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ONONDAGA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
MEMORIAL OBSERVANCE

Onondaga County Courthouse
Legislative Chambers

February 2, 2017

The Honorable Stephen J. Dougherty
Onondaga County Court, Presiding

* * * *

1 JUDGE DOUGHERTY: Good morning, everybody.
2 I want to first introduce myself. I am Steve
3 Dougherty, one of the county court judges. I
4 want to thank all of you for being here this
5 morning. I certainly want to extend a warm
6 welcome to all the family members and loved ones
7 of the attorneys that we recognize here today.
8 I'd like to start by introducing all the members
9 of the judiciary that are here this morning.
10 I will note that some folks may have to get up
11 and go during the ceremony because of court
12 appearances that they have but this morning if I
13 leave anybody out, it's because they came late.
14 We have Judge Peebles, Judge Uplinger, Judge
15 Murphy, Judge Bogan, Judge Mulroy, Judge James
16 Cecile, Judge Dancks, Judge Rosenthal, Judge
17 Mary Anne Dougherty, Judge Romano, Judge Pirro
18 Bailey, Judge McMahon, Judge Hanuszczyk, Judge
19 Andrews, Judge Brunetti, Judge Limpert, Judge
20 Centra, Judge Paris, Judge Raphael, Judge
21 Mordue, Judge Karalunas, and Judge DeJoseph.
22 And I think it says a lot about the attorneys
23 that we're recognizing today with the number of
24 judiciary that we have. This is quite an honor
25 for me to preside over the memorial observation

1 today for these 25 incredibly distinguished
2 lawyers. Sadly, this is an unusually large
3 number for one year including my friend and
4 colleague Jeff Merrill. We all know that at
5 times in society lawyers don't always have the
6 best public perception. But people, all they
7 have to do is listen to the biographies of these
8 25 people to change that perception. The
9 contributions that these 25 attorneys made to
10 our community. And not just the legal work that
11 they did but going through the biographies that
12 have been prepared, the people that we recognize
13 here today that passed away in 2016 include
14 judges, journalists, a psychologist, a published
15 author, teachers, professors, assistant district
16 attorneys, a town supervisor, a restaurant
17 owner, police officers, the president of Planned
18 Parenthood, together with the co-founder of the
19 New York State Conservative Party, the founder
20 of the Onondaga County Bar Association, 18
21 Syracuse University law graduates, and at least
22 12 military veterans including a recipient of
23 the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. They are
24 mothers, fathers, grandparents and
25 great-grandparents. We have partners from the

1 biggest law firms in town all the way down to a
2 true mom and pop law firm. Above all, they are
3 distinguished, accomplished attorneys serving
4 our community. We're fortunate to have been
5 associated with these 25 lawyers and we cherish
6 their memories and I would just say may God
7 bless and keep their families. I'd like to
8 introduce and I'd like to thank the bar
9 association for putting this on and I'd like to
10 introduce the president of the bar association,
11 Jim Williams. Jim?

12 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Judge Dougherty
13 for presiding today. It may seem odd to think
14 that this is among my favorite events that the
15 bar association sponsors but it signifies our
16 commitment to our members and a celebration of
17 both their professional and personal lives. On
18 behalf of the Onondaga County Bar Association, I
19 want to welcome the family, friends and
20 colleagues of those we are remembering today. I
21 want to especially thank our members Mark
22 Ventrone and Fran Ciardullo. They've co-chaired
23 this observance for many years and devote much
24 time to it. They call family, friends, and
25 colleagues, capturing the personal and

1 professional anecdotes that help us to remember
2 the spirit of those who we honor today. I also
3 want to acknowledge the hard working bar
4 association staff and thank them for all that
5 they do. Finally, I want to thank each of you
6 for taking the time out of your busy day to join
7 us as we remember our colleagues. Thank you.

8 JUDGE DOUGHERTY: Thanks very much, Jim.
9 Now I'm going to call upon Father Fred Mannara
10 from my alma mater Most Holy Rosary to give us
11 the opening prayer. Father?

12 FATHER MANNARA: Good morning. Let us
13 pray. Loving God, we gather to remember our
14 beloved departed family members and colleagues
15 who devoted themselves to the pursuit of law and
16 thereby to justice. Loving God, author and
17 creator of their lives and ours, we thank you
18 for the life of these men and women. Bless our
19 memories of them to enable us to keep their
20 spirit present in us. These attorneys rendered
21 the service of law to members of our community
22 at the local level and thereby enhanced the
23 growth and preservation of the rule of law at
24 the national level. We thank you, oh Lord, for
25 the blessings of being Americans and for the

1 opportunity to live in a form of government of
2 the People, by the people, and for the people.
3 To live in a place where we can freely fashion
4 the body of law to rule and guide us in
5 community living. Oh Lord, we are grateful for
6 our judicial system in our country. We are
7 grateful for the contributions of our departed
8 lawyers and judges to enhance and preserve this
9 governmental form of life which is a gift. Oh
10 Lord, Bruce and Carl and Robert and John F. and
11 John G. and Charles and Richard and Raymond,
12 Peter, Clarence, Joseph, Richard, John L. and
13 Burton, Carl, James, Jeffrey, Beverly, Leroy,
14 August, Dennis, Patrick, George, Steven and
15 Marilyn have gone now from this Earthly dwelling
16 and have left behind those who mourn their
17 absence. Grant us that as we grieve for our
18 brothers and sisters, we may hold their memory
19 dear and live in hope of the eternal kingdom
20 where you will bring us together again, amen.

21 JUDGE DOUGHERTY: Thank you very much,
22 Father. And now I will turn it over and I join
23 Jim in thanking Fran and Mark for all the hard
24 work they've done and I'll turn it over to the
25 two of them for the biographies of each of those

1 that we honor today. Mark?

2 MR. VENTRONE: Bruce Bolton. A Harvard
3 law graduate, Bruce was a partner in the law
4 firm of Coulter, Fraser, Bolton, Bird & Ventre.
5 He was an avid skier and golfer. Attorney Ralph
6 Coleman of the Coulter office told me that Bruce
7 was the managing partner with the firm for many
8 years. He was professional, thorough and
9 methodical and he developed many of the practice
10 management systems used by the firm. Ralph said
11 outside of the office he was gregarious and
12 friendly. Attorney Bob Ventre told me that
13 Bruce was also an engineer and a very good trial
14 attorney who used to go to Europe for 30 days a
15 year to ski. Attorney Joanne Van Dyke also
16 worked with the office and said that Bruce was a
17 gentleman and a scholar in an old world way. He
18 was so honorable and ethical. I also spoke to
19 his niece Tracy Gessler in Massachusetts. She
20 said Bruce never married and was very close to
21 his nieces and nephews. "He was funny, yet
22 conservative. He loved a pitcher of martinis,
23 he called them martins, after a round of golf.
24 But, Mark, he was also frugal. We all received
25 Christmas gifts each year. One year he and I

1 agreed upon a nice set of candlesticks for me,
2 which he clearly could afford. So I received
3 one candlestick one year and the other the next
4 so I had something to look forward to. Bruce is
5 survived by several nieces and nephews.

