finding yellow legal pads all over the place.
22 All over the place. They are completely illegible,
23 but they are completely filled out, pads and pads
24 and pads. He was very proud to be a member -- a
25 lawyer at Bethlehem Steel and he was very proud to

1 be a part of this Northampton County Bar Association
2 and the community as a whole. So today, I want to
3 thank you in honor of my father, Walter Morrissey.

4 * * * * *

5 THE COURT: The Court now recognizes
6 Michael Santanasto.

7 MR. SANTANASTO: May it please The
8 Court, Judge Panella, Judge Leeson, fellow
9 attorneys, family of Eric Shimer, his wife Barbara,
10 son Willie, daughter Susie, and fellow friends of
11 Eric's who are with us here today.

12 My name is Mike Santanasto, and I offer
13 the following in honor of a friend and mentor, Eric
14 Shimer.

15 It is a precious time to remember Eric,
16 his personality and professionalism. Personally, I
17 have known Eric nearly my entire life as my brother
18 and his son William were the same age. Generally,
19 everyone who wrote about him here from his
20 experiences in the Vietnam War as well as his deep
21 devotion and specific endeavors.

22 Aside from his legal career, Eric spent
23 time filling in as a substitute teacher, performing
24 unique in-class presentations, especially during the
25 Veteran's or Memorial Day activities.

1 He served on communities and boards
2 such as Northampton County Home-Rule Charter
3 Commission, the Honor Guard, Jaycees, and the
4 Korean/Vietnam Veteran's Memorial. Eric possessed a
5 keen sense of citizenship and duty, serving
6 honorably in the Vietnam War, where he saw combat,
7 became known in his squad for his uncanny accuracy
8 with an M79 grenade launcher.

9 Eric was drafted while in law school,
10 and returned to law school after recovering from the
11 near-fatal wounds he suffered on August 20th, 1969,
12 in the Battle of Death valley. That day, he was
13 shot through the upper arm and through his chest
14 laterally. Shattering his sternum into his lungs.
15 That day he was not expected to live, but he defied
16 the battlefield prediction, eventually returning
17 home to begin his career and life which brings us
18 here today.

19 Although his stay in Vietnam ended in
20 that battle, he continued to battle the physical,
21 mental and emotional toll that combat takes on its
22 participants. Eric spent a significant amount of
23 time assisting other veterans with difficulty
24 navigating their continuing care in the VA system,
25 especially regarding disabled veterans.

1 He also openly acknowledged and
2 discussed the difficulties associated with coming
3 back from a war-time environment. In his own words,
4 "Worse than the physical pain is the emotional pain,
5 the normal reaction to the violent death of a buddy
6 is the first feel of shock, then numbness and then
7 grief. The worst reaction comes last and continues
8 for a very long time, guilt. For what? For being
9 alive, when others who are just like you are taken
10 by a violent death."

11 He wrote those words for a two-part
12 special for the Morning Call from 2005. It's a
13 wonderful and insightful read. It also displays his
14 excellent writing skills, and I encourage everyone
15 to read it.

16 As an attorney, Eric practiced
17 primarily in the trust and estate realm. And took
18 the helm of Raymond Haggerty Jr.'s firm after the
19 late Ray's premature passing in 1984. Emblematic of
20 Eric's morality, he assisted Ray's widow yearly
21 until the day he died, helping in any capacity he
22 could, investments, taxes and general counsel. And
23 kept a strong relationship with Ray's family.

24 My professional relationship with Eric
25 took off like many professional relationships

1 involving attorneys do; an inquirement by a
2 professional liability underwriter. The underwriter
3 inquired that Eric needed a capable attorney to take
4 over his practice as he eventually became disabled
5 before he passed. He clearly ignored the capable
6 part and asked me whether I was willing to serve in
7 that role, which I gratefully accepted. From that
8 point on, I became familiar with the practice,
9 following his intake analysis and approach with
10 clients.

