

STATE OF NEW YORK - COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER
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WESTCHESTER COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

2016 MEMORIAL SERVICE OBITUARIES
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Memorial Ceremony

Wednesday, June 8, 2016
10:00 a.m.

Westchester County Courthouse
111 Dr. M.L.K., Jr. Blvd.
White Plains, New York 10601

P R E S I D I N G :

HONORABLE ALAN D. SCHEINKMAN
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE, 9TH J.D.

A P P E A R A N C E S :

KELLY WELCH
President, Westchester County Bar Association

LUIS A. RIVERA, ESQ.
Executive Director WCBA

G R E E T I N G S and R E M A R K S :

RALPH R. NOBILE, ESQ.
Chair, Memorial Committee and WCBA Past President

Maria Saitta
Senior Court Reporter

H O N O R E D

HONORABLE LOUIS A. BARONE

CHARLES A. BRADLEY III, ESQ.

HONORABLE MATTHEW FRANCIS COPPOLA

E. ROBERT GIUNTINI, ESQ.

RICHARD GRALICER, ESQ.

HONORABLE JUDITH S. KAYE

HONORABLE PETER LANE

HONORABLE HENRY J. LOGAN

HONORABLE ANDREW W. TULLY, JR.

HONORABLE HAROLD L. WOOD

1 HON. SCHEINKMAN: Good morning, everyone.

2 Please be seated.

3 I would first like to thank all of the Judges who
4 have taken time from their busy schedules and from the many
5 demands on them to join us at this solemn event.

6 I would also like to thank the Westchester County
7 Bar Association, Kelly Welch, the President, for organizing
8 this activity and being so supportive of us.

9 I think this program, which I've had an opportunity
10 to attend over the years, is one of the most special things
11 that we do in this building because it gives us the
12 opportunity to remind us of our shared past of the times
13 that we have had, mostly good, with the Judges and court
14 staff and attorneys who are unfortunately no longer with us.

15 Too many times we hear about the incivility of
16 lawyers to other lawyers and this program gives us the
17 opportunity to remind us of our shared humanity and the
18 importance of reflecting on the people as people who come
19 before us or who work in the courts on a daily basis.

20 So, I thank you for taking the time, all of you,
21 for coming and for helping us to remember these very
22 significant distinguished people who lived very important
23 lives and who have impacted all of our lives.

24 I suppose, and forgive me for this personal
25 memorial, that I've noticed over the years a change. I can

1 remember participating or coming, witnessing this event as a
2 very young lawyer a very long time ago and seeing the list
3 of names and not knowing anyone, and now I sit here and I'm
4 presiding and I look at the names and I realize I knew all
5 of them and that makes a very significant difference in your
6 life and for having known all of these distinguished Judges,
7 attorneys, I am grateful.

8 I would now recognize the President of the
9 Westchester County Bar Association Kelly Welch.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. WELCH: Good morning.

12 Thank you, Judge Scheinkman, for hosting us and for
13 allowing us to participate in this memorial ceremony.

14 Thank you to Ralph Nobile, the Chair of our
15 committee.

16 Each year the Association takes this day to
17 recognize those attorneys and members of the judiciary who
18 have meant so much to the practice of law in Westchester
19 County and who have passed away in this preceding year.

20 On behalf of the County Bar Association I would
21 like to welcome our colleagues, the members of the
22 judiciary, and especially the families and friends who are
23 here present to honor those who have passed away, thank you.

24 HON. SCHEINKMAN: The Court now calls upon a very
25 distinguished Chair of the Memorial Committee who so ably

1 carried forth the effort of memorializing distinguished
2 judges and lawyers for many years, Mr. Ralph Nobile.

3 MR. NOBILE: Thank you very much, Your Honor.

4 May it please the Court, I now make application
5 that the business of this Court be put aside and that the
6 record of this Court reflect that today's memorial service
7 is dedicated to the members of the bar and the members of
8 the bench and the judiciary who have been honored because,
9 unfortunately, they have passed before us.

10 May I have that motion, Your Honor.

11 HON. SCHEINKMAN: Granted.

12 MR. NOBILE: Thank you, sir.

13 It brings us together and it brings us together for
14 a good purpose. It prompts our memories to reminisce about
15 and honor those who unfortunately have gone before us.