6 Carl F. Dobe. Carl served as Niagara
7 Mohawk's key counsel for 35 years, rising to the
8 office of senior general attorney. His wife of
9 53 years Mary Ann and his daughter Kathee told
10 me that Carl's true love for the law was really
11 displayed by the numerous pro bono matters that
12 he handled for family, friends, and even his
13 nurses after his retirement, as he just loved to
14 help people. They went on to say he was a
15 friend to all and very active and very well
16 known in the Westvale area, volunteering at
17 Bishop Ludden, Geddes Little League, St. Charles
18 parish and for the town of Geddes. Father Jim
19 Matthews of St. Lucy's parish told me that Carl
20 was "absolutely the most gifted person with a
21 heart of gold who spent countless hours
22 volunteering to serve the youth and in the
23 Westvale area." Attorney Jack Clinton told me
24 that he worked for Carl for eight years and "he
25 was the best boss I ever had. Respectful,

1 encouraging and very loyal and, Mark, he really
2 loved people." Attorney Dave Hatch clerked for
3 Carl and also worked with him at NiMo. He told
4 me that Carl was very loyal to his staff, always
5 looking out for their welfare and had friends
6 across the company from the executive suite to
7 meter readers. Realizing the stress for
8 relocated employees, he asked his attorneys to
9 do everything possible to make their closings as
10 smoothly as possible. And, Mark, his staff
11 Christmas parties were legendary; one definitely
12 wanted to have a DD. "He was my boss, my mentor
13 and my friend." I coached Geddes Little League
14 for a number of years and Carl was always
15 maintaining the fields, mowing the lawn. And
16 once when the gentleman who actually was
17 responsible for the grounds was traveling, I had
18 a game and I was facing a 5'9" 11-year-old on
19 the mound and I had a 4'11" pitcher for our
20 team. And a raised mound with a 5'11" or 5'9"
21 pitcher throwing down at you is just, it was
22 over before it started. So I raised that to
23 Carl. I said, "Carl, I'm in trouble." And he
24 said, "Mark, the mound is the mound. What can I
25 do? When is your game?" My game was two days

1 later. The mound was adjusted. We won. And
2 behind the plate was Carl with a wink and a
3 smile. Carl is survived by his wife Mary Ann,
4 his children Kathee, Melissa, Kristin, Trisha
5 and Eric, and eleven grandchildren.

6 MS. CIARDULLO: Robert D. Essig, Sr. Bob
7 Essig spent most of his legal career at the law
8 firm of Costello, Cooney & Fearon and for many
9 years I was fortunate to call him my partner.
10 He practiced real estate and business law. He
11 was the person you wanted on your team when the
12 biggest and most complicated deals were brought
13 to the table. Massive piles of documents in
14 tiny print were Bob's forte. He would dive in
15 and pore over every detail. I often saw him
16 hunched over at his desk pondering some obscure
17 lease provision. Nothing, and I mean nothing,
18 on the page got by him. He spotted every
19 potential pitfall, and he was never wrong. He
20 strongly felt it was his duty to protect his
21 clients from unwanted surprises, hidden traps,
22 and buried conditions, which he was always ready
23 to point out to you in exacting detail even when
24 the client didn't really want to know. But the
25 bottom line was when you had a property matter,

1 Bob was your man. Ray D'Agostino told me "Bob
2 was the smartest lawyer I ever knew." Attorneys
3 who dealt with Bob recall that upon first
4 meeting him across the table, he could project
5 an air of formality but that would rapidly
6 disappear once he started talking and once you
7 started talking to him. He was an affable
8 fellow and he was always ready to make a new
9 friend. While I was at Costello, Bob served in
10 the thankless capacity of the billing partner.
11 While the rest of us wanted to put our heads in
12 the sand when it came to fees and invoices, Bob
13 was charged with making sure that we received a
14 fair return for our work. He was able to strike
15 that balance between the law as a calling and
16 the law as a business. With a grin in his
17 voice, Jim Gascon told me one of Bob's favorite
18 saying: "You have to bill your clients while
19 the tears of joy are still upon your cheeks." I
20 remember Bob's enthusiasm and energy and his
21 ready smile. His can-do attitude was
22 infectious. He was a good son who took care of
23 his mother until she passed away last year at
24 the age of 99. Bob purchased a home in Rehobeth
25 Beach, New Jersey, and he loved to spend time

1 vacationing near the ocean with his family. For
2 a man who thrived on the art of the deal, so to
3 speak, he found a surprising new passion in
4 retirement; gardening. His wife Marilyn told me
5 that he took simple pleasure working in the
6 garden all day, caring for his flowers and
7 plants. Bob always reminded Marilyn that when
8 he first met her, it was love at first sight.
9 They had a beautiful marriage that lasted for 46
10 years. Bob is also survived by his three
11 children Robert Jr., Marisa, and Erika and his
12 four grandchildren.

13 John M. Freyer. Jack Freyer landed his
14 career position at Bond, Schoeneck & King quite
15 by happenstance. After graduating from Harvard
16 law school, he first interviewed with a
17 prestigious Boston firm. He was frankly
18 informed that because he was Catholic, he would
19 never make partner, to which he responded, "If I
20 wanted a significant position, I would have
21 applied to the postal service." Harvard
22 arranged a second interview but unfortunately he
23 slept through that one. Back in Syracuse one
24 morning in 1961, he was at Lincoln Bank when a
25 senior partner from the Bond office approached

1 him and said, "Hey, kid, I hear you went to
2 Harvard Law. What are you doing next Saturday
3 morning? Come see me." Jack did and he was
4 hired on the spot. When he was first hired, he
5 didn't quite know what type of law he wanted to
6 practice. He spent three months in the trust
7 department but he wasn't happy so it was
8 suggested that he move to the trial department.
9 He did and the rest is history. Jack was a
10 brilliant litigator. He is remembered as one
11 hell of a trial lawyer and a good man in a
12 storm. He had a photographic memory and
13 extraordinary writing and English skills. He
14 loved the practice of law, and he was a
15 wonderful mentor to newer attorneys at the firm.
16 Those attorneys remember that Jack always made
17 time to patiently answer their questions and
18 provide guidance. He eventually became the
19 managing partner of the Albany and Saratoga
20 offices and was especially proud of his
21 admission to the American College of Trial
22 Lawyers. Outside of the office you could find
23 Jack on Saturday mornings at Bellevue Country
24 Club playing golf with PJ Cunningham, "Red"
25 Matthews and Judge Burke. He also loved to

1 spend weekends at his house in the Thousand
2 Islands. His wife Barbara recalls that when you
3 he would arrive on Friday evening, she could
4 just see the tension melt away. He loved to be
5 out on the river, or he would spend the day in a
6 rocking chair on the oversized porch reading
7 books. After his retirement from the firm, Bill
8 Bergen, along with other colleagues from the
9 Bond office, would take a day and travel to
10 Thousand Islands just to see Jack and take him
11 out to lunch. The last time they took Jack out,
12 22 lawyers from the Bond Office made the trip,
13 a testimony to the friendship and respect that
14 Jack instilled in his colleagues. He was a
15 constant source of the best stories about his
16 time in the courtroom and with the judges after
17 trials at the bar of the Hotel Syracuse. In
18 fact, Barbara told me she's working on a book so
19 that these wonderful stories will not be
20 forgotten. Jack is survived by his wife Barbara
21 who he married in 1985, his sons John, Paul,
22 Mark, Michael, daughters Marnie, Sarah and
23 Lauren, and seven granddaughters.