11 He kept a prestigious file, color-coded
12 in a single stack, based upon the subject matter.
13 Eric retired from the practice of law in 2012, and
14 gave me the honor of closing up any of the files or
15 taking over all of his clients. This was the
16 fertilizer that the seed of my young law firm needed
17 to grow and grew from. I will be eternally
18 grateful.

19 Eric's humor and intelligence were on
20 full display during one such client meeting during
21 the transition period, where I was becoming
22 acquainted with his clients in preparation for his
23 retirement. The client asked, "Do I need some of
24 that elder care planning where I keep all my money
25 and the government pays for me when I need to go in

1 the nursing home?"

2 Eric calmly said, "I don't practice
3 that kind of law, it's a conflict of interest."

4 The client thought about it for a
5 moment and said, "Conflict of interest, how, what do
6 you mean?"

7 He goes, "I'm a tax payer."

8 The client thought about it for a while
9 and after an explanation from Eric and in more
10 layman's term about what it means to do such
11 planning, the client offered unappreciative
12 laughter.

13 This dry humor was the highlight of
14 knowing Eric. He had a fantastic sense of dry humor
15 that most people would not expect from a decorated
16 combat veteran, a trust and estate attorney. But he
17 would routinely deliver belly laughs.

18 For those of you who were acquainted
19 with Eric's humor, you will certainly agree with me
20 that after one of Eric's jokes, you'd be rolling on
21 the floor.

22 Eric's jokes were very complicated and
23 he often used -- and was conversing in foreign
24 languages, French, Spanish, Latin, some Italian. I
25 would describe his intelligence as classical --

1 classically educated individual. Eric liked
2 conversing in critical thought analysis and had a
3 nearly photographic memory.

4 Lastly, I'd like to acknowledge again
5 the love of Eric's life and his family. His wife
6 and sometimes paralegal, Barbara; his son, Willie;
7 daughter, Susie; and his two grandchildren, Jacob and
8 John, who he cherished.

9 I will conclude with Eric's own words
10 that he inscribed on the night -- on the side of his
11 helmet over 50 years ago, half sarcastically half
12 earnestly, God avec nous. Or in English, God with
13 us.

14 Thank you.

15 * * * * *

16 THE COURT: The Court now recognizes
17 Lisa Spitale.

18 MS. SPITALE: May it please The Court.
19 Charles Wilkinson's family was unable to be here
20 today, however, they did submit a brief statement
21 they asked me to read.

22 Charles A. Wilkinson was 91 when he
23 passed away peacefully on Tuesday, January 15, 2019.
24 He was the husband of the late Alyce P. Wilkinson.
25 Born in Bethlehem, he was the son of Dr. Charles H.

1 Wilkinson, D.D.S., and his wife, Annette. Charles
2 liked to be known as Charlie. He was a local in
3 that he lived in downtown Bethlehem, attended
4 Moravian Prep, and later graduated from Lehigh
5 University class of '49, where he received a BS in
6 psychology.

7 Charlie used to walk back and forth to
8 class every day across the old New Street Bridge,
9 which was replaced by the Fahy Bridge in the 1970's.
10 Fortunately, one of the toll keepers was also a
11 Lehigh student who sometimes let him cross without
12 paying the pedestrian toll, which was a few pennies.

13 He went on to earn his law degree from
14 Temple University in 1969. At the time, Charlie was
15 working full time as a senior patent agent for
16 Bethlehem Steel at the Homer Research Labs site on
17 South Mountain. He commuted after work to Philly to
18 attend Temple Law School at night. In order to keep
19 up with his studies, his wife Alyce would read aloud
20 his law texts and record them on cassettes. Charlie
21 would listen to the texts on the way to and from
22 Temple. In a way, Charlie and Alyce were the
23 precursors of Audiobooks although they never
24 researched to see if this was patentable.