16 These are the hollowed halls where we began our
17 careers. This is the place where we raised our hands and
18 took an oath to be professional attorneys, members of the
19 Bar. So, it's only fitting that we begin here and in a
20 small way we say good-bye here.

21 We welcome your families and members of the Bar,
22 and in particular, the judiciary who are in full force and
23 attend here for the good purpose of us being together to
24 share our love and respect to those who have gone before us.

25 We invite all of the members of the families to

1 join us at the conclusion of the program to accept a rose as
2 a small token, a memento, that we remember those who have
3 passed before us.

4 HONORABLE LOUIS A. BARONE

5 World War II made our civilians and the destruction
6 of whole cities a commonplace. That experience should have
7 silenced or at least isolated the world violence makers, but
8 it did not. I mention that and bring that very important
9 statement to your attention because it was a commentary by
10 Richard Gardella, the Editor of our Westchester Lawyers
11 Journal, and I bring that to your attention because so many
12 of those about whom we will speak this morning touched World
13 War II and were part of the horrible events that took place.

14 With that in mind, let's talk about Louis A.
15 Barone.

16 I will begin by saying that if you remember the
17 song from the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli,
18 you will recognize the Marine hymn and how he loved that
19 hymn.

20 Louis Barone served in the United States Marine
21 Corps Reserves. He served and received an honorable
22 discharge and upon the completion of his service he was
23 ready to begin serious studies.

24 He graduated from Iona College and New York Law
25 School.

1 Now, I tell you he was an enthusiastic golfer.
2 That's very important. You can't be a lawyer unless you
3 play golf, you know that. He was an enthusiastic golfer and
4 he caused great excitement when he played on a golf course
5 and earned himself a lifetime achievement that no one that I
6 know has ever achieved.

7 Yes, Judge Barone, at the time he was a member of
8 Leewood Golf Club in Eastchester and had the joy of having a
9 "hole in one" and it was in the course of play, in a
10 competition, a superhuman thing to happen to him. But, wait
11 a minute, and then later on, as he continued to play golf,
12 he had another "hole in one." Now, I tell you, there are
13 pros that never make a "hole in one" but Judge Barone had
14 two. So, he was a two time "hole in one" player. Wow!

15 He completed his education and in the early part of
16 his career he was defense counsel for the Allstate Insurance
17 Company, "the good hands people," and he enjoyed that. It
18 brought him through the court system and he learned the
19 measure of the trial world.

20 His wonderful wife, Constance, joined forces with
21 him and three beautiful daughters -- Margaret, Lois and Lisa
22 -- arrived at their home. But that wasn't the full measure
23 of the joy of that family, for Constance and Louis Barone,
24 because Anthony, Louis and Nicholas had also joined. So,
25 the six marvelous children were quite a group.

1 Judge Barone was very much involved in the Supreme
2 Court system, in the judicial district, that we call the 9th
3 Judicial District.

4 He was particularly interested in problems that
5 arose in Westchester, Orange, Dutchess, Rockland, and Putnam
6 counties that dealt with the issue of grandparents and
7 grandparents' rights.

8 He devoted quite a bit of his time to not only his
9 world of sports and family, but he appeared on major
10 television networks several times to discuss his decision
11 related to grandparents.

12 He authored a book, "Grandparents' Rights, the
13 Forgotten Generation." That's correct, Grandparents'
14 Rights, the Forgotten Generation," which was published in
15 the Westchester County Bar Association Journal and was
16 considered an alert to all of the members who were involved
17 in Family Court Law.

18 Judge Louis Barone had a full life. The original
19 six was a wonderful family and it grew several times until I
20 understand it was up to thirteen.

21 Is it up to thirteen, Constance?

22 MRS. CONSTANCE BARONE: Fourteen.

23 MR. NOBILE: Grandchildren?

24 MRS. CONSTANCE BARONE: Fourteen, yes.

25 MR. NOBILE: Fourteen. Back to thirteen. That's

1 enough. Could you imagine what the holidays were like:
2 Christmas and Easter with that family.