24 John William Gormley, Sr. John worked at
25 the DA's office for thirty years. Those who

1 worked with him recall that he was a calm and
2 steady presence at the helm of the economic
3 crimes bureau. He is also described as the
4 perfect mentor. He did not micromanage the
5 attorneys working for him but trusted them to do
6 their jobs well and his door was always open for
7 questions, concerns, and feedback. John
8 eventually decided to move on from the DA's
9 office. Bill Fitzpatrick wondered if that
10 decision had anything to do with an altercation
11 one night at Coleman's involving a swing and a
12 miss by at least three feet. In any event, John
13 obtained a position at the attorney general's
14 office under Dennis Vacco in the Medicaid fraud
15 unit and later worked as assigned counsel for
16 Onondaga County. The judges all liked John and
17 respected his work so he was very successful in
18 the assigned counsel program. John was devoted
19 to his community and his family. In addition to
20 his six children and active law practice, he ran
21 a Nascar ski team at Song Mountain. He was also
22 deeply involved in his church. We're all
23 familiar with the Lafayette Apple Festival.
24 Well, each year John would spend months making
25 apple pies for the festival. He had a massive

1 team of volunteers and ran his pie making with
2 assembly line precision. Paula Mallory Engel,
3 who worked for John at the DA's office, remained
4 in touch with him and they regularly met for
5 lunch. She told me that at times John would
6 show up covered in flour. She frankly could not
7 remember the number of pies that she bought from
8 him over the years. When asked how he found the
9 time to do all of this, the response was, "When
10 something is important to you, you make the
11 time." John was a down to earth, unpretentious,
12 gracious human being who loved to chat with his
13 friends and colleagues at the bar at the Log
14 Cabin restaurant in Lafayette. Everyone I spoke
15 with remembers John's wonderful,
16 self-deprecating sense of humor. He would
17 rather smile than complain. Whenever he heard a
18 good joke, a funny story or a motto he
19 appreciated, he would write it down in a
20 notebook. This notebook was left to his family
21 and the thoughts he preserved give lasting
22 insight into his personality and provide a
23 wonderful legacy. John is survived by his wife
24 of 42 years, the former Jo Ann Field, sons John,
25 James, Michael and Brian, daughters Patricia and

1 Elizabeth, and four grandchildren.

2 MR. VENTRONE: Charles R. Greiner.

3 Charlie was one of the last few people to attain
4 their law degree without attending law school,
5 whereby he read law and clerked and trained at
6 the Melvin & Melvin Law Firm where he became a
7 partner and worked for 38 years. Helen, his
8 wife of 69 years, and his daughter Karen told me
9 he was a native of East Syracuse who never
10 forgot his friends. Charlie's passions were his
11 family and their camp in the Adirondacks.
12 Attorney Bill Fox worked at the Melvin office
13 for 12 years before entering the Fox auto
14 business. He told me that Charlie took him
15 under his wing as a rookie attorney and he was a
16 real pro in the real estate department and
17 essentially handled all of the Merchant Bank
18 deals with class. "Mark, what he did for me was
19 incredible. He was such a humble guy and a
20 great family man." Bill said Charlie aspired to
21 go to the back woods to hunt and fish rather
22 than to the country club. He said later in life
23 he would call me when he needed a car and he
24 would purchase it without seeing it or even
25 driving it. He was a man of trust. Attorney

1 John Fox of the Melvin office told me that
2 Charlie was a humble, blue collar guy who was
3 also his mentor. He said that lawyers loved
4 dealing with him because he was so honorable and
5 he always looked out for the benefit of his
6 staff. Attorney Dick Storto added that Charlie
7 loved to invite the young associates up north to
8 chase rabbits and shoot pistols in a pick-up
9 truck. His son Bill Greiner said, "My dad loved
10 a good joke, a good steak, and a good martini,
11 all preferably on the front porch at camp."
12 Charlie is survived by his wife Helen, nine
13 children, William, Deborah, Richard, Karen,
14 Susan, Barbara, Connie, Gail, and Robert, 20
15 grandchildren and 25 great grandchildren.

16 Richard D. Grossman. Rich Grossman
17 practiced law for 60 years in Syracuse and
18 Vermont, primarily as a trial lawyer with the
19 firm of Langan, Grossman, Kinney and Dwyer and
20 later Grossman, Kinney, Dwyer, and Harrigan. He
21 started his career as a journalist and a
22 newscaster with WHEN with the trademark, "Good,
23 good evening to you all." And for 11 years he
24 had a column in the Post-Standard entitled "As a
25 Matter of Law." He and his brother Murray

1 established the Lionel O. Grossman Mock Trial
2 Competition. His former partner, attorney and
3 town Judge Jim Dwyer told me that Rich was an
4 exceptional skier, licensed pilot, and great
5 orator. Ithaca attorney Bob Sprole once worked
6 with Richard before running his family business.
7 He told me that Rich was his attorney for 40
8 years, his friend, and like a second father to
9 him. One minute we're arguing like litigators
10 and the next we're setting up a golf match. His
11 wife Mame in Vermont told me, "Richie would tell
12 you that he had a good life with no regrets. He
13 always looked forward. He was not always right
14 but never uncertain." I spoke to his daughters
15 Liza and Samantha. Sam said, "Our dad had many
16 lives. He worked with Ed Murrow and gave Dick
17 Clark his first job - or so we were told. He
18 was a man of many strong, often contradictory,
19 and straight-up inaccurate opinions but they
20 were expressed concisely and well. In fact,
21 according to him, the only person who could sing
22 was Judy Garland and the only person that could
23 dance was Fred Astaire." Liza added that we
24 once took her dad to a Polish restaurant in
25 Brooklyn. "Pop first convinces this old Polish

1 guy behind the bar to let him smoke despite the
2 ban. Then he tells a story that during World
3 War II while in Poland, he went AWOL and was
4 left behind by his boat while either chasing a
5 Polish gal or being chased by a Polish gal."
6 She said, "I was terrified. But the guy got
7 such a kick out of Pop, the three of us drank
8 vodka on the house for the rest of the night."
9 Fast cars, flying planes, and triple diamonds
10 later became gardening, long lunches on the
11 beach, and mellow and slow country life.
12 Richard is survived by his wife Mame, his
13 children Richard Jr., Coco, Samantha and Liza,
14 two granddaughters and his brother Murray.

15 Raymond W. Hackbarth. Everyone deserves
16 an attorney. That was his father's belief
17 according to attorney Ray Hackbarth, Jr., in
18 California. After clerking for Justice Francis
19 McCurn in the Appellate Division, Ray spent the
20 rest of his legal career with the Mackenzie Law
21 Firm. Ray Jr. told me that his father was a
22 brilliant, highly ethical guy who often
23 undertook unpopular causes. He was involved
24 with the UTC takeover of Carrier and he stayed
25 the course to help coordinate the financial

1 sponsorship and the naming of the Carrier Dome.
2 Ray went on to tell me, "My dad was a genius but
3 he could be very absent-minded. On my first
4 fishing trip when I was like five or six, I
5 caught a large pickerel. Dad hooked the fish to
6 the chain but forgot to connect it to our boat.
7 My uncle jumped in to save my first catch."
8 Attorney Denny Baldwin worked with Ray at the
9 Mackenzie office. Denny told me that Ray was a
10 lawyer's lawyer who did things his way, a
11 perfectionist who was also his mentor. "I
12 wouldn't have been half the attorney I was
13 without his guidance," Denny told me. He was a
14 master of commercial leases. He wasn't afraid
15 to take on unpopular causes. Denny went on to
16 say, "I view Ray as the father of the modern
17 Onondaga County Bar Association, and he actually
18 reinvented the bar as to what it is today." He
19 also said that Ray and attorney Jay Wason helped
20 form the bar foundation. Ray was honored as a
21 distinguished lawyer in 1984 and a 50 year
22 practitioner. He was predeceased by his wife
23 Jane of nearly 64 years and is survived by his
24 son Ray Jr., daughter Nancy, two grandchildren,
25 and three great grandchildren.

