## MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE DAUPHIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION UPON THE DEATH OF SMITH BARTON GEPHART

Smith Barton Gephart passed away on November 30, 2013, after a lengthy struggle with cancer. He was born in Pittsburgh, PA, on July 2, 1927, and moved with his family to Dauphin County in 1933. He attended public schools in Paxtang and Harrisburg and graduated from Admiral Billard Academy in New London, CT. He obtained a Bachelors Degree from American University where he met his future wife, Marilyn Ashley. Bart entered the business world and he and Marilyn were married in 1953.

In the early 1960's Bart's brother-in-law, John Killian, encouraged him to take the Law School Aptitude Test. Bart scored in the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile and convinced himself that he had an aptitude for law. Despite the fact that he had a full-time job and a wife and son to support, he enrolled in American University's Washington School of Law as a night student. At the end of his first year of law school, he ranked first in his class. For four years he worked his day job, attended classes in the evening, and studied his law books at night while rocking his infant daughter to sleep in order to give Marilyn a break.

Upon receipt of his law degree, he came to Harrisburg and joined John Killian in his practice. Each week Bart clerked with John from Monday to Wednesday, traveled to Philadelphia to take the bar review course from Thursday through Saturday, and then traveled to Silver Spring, MD, to spend a few hours over the weekend with his family. Following his successful completion of the Bar Exam, Bart was sworn in to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and became a member of the Dauphin County Bar. In January 1967 the law firm of Killian & Gephart was formed.

Early on Bart showed an interest in criminal practice. Initially he volunteered his service as a public defender and later was appointed an Assistant Public Defender. He also served for many years as the Dauphin County Mental Health Hearing Officer. He practiced criminal law for over forty years. During that time he was counsel in many high-profile cases. However, perhaps his greatest client service came in *preventing* missteps by high profile people from becoming high profile cases. Over the years, many well-known people met Bart behind closed doors, after hours. They knew they could count on his wise counsel and absolute discretion. Some of his best work was done with no fanfare or publicity -- averting or silently resolving problems that would, if handled differently, have ended careers at great cost to the client. Bart became Of Counsel to his firm in 2007.

Bart had a quick wit. His recall and delivery of funny stories, some real, others imagined, was well known. He always found the humorous side of every situation and was a constant source of entertainment to his colleagues, family and friends. He was also an accomplished "piano man," who could liven any party from the keyboard. The sincere and more serious Bart was, perhaps, less well known - but just as compelling. His door was always open to friend or colleague - many of whom benefitted over the years from his compassionate ear and wise advice when facing personal or professional problems.

Bart's primary extracurricular service was to his profession. He served as President of the Dauphin County Bar Association, as a member and Chairman of the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, and as a member of the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board. He also formed the Senior Bar Section of the Dauphin County Bar Association and was active in its programming until he passed.

Bart was a lifelong member of Paxton Presbyterian Church where he served as an Elder, a Deacon, and as a member of the Adult Choir. He was a member of the Canada Fishing Club and enjoyed over forty fishing trips with the club. He was a member of West Shore Country Club and loved to play

golf. He and his friends made some forty trips to Myrtle Beach to play the challenging golf courses it offered.

Bart's personal warmth, humor, honesty, integrity, moral character, and devotion to his wife, children and grandchildren, will long be remembered by all who had the good fortune to know him. He was one of a kind. He was a lawyer's lawyer, whose wisdom and judgment were widely sought by clients and colleagues.

In commemorating his passing, we extend our deepest sympathies to his wife, Marilyn, his children, Robert A. Gephart and Susan Davies, and to his five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, extended family and countless friends.

The original and copies of this resolution shall be filed with the Office of the Prothonotary and in the permanent records of the Bar Association and transmitted to his widow and family.

Respectfully submitted this 19th day of March, 2014, by the resolution

committee.

John D. Killian, Chair

Thomas W. Scott

Terrence J. McGowan

Paul J. Killion

Hon. William W. Caldwell