3 So, we come together to say to you, we salute you,
4 Judge Louis A. Barone, and we extend to your family the
5 recognition that you, as a man and as a Judge, were a man
6 for all seasons and, in particular, the golf season.

7 CHARLES A. BRADLEY, III, ESQ.

8 MR. NOBILE: Charles Bradley, of Briarcliff Manor,
9 was an attorney who devoted his life to the law and a career
10 in public service in both municipal and state government.

11 He was fortunate to be graduated from Phillips
12 Academy, Andover, and was graduated from Williams College
13 and the University of Virginia Law School and I don't have
14 to tell you, because you all know, top of the list for
15 education and law education.

16 Not only did he practice law, but he served as the
17 Justice of the Peace for two years and then followed that
18 service as Town Attorney and then as Town Supervisor for six
19 years. He was also appointed Assistant District Attorney
20 for Chermung County.

21 He enjoyed an additional appointment to the
22 Attorney General's staff for the State of New York to serve
23 on a particular task force that was entitled, The Organized
24 Crime Task Force, which had been created by Governor Nelson
25 Rockefeller.

1 Charlie Bradley was also assigned as a Special
2 Assistant Attorney General in the investigation of the
3 famous riot that took place known as the Attica Prison Riot.

4 Following that assignment, he was then invited and
5 joined the staff of the Attorney General in the City of New
6 York.

7 Ladies and gentleman, his career was involved with
8 local, state, and federal agencies and at some point
9 something else beckoned him and he became Corporate Counsel
10 for the City of White Plains in 1979. While in that post he
11 was successful in significant cases on behalf of the City of
12 White Plains.

13 His eloquence as a writer was recognized. Charles
14 Bradley, III did it all and at some point decided to return
15 to private practice, which he did.

16 He served as Acting Village Manager of Briarcliff
17 Manor and was responsible for overseeing the completion of
18 the renovation of the famous location known as Law Park. It
19 was such an interesting life and involvement.

20 There was no such thing as retirement because, in
21 fact, there was a retirement and once that took place
22 Charles Bradley served with avid interest and great
23 enthusiasm at the Rockefeller Estate Sleepy Hollow as a
24 Docent.

25 Whenever there was an occasion to discuss the

1 career of Charles Bradley with his beloved wife, Eileen
2 Oakley of 34 years, it was always his continued effort and
3 work and her amazement of his capacity to accomplish so much
4 and still devote time to his family.

5 Charlie Bradley greatly enjoyed and valued his time
6 with members of the family, in particular, his colleagues in
7 the law. His keen intelligence and combination of wit, with
8 his sense of humor, was the calling card of Charles Bradley.

9 At this time we acknowledge, at the special request
10 that he made, the members of the team that took care of him
11 and in particular Happerline, Cecilia, Jessie, and Luanna,
12 who were all members of the Phelps Hospice.

13 We salute you, Charles Bradley, III.

14 HONORABLE MATTHEW F. COPPOLA

15 If you came from Yonkers you had to know the
16 Coppola name. You had to know the members of the family
17 because they were all involved in the political world.

18 Judge Matthew F. Coppola was part of the Yonkers
19 family. His accomplishments were recognized and he had the
20 joy of reaching the magical age of 90.

21 He devoted himself to his family and to his lovely
22 wife of 57 years, Rosemarie, and she often reminisces about
23 their children, Elaine, Matthew Jr., Frederic, Richard, and
24 the joy of both of their lives, their 12 loving
25 grandchildren.

1 You'll recall that I started off by talking about
2 Yonkers and Yonkers was the beginning of his education at
3 St. Mary's Grammar School, a Roman Catholic parochial school
4 and then Yonkers High School.

5 To the surprise of his family, at the age of 17 --
6 and do you remember I mentioned World War II -- he enlisted
7 in the United States Navy and served during World War II,
8 during the war years, 1943, 1944, and 1945. He did that
9 with great pride.

10 Well, time passed and something beckoned him to
11 West Virginia and he enrolled in Bethany College and
12 completed his Bachelor Degree.

13 The next stop was back to New York and a return
14 to his educational pursuit at St. John's Law School.

15 The insurance world beckoned Judge Coppola and
16 before being appointed Corporate Counsel to The Hartford, he
17 had the need to learn the rigors of trial work and he was
18 known as a competent, fair and courteous adversary.