1 MS. CIARDULLO: Peter John Hopkins. Peter
2 Hopkins was born in Cheyenne, Wyoming and grew
3 up in Syracuse and Denver, Colorado. He served
4 in World War II in the combat infantry and was
5 wounded during the Normandy and Brittany
6 campaigns, receiving the Bronze Star and Purple
7 Heart. He then attended Syracuse University and
8 Boston College Law School. He practiced law in
9 Chittenango with his brother-in-law, the former
10 Supreme Court Justice Albert Tait until Judge
11 Tait was elected to the bench. Peter practiced
12 law for more than 50 years. Peter was a man of
13 high integrity and a devout Catholic. George
14 Conway, who was town justice in Cazenovia for 37
15 years, recalls a case where the police issued a
16 ticket to a man for traveling at an incredibly
17 high rate of speed. Peter appeared in court on
18 the return date and whispered, "Judge, I gotta
19 talk to you." It turns out the defendant was a
20 priest who was hurrying to administer last
21 rites. Peter offered Judge Conway unconditional
22 absolution and three days of excusals from mass
23 if he would dismiss the charges. This was a
24 long time ago, and the charges were dismissed.
25 Peter held conservative political views and in

1 1962 he co-founded the New York State
2 Conservative Party and served as the Madison
3 County Conservative Party chairman. After
4 retiring from law practice, Peter moved to
5 Nashville to be near his children. He is
6 survived by his wife of 61 years Nelly, and his
7 sons Father Peter, Father Edward, Father John,
8 Dr. Stephen, and his daughter Sister Catherine
9 Marie.

10 Clarence Q. Johnson. Clarence Johnson
11 dreamed of being a lawyer all his life. The
12 first in his family to graduate from college, it
13 seemed out of reach. After starting a career as
14 a school psychologist in Chattanooga, Tennessee,
15 he married his wife Catherine and following the
16 birth of his daughter Sarah, he decided it was
17 his last chance to try to make his dream a
18 reality. Clarence moved his young family to
19 Syracuse where he entered the Leo Program at
20 Syracuse Law School in 1990. He learned not
21 only constitutional law that first semester but
22 also surprising lessons about Syracuse weather
23 and that it is possible to study torts while
24 coaxing a two year old to sleep. From the
25 beginning Clarence adored the study of law and

1 felt so blessed to have the opportunity to study
2 it. And he excelled. Clarence was the
3 executive director of Moot Court Board and
4 participated in the Criminal Law Clinic and
5 National Invitational Trial Team. He was
6 awarded Best Advocate at the Grossman Trial
7 Competition in 1993. Clarence earned his Juris
8 Doctor degree in 1993. He received the Order of
9 Barristers award, the International Academy of
10 Trial Lawyers award, and the Ralph E. Kharas
11 award. He was forever grateful to Syracuse
12 University Law School for believing in him.
13 Upon graduation, he began private practice in
14 criminal defense law. He loved the excitement
15 and intense practice of the courtroom. His
16 first mentor was Jim McGraw, but he was blessed
17 with many other mentors and role models among
18 the exceptional lawyers and judges in the
19 northern district. He was a happy and busy
20 lawyer for many years. For the sake of his
21 wife's career, Clarence moved to Buffalo in 2010
22 but he continued his practice in Syracuse. A
23 devoted husband and father, Clarence adored his
24 family above all else. But the law came next.
25 He was intensely proud of his association with

1 the fine practitioners in central and western
2 New York. He was a scrupulous advocate, ethical
3 to the core, a gentleman lawyer who loved the
4 law. He is survived by his wife Catherine and
5 daughter Sarah.

6 Joseph W. LaFay, Jr. Joseph LaFay spent
7 his legal career at the Hiscock Legal Aid
8 Society. He practiced in city court, he did
9 appeals, he was in the civil program, he handled
10 landlord and tenant cases, matrimonial cases and
11 unemployment hearings. He truly believed in the
12 mission of the legal aid society and was
13 passionate about his ideas. He saw the humanity
14 in every client. He would meet with a client
15 that clearly no one else cared about, listen
16 carefully, and find something about that person
17 to sympathize with that formed the basis for his
18 legal representation. He had great compassion
19 for his clients, understanding their weaknesses
20 and the adversity they faced. If he lost an
21 eviction proceeding, he would take out his
22 wallet and give his client the rent money. Once
23 he represented a single mom down on her luck and
24 Joe lent her his car for months so that she
25 would have transportation and he took the bus.

1 This is the type of man he was, generous to a
2 fault. Upon learning of Joe's passing, one
3 friend was moved to quote Shakespeare's Hamlet.
4 "He was a man, take him for all in all; I shall
5 not look upon his light again." Joe was dogged
6 in his representation of his clients with an
7 astonishing success record based on his
8 eloquence, his tenacity and his zeal in the
9 courtroom. He was a legal scholar who knew the
10 landlord tenant law inside and out, even better
11 than many of the judges before whom he appeared.
12 He was a voracious reader and owned a collection
13 of over 4,000 books. He taught himself to read
14 and write French and amassed a collection of
15 French literature. He had great admiration and
16 affection for his hero Benjamin Franklin,
17 reading everything he wrote and practically
18 everything that was written about him. Benjamin
19 Franklin was his idol and screensaver. After
20 his retirement, Joe became addicted to playing
21 electronic Scrabble with up to ten games
22 proceeding simultaneously with numerous
23 opponents who were spread all over the world.
24 He was very proud of his winnings, reporting in
25 his scores via voice mail to his friends at

1 Hiscock Legal Aid. Those who knew Joe remember
2 his outrageous sense of humor. He would quote
3 Benjamin Franklin, "I guess I don't so much mind
4 being old as I mind being fat and old." Joe did
5 not have an ounce of arrogance or stuffiness.
6 Many remember his cute and funny drawings which
7 appeared on papers, napkins and any other media
8 at hand. He was steadfast and loyal, earning
9 the title "Uncle Joe" by those he befriended.
10 Joe made a profound difference in all the lives
11 he touched. He is survived by his brother
12 Anthony and a large extended family.

13 MR. VENTRONE: Richard V. Lang. Navy
14 veteran Richard Lang worked as a patent attorney
15 for 40 years for GE. His wife Bonnie told me
16 that Dick graduated high school at 14 and was a
17 navy officer at 18. She said, "I am so lucky to
18 have been married to him. He was so dynamic, so
19 unique, and so reasonable. He was a true
20 Renaissance man. He loved to travel and was an
21 inspiration to everyone. I was a lucky wife."
22 I spoke to his son Jonathan who is a
23 screenwriter for Disney. John told me that they
24 called him Ghandi, as he "didn't have a mean
25 bone in his body and wouldn't kill but would

1 guide a bug out of the house." Jonathan called
2 him a wizard who loved woodworking and model
3 trains and could literally make anything. John
4 said, "We never bought squirt guns or rubber
5 band guns. He would make them. He helped me
6 win science olympiads. He had his own calculus
7 routine and he just never stopped working. We
8 would start to watch a movie and he had an
9 attention span of like seven minutes and he
10 would go and read a physics book. He was also
11 shoveling our roof at 80, smiling and waving to
12 people, and he was beating me at croquet and
13 ping pong in his eighties and nineties."
14 Attorney Denny Baldwin told me that Richard was
15 one of the kindest, most generous, and well-read
16 guys with a memory to match. "A prodigious
17 reader who lived life to the fullest right to
18 the end. He was such a unique individual.
19 Mark, I personally will miss him so much."
20 Richard passed at 93 and is survived by his wife
21 Bonnie and children Lorna, Niko and Jonathan.
22 John Lindauer. John Lindauer practiced
23 law in Syracuse for 30 years. Kay, his wife of
24 47 years, told me that she met John as a
25 freshman at Syracuse University when John was