25 Charlie honorably served his country in

1 the United States Navy during World War II. He
2 worked for the patent department at Bethlehem Steel
3 beginning in 1955, and retired as a Senior Patent
4 Attorney in 1982. During this time, he worked on
5 many improvements to the steelmaking process, and
6 products such as the wire rope or strand used in
7 suspension bridges throughout the United States.
8 At one point in his career, he was considered one of
9 the leading authorities on steel cable.

10 He went on to private practice
11 specializing in patent and trademark law for an
12 additional 30 years, mainly in Bethlehem. During
13 this time, Charlie particularly enjoyed working with
14 individual inventors and small companies and
15 teaching them the basics of how to protect their
16 inventions, designs, logos, and other creative work
17 through the patent, trademark, and copyright
18 process. His son, Clinton Wilkinson, maintains that
19 practice today.

20 Charlie was admitted to practice before
21 the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit;
22 U.S. District Court, Eastern District of
23 Pennsylvania; U.S. District Court, Eastern and
24 Middle Districts of New York; U.S. Supreme Court;
25 and U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. He was a

1 member of the Northampton County Bar Association,
2 Pennsylvania Bar Association, New York Bar
3 Association, and International Trademark
4 Association.

5 He was also a member of the Lehigh
6 Valley Engineers Club. He enjoyed running, hiking,
7 and sailing, and particularly liked to spend free
8 time near the ocean at his summer home in Avalon,
9 New Jersey, where he was a summer lifeguard in his
10 teenage years. His love of books and reading was
11 legendary.

12 Throughout his life, Charlie loved to
13 read and collect books. He enjoyed technical texts
14 on subjects like chemistry, archeology, engineering
15 and physics. Today, among the vast library he left
16 may be one of the most comprehensive collections of
17 volumes devoted to the life and work of Albert
18 Einstein in the world.

19 Thank you.

20 * * * * *

21 THE COURT: Ms. Spitale is also the
22 president of the Northampton County Bar Association,
23 and she would like to make final remarks on behalf
24 of the Bar Association.

25 MS. SPITALE: It is an honor to stand

1 on this day and a privilege to be in front of
2 family, friends, and former colleagues as we pay
3 tribute to the remarkable lives and enduring
4 legacies of George Baurkot, Paul Florenz, Harold
5 Funt, Robert Littner, Walter Morrissey, Eric Shimer,
6 and Charles Wilkinson.

7 I'd like to thank each speaker for the
8 recollections that they have shared as well as those
9 who helped organize this event. To each attorney in
10 the room, the recollections you heard today remind
11 us of the importance of what is often a hectic and a
12 chaotic career. With family and friends and the
13 community and in pursuit of our passion and lives
14 outside of this profession, I encourage each of you
15 to use the stories that you heard today in an
16 attempt to pursue what you love and in an attempt to
17 improve your community and make your own mark on
18 this world.

19 Also, understand the importance of
20 building and maintaining relationships with family,
21 with colleagues, with the Bar, and with this Bench.
22 Thank you for being here today, and I ask everyone
23 to join us for refreshments in the jury lounge.

24 THE COURT: Before we recess, I have
25 the pleasure of introducing the President Judge of

1 the Superior Court, Judge Jack Panella.

2 JUDGE PANELLA: Thank you. Good
3 morning, everyone. As I travel around the state, I
4 quickly realized how special the lawyers and the
5 judges are in Northampton County. Because I was
6 very privileged to be a member of this Bar
7 Association, I wanted to add that the Superior Court
8 thanks them for their service.

9 My great condolences to the members of
10 the families of all of our deceased members. And
11 just in closing, I have to tell you how blessed I
12 was to have known George Baurkot. Thank you very
13 much.

14 THE COURT: All right. Ladies and
15 gentleman, we are in recess. There will be a
16 reception for everyone in the jury lounge, which is
17 right down the hall.

18 When we recess now, it will be in
19 memory of George Baurkot, Paul Florenz, Harold Funt,
20 Robert Littner, Walter Morrissey, Eric Shimer, and
21 Charles Wilkinson.

22 Thank you very much.

23 **(The proceedings concluded.)**

24

25