19 Politics also played a part of his life, and I
20 suggested in the beginning that he was part of that Yonkers
21 political scene, he was, and he was appointed Family Court
22 Judge in 1974 and then later on ascended to the bench. He
23 became a Supreme Court Justice in 1982.

24 His time on the bench also included service at the
25 New York State Appellate Term for the 9th and 10th Judicial

1 Districts and he did that until he retired in 2001.

2 But he couldn't leave the area of deciding and
3 hearing cases, and so he accepted an invitation and became a
4 member of the National Arbitration and Mediation Association
5 and heard more cases.

6 During the course of his career he became involved
7 in Family Court law and there was a landmark decision that
8 now is a beacon for attorneys involved in issues of child
9 custody. The name of the case, known to most practitioners
10 in that field, is "Bennett against Jefferies." It was a
11 decision that set a new standard for child custody cases and
12 as a result he set the standard for the benefit of the
13 child, in the interest of the child, and that phrase, while
14 understood by all of us who heard those cases, seemed to
15 take on a new meaning. The custody case and the standard
16 that the best interest of the child was paramount, continues
17 as a landmark decision.

18 Yonkers being a busy place of social activity and
19 community work, the Enrico Fermi Educational Foundation
20 sought out Judge Coppola's help and he responded. He loved
21 being a member of the Enrico Fermi Educational Foundation.
22 His law work was of great interest and in his law work he
23 got involved in the production of the McGraw Hill film
24 entitled, "The Law: Juveniles' Rights and Responsibilities."
25 He liked to teach and became an adjunct member of the

1 Business Law Department at Iona College and also found the
2 time to be involved with little league coaching. On Sundays
3 you found him as a lector at the local parish, St. Theresa's
4 Roman Catholic Church, in Briarcliff Manor.

5 So, with all of that history, to the children, to
6 his loving wife, to all of his friends on the bench and all
7 of his friends, members of the Bar, and to all those people
8 who had contact with him, we step back and say, we salute
9 you, Judge Matthew Coppola.

10 E. ROBERT GIUNTINI, ESQ.

11 Continuing with the Italian derivation, we find the
12 name of E. Robert Giuntini.

13 I'm reaching into the year 1923 in Pawtucket, Rhode
14 Island. 1923 Pawtucket, Rhode Island, saw the birth of E.
15 Robert Giuntini.

16 He grasped onto the educational world with his
17 immigrant parents who came from Tuscany, who directed him,
18 and he was the benefactor of an educational world that he
19 had to engage and he had the ability to do it and work hard.

20 His time, of course, involved at that time World
21 War II. During the conflict he was a member and served in
22 the United States Army Air Force and was a member of the
23 11th Fighter's Command, an active United States Army Air
24 Force group which saw much action in World War II. But the
25 war did end and with happiness he then began a new career.

1 He began his educational career completing everything
2 through St. John's University, and then returned to St.
3 John's to obtain his law degree which enabled him to enter
4 private practice in 1961 in New York City.

5 After handling both civil and criminal matters in
6 the phases of litigation, trials and appeals, he became
7 active as a referee and guardian in various proceedings in
8 the Surrogates Court.

9 His joy was being a member of the Westchester
10 County Bar and the White Plains Bar and he found time to be
11 involved in numerous community activities.

12 He was the Chairman for several years of the United
13 Way of West Harrison and the Catholic Charities of West
14 Harrison. St. Anthony's Church in West Harrison beckoned
15 him and he became a member of the Knights of Columbus, as
16 well as the President of the West Harrison Republican Club,
17 just so he would have a little political world going too.

18 E. Robert Giuntini enjoyed his law practice for 62
19 years and was known as a highly educated and competent
20 member of the Bar.

21 His daughter, Maureen Jarvis, and her husband, Bob
22 Jarvis, of Wilmington, Delaware, and his son, Daniel
23 Giuntini, and his wife, Christie, of Somers, New York,
24 enjoyed the family gatherings surrounded by the four
25 grandchildren, R. Michael Jarvis, Carol Beckman, Lara Jarvis

1 and Jacylyn Giuntini, three great-grandchildren, Quinn,
2 Colin and Rhys, all of Pennsylvania, recently enjoyed the
3 family gatherings.