1 the only guy wearing a corduroy sports jacket
2 and paisley tie in the ice cream line. She said
3 his clothes defined him for the rest of his
4 life. In his forties he left Syracuse for a
5 year to earn a master's of law in environmental
6 studies at Vermont Law School but never
7 practiced environmental law. Kay said he was
8 perhaps the only Jewish lawyer in Syracuse who
9 spent 12 years pursuing a divinity degree from
10 the Catholic seminary. He became interested in
11 analytical psychology and studied each year at
12 the Carl Jung Institute in Zurich. Kay said he
13 loved art, opera, traveling and studying, but
14 being a lawyer was a core part of who he was as
15 a person. And he had so much respect for the
16 profession and other lawyers. His daughter,
17 attorney Camelot Lindauer in California, told me
18 that she just had the coolest dad. He was
19 always calm and collected and, boy, did he love
20 to dress up for every occasion. He even wore a
21 kilt and bought her son one to match. He loved
22 to travel, always in a suit. "My dad wanted to
23 become a pilot so he became one. He felt
24 blessed in life and went out of his way to show
25 kindness to others, to show people that they

1 mattered." Gracious to the elderly, kind to
2 children, he even let people cut him off on the
3 road. Supreme Court Justice Tony Paris told me
4 that John was truly a genteel man with diverse
5 interests who was devoted to his family and was
6 a very good and dedicated law guardian.
7 Attorney Pat Haber told me that John would often
8 pass through his office and was a very unique
9 character who just made everyone smile and very
10 often John would leave war memorabilia on his
11 desk, including a military helmet, civil war
12 bugle, and a world war gas mask. City court
13 Judge Kate Rosenthal told me she had traveled
14 with John and his wife Kay. She told me that he
15 never lost his luggage because he had tags on
16 them that said "Crew." The Judge said he was a
17 true Renaissance man. His wife Kay told me
18 retirement years included walking the Camino in
19 Spain and spending time off the coast of
20 Scotland. John is survived by his wife Kay,
21 daughter Camelot, and two grandchildren.

22 MS. CIARDULLO: Burton Lowitz. Burt Lowitz
23 was born in New Jersey and was a school
24 classmate of Philip Roith, the novelist. He and
25 his late wife Dorothy moved and settled in

1 Syracuse near his mother's family where they
2 raised their children and enjoyed a good life.
3 His father and uncles were attorneys in Syracuse
4 so it was natural for Burt to go to law school.
5 He graduated from Syracuse University College of
6 Law and served in the U.S. Air Force, rising to
7 the rank of Captain in the Office of Special
8 Investigations. After his return to law
9 practice, Burt shared space with other attorneys
10 and his family in downtown Syracuse. Throughout
11 his legal career, he was a solo practitioner
12 engaged in the general practice of law. Burt
13 was elected to the Dewitt town board in the
14 early 1970s and served for eight years. In 1979
15 he was elected town supervisor and served until
16 1991. Under his watch, the current Town of
17 Dewitt town hall was built. Town Justice David
18 Gideon remembers that Burt had a unique
19 management style. He knew he had a good team on
20 board and gave them the latitude to do their
21 jobs in the way they saw fit. Former Town
22 Justice Jack Schultz remembers Burt as an
23 upright gentleman who worked hard to be fair to
24 everyone in the town. Being a town councilman
25 and later supervisor certainly gave Burt

1 exposure to the public. His daughter Karen said
2 it was a family joke that no matter where they
3 went, to the movies, a restaurant, a festival,
4 the symphony, Burt always ran into someone he
5 knew. Burt was a subscriber to the Syracuse
6 Symphony and he was very particular about his
7 seats in the second row. Those seats may not be
8 viewed as the best in the house but whenever the
9 symphony tried to move him to, say, center
10 fourth row, he was disappointed. Burt was also
11 an avid sports fan. From the time of his
12 arrival in Syracuse, his family would regularly
13 attend SU football games in the Archibald
14 Stadium. He adored SU basketball and had season
15 tickets for over 50 years. He was very good
16 friends with local NBA star Dolph Schayes and
17 the two of them spent time together playing
18 golf, going to Chiefs games and to the movies
19 and, like a true New Yorker, he was a rabid
20 Yankees fan. In addition to supporting his
21 favorite sports teams, Burt was a history buff
22 who loved to watch documentaries on TV. He was
23 also a dog lover. His daughter Susan recalls
24 that when she was growing up, they always had
25 boxers. In fact, she told me whenever she

1 arrived home from the airport from a trip, she
2 would call out for the dog and that's how her
3 father would find her. Burt is survived by his
4 children Susan, Karen and Marc, and three
5 grandchildren.

6 Carl A. Marino. Carl's path to the law was
7 not linear. Before law school, he served in the
8 Army from 1951 to 1955, then reenlisted in the
9 Air Force for another four years, and then
10 became a maitre d' at the Flamingo Hotel in
11 Miami. He returned to Syracuse, graduated from
12 law school, and opened private practice in the
13 Jefferson Building. Carl was also a certified
14 public accountant and his practice focused on
15 real estate, tax, and business affairs. By all
16 accounts, he was an "old school" attorney. He
17 would drive to a client's house to get a
18 signature. He did not charge his clients for
19 telephone calls. He lived his philosophy, which
20 was, "Listen to the client and take care of the
21 problem quickly as best you can at the least
22 expense to them." John Laparo remembers Carl as
23 an incredibly gracious man. Years ago while
24 John was between jobs trying to figure out what
25 he was going to do for five or six months, Carl

1 offered John space in his office, a gesture
2 which John has never forgotten. He also told me
3 that Carl was one of the most honest men he had
4 ever met. Carl often told John, "If your client
5 doesn't come first, you don't belong in this
6 business." Carl had a number of interests
7 outside the law. One of his passions was
8 harness racing. He owned a farm in Verona and
9 at one time he owned as many as 40 racehorses.
10 Twenty-seven years ago he bought the old General
11 Hutchinson Inn on Onondaga Hill and transformed
12 it into the Inn of the Seasons restaurant. He
13 did this primarily for his children and since
14 then it has been a family owned and operated
15 business. Daughter Carole and son-in-law Brad
16 are chefs; daughter Tia is the hostess; and Carl
17 handled the administrative end of things. He
18 moved his law practice into the carriage house
19 behind the restaurant and lived upstairs. He
20 would work in the kitchen and bartend, chatting
21 with his friends and customers. Judge Norman
22 Mordue who was a regular at the restaurant
23 recalls that every year Carl would throw a
24 Kentucky Derby party. The Judge told me that
25 all the women looked forward to buying new

1 outfits and big hats and it was a great time.
2 Carl was meticulous in everything that he did.
3 His daughter Carole remembers that he used to
4 say, "Don't chew your food twice," meaning that
5 if you have something to do, get to it and don't
6 put it aside and pick it up again. This is
7 excellent advice for all of us. Carl is
8 survived by his daughters Carole and Tia, and
9 four grandchildren.