4 It's time we salute you, E. Robert Giuntini.

5 RICHARD GRALICER, ESQ.

6 Richard Gralicer, Yonkers, New York, the home of
7 Richard Gralicer who attained 87 years of good life.

8 Following his trip from Schenectady with mom and
9 pop, he enjoyed his high school and then proudly joined the
10 United States Army and became a member of the 25th and 26th
11 Infantry Division known as the "Wolfhounds."

12 That army group was stationed, after World War II
13 ended, in Japan and they remained there for quite a period
14 of time until the change was made and we removed our troops
15 from Japan.

16 So, here comes Richard Gralicer, whose law firm,
17 Gralicer & Kaiser, earned a reputation as vigorous
18 associates and advocates representing those who suffered
19 personal injuries.

20 Both Barry Kaiser and Richard Gralicer enjoyed
21 their work as trial lawyers and their membership in the
22 Westchester County Bar Association.

23 Family life for Richard Gralicer was a great joy
24 because Harriet, his devoted wife, would gather the
25 children, Karen, Lynn, Andrea, and Denise, and all would be

1 entertained by the musical talents of the four daughters.
2 How Richard loved those days.

3 His wonderful wife, Harriet, raised the children
4 with tender love and care, lots of love and attention.

5 So, at this time, we salute you, Richard Gralicer,
6 trial lawyer, family man, devoted to both with great joy.

7 HONORABLE PETER LANE

8 Peter Lane, another 50 year practitioner. Peter
9 Lane, a young man from Brooklyn who decided that Queens
10 College was a great way to start his career and then
11 continued at Columbia Law School and was graduated from
12 Columbia after a very exiting three years.

13 His 50 year career included an area of the law
14 which many of us never touched. Many of us never represent
15 the numerous musical artists and composers who seek to
16 recover their rightful royalties owed to them by record
17 companies and others who utilized their music and their
18 compositions for their own benefit.

19 Peter Lane loved working for musicians and
20 composers who sought justice in the world of law.

21 Early in his career, the Rye City Court Judgeship
22 became part of his life and he served on the bench from 1993
23 until 2010 and then was appointed as Acting Westchester
24 County Family Court Judge.

25 His life was full of republican activities for a

1 number of years and he had the joy of writing a regular
2 column in the Rye City Review, a newspaper which was on the
3 stands every week, with a touch of his interesting approach
4 to politics and current events.

5 Susan Cotton, his beloved wife, joined forces with
6 Peter and they were blessed with two sons, Eric and Greg.

7 If Peter Lane wasn't practicing law, you could find
8 him some other place, boating on Long Island Sound or
9 visiting his grandchildren in San Diego, California.

10 There he was, Peter Lane, practicing attorney,
11 Family Court Judge, and a writer who published every week in
12 the local newspaper.

13 The last 11 years of Peter Lane's life were filled
14 with the practice of law and a beloved partnership with
15 Madeleine Kleinman.

16 We salute you, Peter Lane.

17 HONORABLE HENRY J. LOGAN

18 Washington D.C. was an attraction to Logan. He
19 responded with great joy. He then spent the next eight
20 years at the Educational Center at Georgetown University and
21 later Georgetown Law School.

22 Henry Logan was brilliant. His unusual ability was
23 recognized when he became a member of the United States Air
24 Force Intelligence Unit known as the OSS. For those of us
25 who have a memory of World War II, OSS was quite a

1 responsibility and no one was asked to join OSS unless they
2 were of superior intellect and devotion to the United States
3 of America.

4 He became an officer, a position that was only
5 available to those of high intellectual ability and
6 devotion.

7 Henry Logan was part of the group of OSS men and
8 women to protect the United States from harm from others.

9 He loved his family. He participated in certain
10 civic groups which were part of his life. He had a great
11 respect for his religious training and catholic upbringing
12 which prompted his becoming a member of the Knights Templar.
13 He did not shun civil activity and was a volunteer fireman.

14 His ability as an attorney was recognized when he
15 was elected Mount Pleasant Town Court Justice.

16 Of all of his activities, there was a favorite.
17 Oh, yes, there's always a favorite and you guessed it, his
18 membership in the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, and boy did
19 he love it. He served as President of the Westchester
20 Chapter and was able to engage in all of the songs and the
21 joys of the Irish tradition of the Friendly Sons.

22 His wonderful wife, Elizabeth Hughes, and Henry
23 Logan were blessed with six children, Susan, Henry, Beth,
24 Nancy, Peter and Patty, and, of course, because of the
25 longevity of Judge Logan, he enjoyed seven grandchildren and

1 the fun of being their grandpa.

2 His favorite church was St. Theresa of Avila Church
3 in Sleepy Hollow. The parishioners who knew him were
4 impressed with his family life and his ability as a
5 practicing attorney and his devotion to his religious
6 upbringing.

7 We salute you, Judge Henry J. Logan.

8 HONORABLE ANDREW W. TULLY, JR.

9 Continuing with the Irish tradition, Andrew W.
10 Tully, Jr.

11 Andrew Tully enjoyed a great career in the area of
12 Yorktown Heights, Sleepy Hollow in Westchester County and
13 was proud that he was the son of a man born in Brooklyn to
14 Catherine Smith and Andrew Tully.

15 Quite a guy was Andrew Tully. Chaminade High
16 School, a parochial school in Long Island, was his beginning
17 and from there he moved and was accepted at St. Joseph's
18 College in Washington D.C.

19 He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree and then
20 returned to New York and became a proud graduate of Fordham
21 University Law School and he obtained his law degree from
22 Fordham Law.

23 Besides being admitted to the local courts, United
24 States District, he also served as Town Justice in 1976 to
25 1990. He continued his practice of law during those years

1 with the Tully Law Firm in Yorktown which is now continued
2 with his daughter Tara.

3 Counsel to Yorktown Heights Fire Department was a
4 fun day for Andrew and he was actively involved in whatever
5 the Fire Department required of his time.

6 Like his predecessor of Irish background, he was a
7 lector at St. Patrick's Church and was a provider of the Pro
8 Bono legal services to St. Ann's Church in Ossining.

9 He loved to be known as a member of the American
10 Social Club of Irish derivative of Northern Westchester and
11 Putnam County.

12 Andrew Tully had the ability to do all of these
13 things, raise a family, enjoy his education, and enjoy his
14 children.

15 Not known by all, however, is that Andrew Tully was
16 an avid athlete who spent his early morning hours running,
17 race walking, cycling, and then most recently spinning.

18 To his surviving wife, Kathleen, and his children,
19 Tara, Kathleen, Alicia, and grandchildren, Aidan, James,
20 Emma, and Caitlin, have great memories of their grandfather.

21 The combination of physical and mental activities
22 and devoted family life gives to us a recognition of a man
23 who had deep religious beliefs to the law and his family.

24 We salute you, Judge Andrew W. Tully, Jr., and your
25 very wonderful career.

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HONORABLE HAROLD L. WOOD

How best could I describe this man. How better could anyone describe him.

He was a first. He was a trailblazer who became the first African-American of the County Board of Supervisors and distinguished himself and later was recognized and then elected as the first African-American State Supreme Justice in the County of Westchester.

Ladies and gentlemen, I refer to the Honorable Harold L. Wood.

This gentleman who lived to the wonderful age of 96 enjoyed a political and educational career that at that time was not easy to grasp upon.

His family is mindful and thoughtful about him because his daughter, LaVerne Jill, maintained a long history of her father's accomplishments that she loves to relate to friends and family.

What kind of a man was Harold Wood. What kind of a man was he who grew up to become a Justice of the Supreme Court at a time, and remember, at a time when it wasn't so easy to move if the color of your skin was different.

Well, at first we recognize that his daughter said he was "a guiding light." He was a guiding light of a man who knew how to bring about the teaching, the love and affection of his family.

1 His beginning was Ossining, New York. Having been
2 born in Ossining at the height of America's tension when
3 racial segregation was an accepted way of life, Harold Wood
4 forged a unique and wonderful rise to the Supreme Court
5 bench.