10 MR. VENTRONE: James P. McDonald.
11 "Kindnesses small and great make life worth
12 living." This is the standard that Jim McDonald
13 lived by. Jim was an estates and trusts
14 attorney with the office of Bond, Schoeneck &
15 King both here in New York and in Florida. His
16 wife Mary Ellen told me that Jim was an
17 extremely kind and generous person who filled
18 all needs with his smile and laugh. People just
19 gravitated to him, and he made friends
20 everywhere he went. "Mark, he was a great guy,
21 the life of the party." She told me that he
22 really stepped into the volunteer arena once in
23 Florida and he received a kidney from their
24 daughter in 2010 and, yet, lived life to the
25 fullest for the next five years. Attorney Jim

1 Mackin worked with Jim at the Bond office. Jim
2 told me he was truly an accomplished estates
3 lawyer who went to Florida to open and operate
4 their Boca office and he did a great job.
5 Attorney Wally McDonald also worked with Jim at
6 the Bond office. Wally told me that he knew Jim
7 for 35 years and worked in the Florida office
8 with him. "He was a complete gentleman,
9 excellent lawyer, everyone thought the world of
10 him. Never lost a client, just a great
11 partner." Attorney John Allen of the Bond
12 office called him a great guy and an excellent
13 attorney. His good friend Paul Hart said Jim
14 built a profession on conversation. "He knew how
15 to start a conversation, keep it going, and
16 engage everyone in the process. I think he ate
17 very little so he could get a greater amount of
18 air time." Jim is survived by his wife Mary
19 Ellen, children Andrew and Katie, and one
20 grandson.

21 Honorable Jeffrey R. Merrill. Judge Jeff
22 Merrill was a deputy sheriff in three counties,
23 Onondaga County Sr. District Attorney, and
24 Syracuse City Court Judge for 30 years,
25 including supervising Judge for 13 years.

1 Senior U.S. District Court Justice Norm Mordue
2 told me that Jeff was the most diverse and
3 interesting guy. "I knew him from law school,"
4 the Judge said. "We sat McKinney, Merrill, and
5 Mordue. Mark, he once read a book on peppers
6 and he became an expert on peppers. When the
7 author was here for a book signing, Jeff gave
8 the introduction. I even think that there was
9 a portion of the book dedicated to him." Judge
10 Mordue went on to say to me, "He once went up to
11 Eagle Bay to eat 12 of the hottest wings made
12 with the bar's Armageddon sauce to get on their
13 Wall of Fame. And he did it." Judge Mordue said
14 he paid for it afterwards but he did it.
15 Lastly, Judge Mordue told me Judge Merrill was
16 so proud of the city drug court. "He gave
17 defendants a chance to redeem themselves and to
18 get another chance." County Court Judge Steve
19 Dougherty told me that Judge Merrill was his
20 mentor when he was elected to city court. "I
21 know that he was pleased that I followed him as
22 Supervising Judge and was proud when I was
23 elected to county court. He was truly a unique
24 individual and I know that I and everyone who
25 knew him well already miss him dearly." City

1 Court Judge Jim Cecile told me that he always
2 thought of Judge Merrill as one who could have
3 been either a judge or a professor. Any subject
4 he focused on he became an expert in. Judge
5 Cecile said, "If it was golf, he golfed as much
6 as possible. If it was lizards, he bought
7 dozens. If it was dinosaurs, he knew what each
8 and every one did and ate. He never stopped
9 learning and teaching, even joining the
10 Jamesville-Dewitt Volunteer Fire Department
11 after he retired. Jeff taught me how to be a
12 Judge, what not to do as a Judge, and how to
13 make sure to live life to its fullest."
14 Onondaga County district attorney Bill
15 Fitzpatrick said to me, "Mark, there was no one
16 like him. He was an extraordinary, decent
17 person who wanted to leave people better off.
18 He could be tough but he was fair. I give him
19 all the credit in the world for the Stop DWI
20 program, a program which is followed throughout
21 the state, and for treating a first time
22 offender differently than one who is a menace to
23 society. He was a great and decent guy who
24 really did care and he wanted to get people back
25 on track and he was a great family guy. I saw

1 him regularly over the course of 35 years and he
2 was always upbeat with something good to say."
3 Judge Merrill is survived by his wife of 49
4 years Genevieve, children Malcolm, Travis and
5 Samantha, two grandchildren, his mother Barbara,
6 and sister Marsha.

7 MS. CIARDULLO: Beverly Ann Michaels.
8 Beverly Michaels received her law agree degree
9 in 1953 at a time when women in the law were few
10 and far between. In 1951 she married Marty
11 Michaels, also an attorney, and they set up
12 practice together. Back then, being a female
13 lawyer was a unique accomplishment. Few of us
14 here may remember but years ago the Onondaga
15 County Bar Association held its annual dinner at
16 the grand ballroom at the Hotel Syracuse
17 featuring skits and rather boisterous
18 entertainment. Only members of the bar were
19 allowed to attend and sit at the tables. Their
20 spouses were not allowed. So the spouses would
21 sneak in and sit in the balcony boxes so that
22 they, too, could enjoy the entertainment. But
23 not Beverly. She was one of the very few women
24 who proudly took her seat at a table on the
25 floor as befitting a full fledged member of the

1 bar association. Throughout her life, Beverly
2 was active in a variety of civic, non-profit and
3 service organizations, including past president
4 of Planned Parenthood, as well as the Democratic
5 Party. She once ran for family court judge.
6 Her niece attorney Debbie Field told me that
7 she, Debbie, moved to Syracuse after law school
8 to work with Beverly and that Beverly was a
9 wonderful teacher. One of Debbie's first
10 assignments was to go to family court against
11 Lou Fineberg and appear in front of Judge Barth.
12 Although the details of that case have long been
13 forgotten, Debbie remembers that she lost. She
14 returned to the office and sadly reported this
15 to Beverly, who said to her, "Of course you
16 lost. You had a losing case." Debbie replied,
17 "Why didn't you tell me?" And Beverly said, "If
18 I had told you, you wouldn't have worked as
19 hard." Beverly was also active in the bar
20 association and her service on the judiciary
21 committee was invaluable. The job of the
22 judiciary committee was and is to investigate
23 candidates for judicial office so that the bar
24 association can determine whether or not to
25 recommend the candidate as qualified. At times

1 the candidates require close examination or
2 there may be complaints which need
3 investigation. Tom Myers, who chaired that
4 committee for many years, told me that some
5 committee members would be reluctant to confront
6 sitting judges running for reelection. Tom
7 would always turn to Beverly for the most touchy
8 and difficult investigations. Not only was she
9 an incredibly hard worker, but she possessed the
10 courage to ask the toughest questions. The
11 lessons of equality and fairness which Beverly
12 embodied were ingrained in her children. When
13 she saw prejudice, she taught her children it
14 was wrong. Ed Michaels told me that when he was
15 growing up, he knew his mom was unique because
16 she was a professional when the other moms were
17 not. He grew up with a strong sense of equality
18 between the sexes which he would not otherwise
19 have had. When Ed grew older and graduated from
20 law school, it was a privilege for him to
21 practice law with both of his parents. He said,
22 "I got to work with my parents as colleagues.
23 They respected me and I respected them. It was
24 the coolest of relationships." Beverly is
25 survived by her children Steven, Edward, and

1 Julie, and five grandchildren.

2 Leroy "Roy" Natanson. Leroy Natanson was
3 born in New York City and was raised in Boston.
4 He served his country in the Korean War as an
5 Army photographer. After the war he attended
6 Syracuse University College in Utica, where he
7 met his bride to be at his family's restaurant
8 in Oneida. He then completed his studies at
9 Syracuse University College of Law in 1957.
10 With his education behind him, he married his
11 wife Phyllis and they moved to North Syracuse
12 where they raised their family and resided
13 together for 59 years until her death in 2012.
14 Roy continued a private law practice in Syracuse
15 for over 50 years. He was also employed at the
16 Post-Standard as a reporter and later as an
17 editor from 1953 to 1980. He also served as an
18 adjunct professional with the Newhouse School of
19 Communication for many years. Roy was a member
20 of the Syracuse Press Club. He was also an avid
21 bowler for most of his life beginning with his
22 time in Boston, where he served as a duckpin
23 bowling pinsetter. Roy was predeceased by his
24 son Ray in 2000 and is survived by his daughter
25 Gail, daughter-in-law Sheila and six

1 grandchildren.