6 African-Americans in Westchester and throughout the
7 country recognized his ability.

8 Let's go back to World War II. During World War II
9 he served in the United States Air Corps and was stationed
10 in Tuskegee Air Base.

11 After serving the United States Air Corps, he was
12 honorably discharged and began his educational program at
13 Lincoln University and eventually obtained his Bachelor of
14 Arts Degree followed by being accepted and being brought
15 into the class of Cornell University School of Law where he
16 was granted a law degree.

17 Once admitted he was invited to become a member of
18 the Westchester County Bar Association.

19 Not satisfied with all of his accomplishments Judge
20 Wood returned and completed a Master's Degree at Lincoln
21 College. His career was like a meteor. He enjoyed his
22 successful political career and was elected to Mount Vernon
23 City Counsel and then thereafter the City Court Judgeship.
24 He was appointed County Court Judge. His crowning
25 achievement was the election to the Supreme Court and

1 everybody recognized the unique man that he was, Harold L.
2 Wood.

3 At his retirement dinner six hundred guests
4 attended with joy to celebrate his wonderful career.

5 Supreme Court Justice Orazio Bellantoni referred to
6 Judge Wood as his mentor and was extremely proud of the
7 things that he learned and watched and observed about Judge
8 Harold L. Wood.

9 LaVerne Jill Wood said, I remember him as dad. He
10 gave tremendous advice. He always told me take the high
11 road no matter how complex or aggressive things got.

12 Today we have a tribute to Judge Harold L. Wood.
13 It wouldn't be complete, however, if we didn't mention his
14 wonderful wife, Thelma, who bore him three children, LaVerne
15 Jill Wood, Gregory Lance Wood, and Dean Christopher Wood.

16 For those attorneys who come to this courthouse and
17 have occasion to do business at 800 or other rooms, I ask
18 you to drop into the County Clerk's Office and take a moment
19 and say hello to Dean Wood. That's his son. Dean will
20 certainly enjoy you remembering Judge Harold L. Wood.

21 Our Bar Association and all of its members salute
22 the life of Judge Harold L. Wood.

23 HONORABLE JUDITH S. KAYE

24 Honorable Judith S. Kaye, not a member of our
25 association, but certainly someone that should be mentioned

1 because this Judge is the epitome of the American beautiful
2 system that we have and an ability to, an opportunity to and
3 an availability to complete education and success, the
4 Honorable Judith S. Kaye.

5 Judith S. Kaye is the first woman to serve as the
6 New York Court of Appeals Chief Justice.

7 The Westchester County Bar Association recognizes
8 the accomplishments of Judith S. Kaye who presided as the
9 Chief Justice over the seven member Court for 16 years. She
10 had been appointed by Governor Mario M. Cuomo.

11 Primary in her majority opinions included the
12 decision that voided New York State's mandatory death
13 penalty for murderers already in prison for life and
14 broadening news media access to pretrial hearings.

15 Judge Kaye was born Judith Ann Smith in 1938 in
16 Monticello, New York. Her parents, Benjamin Smith and Lena
17 Cohen, were Jewish immigrants from Poland who lived on a
18 small farm.

19 After completing her high school, Judith Kaye
20 graduated from Barnard College, completed her law studies at
21 New York University Law School and did that at night.

22 Her legal career involved several major law firms
23 including an associate position at Sullivan and Cromwell,
24 the prestigious law firm in New York City.

25 The judicial career of Judge Kaye would require

1 delivery of many interesting and important decisions issued
2 from the Court of Appeals.

3 Accordingly, our committee determined that we limit
4 the commentary on the wonderful career of Judith S. Kaye.

5 Governor Andrew Cuomo has been heard to state that
6 Judge Kaye "believed in the fundamental promise of equal
7 rights for all New Yorkers and dedicated herself to
8 strengthening our judicial system and our juries."

9 So, in summation, Westchester County Bar members,
10 the judiciary of our district and all of the attorneys who
11 labor in the field of trial work agree that "Judge Kaye was
12 and did prove herself to be a remarkable Chief Justice."

13 So, Westchester County joins, with all of the Bar
14 Associations, and salutes her career.

15 Judge Scheinkman, I have now completed all of the
16 members and all of the commentaries that I believe were
17 appropriately related to their lives, their contributions,
18 and the wonderful experiences that we all enjoyed because of
19 their efforts. Thank you, sir.