2 MR. VENTRONE: August J. Nordone. Gus
3 Nordone was an avid golfer, enjoyed toy trains,
4 and was a member of the National Railway
5 Historical Society. His wife Mary told me that
6 Gus loved trials and loved to be the center of
7 attention. He loved to show off in front of a
8 crowd. Chief U.S. District Court Judge Glenn
9 Suddaby told me that Gus was a great guy, the
10 most relaxed, even-keeled guy you would ever
11 meet. "He was the perfect example and a fine
12 representative of collegiality of the bar."
13 Supreme Court Justice Don Greenwood was a former
14 law partner with Gus. Judge Greenwood told me
15 that Gus had so many outside interests. He said
16 his father was the golf pro at Lafayette Country
17 Club and he knew every break on the course.
18 "Mark, he was always smiling when he would enter
19 my chambers and would say, 'Permission to come
20 on board?'" attorneys Cliff Carden and Matt
21 Dotzler shared an office with Gus. Cliff told
22 me that, "August Nordone was a gentleman
23 attorney, accomplished golfer, amateur botanist,
24 train enthusiast, and devotee of fine people,
25 moments and spirits." Matt added, "He truly

1 enjoyed being around people. He loved being a
2 lawyer and being able to help people through
3 difficult situations. He was always happy and
4 upbeat." I spoke to his secretary of 13 years,
5 Beatty Valdez. Beatty told me what a unique and
6 special person Gus was, a true gentleman. She
7 said, "He was amazing. I will never in my life
8 find a friend like Gus. He was like a father to
9 me." Attorney Tom Ryan worked with Gus at the
10 district attorney's office and said he will
11 mostly miss having Gus talking in his ear on the
12 golf course telling him what he's doing wrong.
13 "He was one of a kind." Tom summarized it best
14 by saying, "Food, wine, scotch, and food." Gus
15 is survived by his wife Mary, son Joseph,
16 stepdaughter Joanna, and three grandchildren.

17 Dennis G. O'Hara. Denny O'Hara began his
18 career at Mackenzie, Smith, Lewis, Michell &
19 Hughes in 1965, and he became the protege of the
20 late Senator John Hughes. Denny went on to
21 practice for over 50 years. I spoke to his son
22 attorney Dennis Jr. (Deege) O'Hara. Deege told
23 me that after the Senator passed suddenly, his
24 father shuffled the family into the station
25 wagon for a two week journey up and down the

1 east coast. After much sole searching, his dad
2 left the Mackenzie office to start a solo
3 practice. "Mark, he was very worried how he
4 would support his family handling traffic
5 tickets until one day the Liverpool school
6 superintendent dropped off one file for him and
7 the rest is history. He went on to represent
8 the district for 36 years, represented over 100
9 districts, 250 superintendents, and he gave 75
10 lawyers their first shot. My dad was a solid
11 guy. He was always present for his family, and
12 he liked the simple things in life, golf, Cape
13 Cod, and our family reunions at our home."
14 Attorney Emil Rossi knew Denny since high school
15 at CBA. He told me that Denny married his high
16 school sweetheart Carol and was really the
17 perfect prototype of the ideal student, athlete,
18 and attorney. Emil and Denny worked on a number
19 of cases together and Emil said, "He really knew
20 the education law. He was always so well
21 prepared and well versed. Yet, he always
22 brought a great sense of humor." Attorney Jim
23 Evans of Barclay Damon told me that Denny was a
24 charming guy with a great sense of humor and
25 that no one told a better story than Denny. Jim

1 said, "He had an incredible way of formulating
2 information in a way that a jury would
3 understand it and be persuaded by it." I
4 received an email from Denny's daughter Erin in
5 Seattle. She told me, "At the age of 14 while
6 hanging out with friends in Dey's Tea Room in
7 downtown Syracuse after school, he met his
8 childhood sweetheart and soulmate Carol and
9 theirs became an epic love story. He was always
10 there for his family. He brilliantly and
11 diligently practiced law but he practiced love
12 every day. Denny was our soundest counsel, our
13 greatest champion, our solid ground, our merry
14 prankster and now our winged angel. Well done,
15 dad." Denny is survived by his wife of 53 years
16 Carol, children Deege, Kevin, Erin, Meghan,
17 Neil, Liz, and Matthew, and 15 grandchildren.

18 MS. CIARDULLO: Patrick Joseph Pedro. Pat
19 Pedro was a man who inspired us by the way he
20 lived his life. He was a magna cum laude
21 graduate of the School of Business at Bucknell
22 University, where he was named Bucknell's Man of
23 the Year and he attended Notre Dame Law School
24 where he was on the National Moot Court Team.
25 He joined the firm of Bond, Schoeneck & King in

1 1984, became a partner in 1993, and practiced
2 there until his retirement at the end of 2014.
3 He practiced primarily in the areas of business
4 law and health care law and his clients ranged
5 from start-up companies to some of the most
6 prominent individuals and businesses in central
7 and northern New York. He gave his clients a
8 high level of service and attention, becoming
9 knowledgeable about their unique wants and
10 circumstances and he routinely kept his smart
11 phone by his bed to be available at all hours.
12 In 2009 Pat was interviewed by Law 360 and was
13 asked what advice he would give to a young
14 lawyer interested in developing a business
15 practice. He replied, "Be well rounded. While
16 knowing the technical aspects of the law must be
17 a priority, I find that some lawyers have too
18 narrow a focus. If you want to understand
19 people and their problems, you must work on your
20 people skills too. Get involved in your
21 community. Pursue the things that interest you.
22 Have a life." Pat certainly embodied his own
23 advice. He was involved in a multitude of
24 professional and artistic organizations and
25 served his community in countless ways. He was

1 deeply committed to the visual and performing
2 arts. He served for over 20 years on the board
3 of the Syracuse Opera Company and as its
4 president. He also served as president and a
5 member of the board of trustees of the Everson
6 Museum, guiding it through some challenging
7 times. Through his dedication and the
8 friendships he forged, he left those
9 organizations stronger. He was passionate about
10 the theater. He loved to act and participated
11 in many shows with the Central New York
12 Community Theater, the Talent Company, Appleseed
13 Productions, and the Shakespeare Festival. One
14 of the shows he enjoyed most was his return to
15 the stage in 2010 in the Producers, where he was
16 thrilled to work with his daughter Maria who
17 choreographed the show. Those who knew Pat have
18 tried to describe him. But as one person said,
19 doing so is like trying to hold a rainbow in
20 your hand. Pat's humble nature, his optimism,
21 brilliance, love of the arts, devotion to
22 family, and tenacious spirit illuminated the
23 lives of all those he touched. Pat is survived
24 by his mother Margaret, his wife of over 30
25 years Julie, and daughters Melissa and Maria.

1 MR. VENTRONE: George C. Shattuck. George
2 Shattuck spent his entire legal career of 44
3 years with the office of Bond, Schoeneck & King.
4 Attorney Jack Dee of the Bond office told me
5 that George was a wonderful man, wonderful
6 attorney, and as bright as they come. "He
7 really opened the doors for the Oneida Indian
8 Nation's access to federal court and he pursued
9 it all the way to the supreme court despite
10 adversity and negativity along the way. I
11 really admired him. Mark, just a great man."
12 Attorney John Allen told me that George was one
13 of the most imaginative and creative attorneys
14 they ever had. And attorney Bill Burrows called
15 him a good friend to all with a great
16 reputation. I spoke to George's wife, attorney
17 Carla Amussen, in California. She told me that
18 George was never happier than when he was
19 presented with a problem that seemed unsolvable.
20 Carla noted that he took the Oneida Nation land
21 claims case to the supreme court and changed 200
22 years of legal history with a unanimous
23 decision. After retiring, Carla told me that
24 George did what he always wanted to do, he
25 wrote. He wrote Oneida Indian land Claims,

1 Estate Taxes for Small Business Owners, and
2 seven novels. He taught himself calculus and
3 physics from his daughter's textbooks and
4 shortly before he died, George was explaining
5 Greek history to family and friends. His wife
6 Carla and daughter Morgan are living in Santa
7 Barbara, California.

8 Steven W. Snyder. Steve Snyder practiced
9 law in Syracuse for over 30 years with the
10 office of Fitzpatrick & Snyder, and he's
11 remembered for his kind, open heart and love for
12 family and friends. Attorney Rocco Mangano, who
13 often handled real estate matters with Steve,
14 told me that he was an excellent closing
15 attorney and he was so easy to work with and was
16 truly one of the "good guys" in the realty bar.
17 Chief U.S. District Court Judge Glenn Suddaby
18 told me that Steve was a dear friend who would
19 often bike with him. He told me that Steve was
20 a caring, fun-loving, sweetheart of a guy who
21 was so empathetic to his clients. "He just
22 really cared. Just the nicest guy who was one
23 of the first at my door when my wife died."
24 Judge Joe Fahey, current Corporation Counsel,
25 sent me a blog that he wrote when Steve passed

1 away. The Judge said that Steve was a good
2 friend who assisted him in his many campaigns
3 and they also tried some criminal cases
4 together. Judge Fahey said, "He had great
5 courtroom poise and skills. He was so positive
6 and upbeat no matter how dark the facts were.
7 He was extraordinarily generous, providing
8 whatever was needed to those who sought his help
9 and never asked for anything in return. Women
10 of all ages fell in love with him. He was one
11 of the most good and decent people that God ever
12 made. We were blessed to know him and much
13 poorer for his passing." Steve's identical
14 twin, attorney Joe Snyder, told me that Steve
15 always tried to treat people with an expectation
16 of goodness and fairness. Greed and dishonesty
17 were not part of his personality. People knew
18 him to be positive, trustworthy, and kind. Joe
19 told me a story that Steve tried to attend his
20 nephew, Joe's son's sporting events at all costs
21 wherever they were, and he essentially would
22 drive anywhere for a game. Once there was a
23 lacrosse tournament in Boston. Steve was going
24 to follow the family later in his own car. When
25 Joe and his family arrived, he called Steve to

1 see if he had checked in. Steve told him that
2 he had and he asked for directions to the field
3 the next morning. As Joe told him, Steve
4 expressed some shock. Steve had driven to
5 Philadelphia, the site of the following
6 weekend's tournament, instead of to Boston.
7 After he recovered, Joe said they had a great
8 laugh and, "This never stopped him from
9 traveling all over to follow my son's games.
10 What a great brother." Steve is survived by his
11 brothers and sisters Holly Mary Grace, Ed, Joe,
12 and Susan, and numerous nieces and nephews.

13 MS. CIARDULLO: Marilyn A. Westlake.
14 Marilyn Westlake was a trailblazer in many ways.
15 After having earned her master's in education
16 from Syracuse University, Marilyn returned to
17 school ten years later to pursue her J.D. from
18 New York Law School, after which she lived in
19 Washington, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Indonesia.
20 Returning to the U.S., Marilyn began a varied
21 legal career which included an appointment as
22 Acting Justice for the Village of Fayetteville,
23 Director of Career Services for Syracuse
24 University College of Law, and Adjunct Professor
25 of Family Mediation for SUNY Oswego. She

1 volunteered for New Justice Services, Children
2 1st! and Child Find of America. Even when she
3 had eased into semi-retirement, Marilyn began a
4 telephone-based conference call divorce
5 mediation practice, the first of its kind in
6 this country. She continued her "mediation
7 without walls" law practice up until the time of
8 her death but even her last illness inspired her
9 and gave her the opportunity to share and inform
10 her circle of friends about her disease.
11 Attorney and friend Judith La Manna with whom
12 Marilyn shared an interest in alternative
13 dispute resolution said, "It is such a loss to
14 the legal and mediation community but also such
15 a loss to those who knew Marilyn and were
16 infected by her smile, her earnest and honest
17 approach to her work, and her kindness to
18 others. It was always bright being in her
19 company." Her friend Martha Marshall says,
20 "Marilyn's blending of the law, mediation, and
21 families was such a blessing and a gift she gave
22 passionately. Her legacy will live forever. I
23 will miss the presence of a truly lovable and
24 kind person." Marilyn and her husband Stephen
25 lived in Locke, where she served as poll manager

1 for many years. But she will forever be known
2 there as that town's Mrs. Claus, riding into
3 town for the holiday season on the back of a
4 fire truck while her husband played Santa.
5 Marilyn co-chaired the Moravia book club and
6 organized book club participants in Zephyrhills,
7 Florida, where she spent the winter.
8 Girlfriends looked forward to receiving
9 Marilyn's emails inviting them to a "girls night
10 out" music or theater event. She enjoyed golf,
11 Mah Jongg, reading novels, visiting wineries and
12 attending cooking classes. Marilyn was the
13 Presiding Justice of Elk Lodge 2731 in
14 Zephyrhills and a member there said, "We'll miss
15 Marilyn's smile and her wit." Marilyn is
16 survived by her husband Stephen, her daughter
17 Eleanor, her stepdaughters Jean Marie and
18 Pamela, and two grandchildren.

19 This concludes our remembrances. Judge
20 Dougherty, I turn the program over to you.

21 JUDGE DOUGHERTY: Fran and Mark, thank you
22 so much for putting this all together and doing
23 this for us. I'd like to call upon Judge David
24 Peebles now. Thank you, Judge.

25 (Trumpet solo by Magistrate David E. Peebles.)

1 JUDGE DOUGHERTY: Thank you, Judge. I'd
2 like to call on Rabbi Fellman from the Temple
3 Society of Concord for our closing prayer.
4 Rabbi?

5 RABBI FELLMAN: The practice of law is the
6 pursuit of creating order in society. In each
7 of the 25 individuals we recall this year, we
8 see those who worked to make society more equal,
9 more fair to create more opportunity for more
10 people to be included in the great American
11 ideal. Oh, God, creator of us all, we thank you
12 for the gifts of each of these souls and we pray
13 that their memories will ever inspire us to
14 pursue equality and justice for all. Thank you.

15 JUDGE DOUGHERTY: Thank you, Rabbi. And
16 thanks so much to everyone that was able to come
17 and participate in this this morning. Special
18 thanks to the bar association, to Fran and to
19 Mark, Jim Williams, Father Mannara, Judge
20 Peebles and Rabbi Fellman. We are in recess.
21 Thank you very much, everybody.

22 (The proceedings were concluded.)

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