20 HON. SCHEINKMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Nobile,
21 for your outstanding work and the diligent research that you
22 undertook to bring these remarkable people to life.

23 Whether as Judges or as lawyers, we have all worked
24 together in the law and ever since our days back in law
25 school we were all students of the law and we have all tried

1 in our own unique way to make contributions to the
2 betterment of our society and to try to leave the world in a
3 better place than we found it. And as Judges and lawyers
4 we've all dedicated ourselves to that effort and I think the
5 people we remember today all made very important vital
6 contributions.

7 As I listened to your remarks a number of things
8 occurred to me, Mr. Nobile.

9 When I first became Administrative Judge, Judge
10 Barone was a Judicial Hearing Officer and he presided over
11 the Trial Assignment Part, which was held in this room, and
12 he sat in this chair. So, as you were thinking about his
13 life and his career, I was thinking about him, and, of
14 course, his life intersected to a certain extent with Judge
15 Kaye's because I was also thinking -- and I know Amelia
16 DelVecchio will remember this -- that Judge Barone had a
17 very complicated adoption matter that tested the
18 constitutionality of the adoption law in which I represented
19 one of the sides and we had a very lengthy hearing on the
20 old sixth floor -- do you remember that, Amelia -- and the
21 case went to the Appellate Division that did not agree with
22 Judge Barone and it then went to the Court of Appeals which
23 did agree with Judge Barone in an opinion that was written
24 by Judge Kaye. So, there is a bit of intersection there
25 that I recall.

1 You mentioned Judge Coppola and the Bennett against
2 Jeffries decision.

3 In 1976, I was a law clerk for one of the judges
4 and that case raised incredible complications and that was
5 the only time, I think then and now, where a case that was
6 argued before the Court of Appeals in May was not decided
7 until September, to show you the complexity of the case, and
8 that was also an opinion that was written by the then Chief
9 Judge, Judge Charles Breitel.

10 Henry Logan was the County Attorney. I had the
11 opportunity to share some experiences with Henry, including
12 a glass at the St. Patrick's Day Dinner, which he was kind
13 enough to sneak me into.

14 Harold Wood also was a remarkable human being in
15 many ways. And what I would point out was that, for those
16 of you that may remember -- and, Raz, you may remember -- he
17 was a heck of a tennis player. That was his avocation. I
18 don't know where he picked it up from in his career, but
19 even in his older days when he wasn't quite as agile around,
20 he knew all of the shots and he knew how to put a spin on
21 the ball like nobody else could.

22 He was a remarkable, kind, and gentle person who
23 accomplished a great deal at a time when it was not easy for
24 people with his background to accomplish so much. So, I
25 thank you, Harold, for that service.

1 Ralph, I thank you so much for bringing all of
2 these people to life.

3 Kelly, I thank the Bar Association for once again
4 organizing this event.

5 Mr. Nobile, do you have an application?

6 MR. NOBILE: We do, sir.

7 At this time, Your Honor, first I'd like to, with
8 your permission, remind our families to please come up and
9 accept a rose as a memento of their being here and as a
10 memento of the names of the parties that we had on the
11 program.

12 I ask that this matter be now considered concluded
13 and that the minutes of the court record reflect that we
14 have now completed the memorial service for all of those
15 members who were mentioned during the course of the program.

16 HON. SCHEINKMAN: Thank you very much.

17 The application is granted.

18 I will also request that the minutes be prepared
19 and delivered to the family of each deceased.

20 We will also continue a tradition that we started
21 here having those minutes posted on the website so that we
22 don't lose these precious memories.

23 I also want to correct something that I should have
24 mentioned, which is, I did have an opportunity to speak with
25 Judge Kaye's daughter in the last couple of weeks and

1 advised her of this program, and, unfortunately, she was not
2 able to attend, but she did ask me to share the minutes with
3 her and she did ask me to let the Bar Association and all of
4 those present know how much she appreciates the recognition
5 of her mother's service.

6 So, with that, these proceedings are adjourned.

7 Thank you all for coming.

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