

**BRUCE D. DESFOR, ESQUIRE
MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

DAUPHIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Presented in Special Session
Court of Common Pleas Dauphin County, Pennsylvania
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
October 26, 2022

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGES OF THE COURT, our colleagues at the Bar, and family and friends here today to celebrate the life of our colleague and friend - **Bruce D. Desfor**

Bruce was born on July 29, 1939 in Brooklyn, New York, the oldest of three brothers. Bruce graduated from Temple University and later attended Temple Law School at night while working as an American History teacher during the day. While at Temple Law, Bruce served as Case Note Editor and Executive Director of the Temple Law Quarterly.

After law school, Bruce moved to Harrisburg and worked as an associate at a prestigious law firm where he met and worked with I. Emmanuel (Manny) Meyers. After one year as an associate, Bruce and Manny left the firm and opened Meyers & Desfor in 1967.

Bruce was active in the Dauphin County and Pennsylvania Bar Associations serving as President of the Dauphin County Young Lawyers; Chairman of the Committee on Prepaid Legal Insurance; and serving as a member of the Minor Judiciary Education Board and Chairman of the Dauphin County Chapter.

During his career Bruce practiced in personal injury and family law. Bruce was active in the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association and served in a series of committee chairmanships and offices before being elected President of the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association in 1981. Bruce was also active in the Association of Trial Lawyers of America where he served as chairman of various committees and was a member of the Board of Governors.

While serving as President of the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers, the No-Fault Divorce Code

was passed and lawyers were needed to teach seminars about the new Code to the various county Bar Associations. Unable to find anyone to teach these seminars, Bruce decided to teach them himself and he traveled to the various county Bar Associations throughout Pennsylvania teaching seminars on the new Divorce Code. As a result of this, Bruce became known as a domestic lawyer throughout the state.

After Bruce became engaged in largely the practice of family law, he was elected a Fellow in the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, the only Pennsylvania attorney to be President of the Trial Lawyers Association and a Fellow in the Academy.

A significant achievement in his career was also his work in organizing, in conjunction with the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, the "Festival of Trial Lawyers" sponsored by the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. and attended by several million visitors.

In the 1990's Bruce was named Chairperson of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Legislative Committee on Family Law and he had the honor of testifying before the Pennsylvania Legislature on No-Fault Divorce. He also served as an expert witness in various cases regarding family law.

Bruce lectured nationally and internationally in the fields of personal injury and domestic relations law. He loved teaching seminars to lawyers and he trained and mentored many young lawyers. He took great pride in his many associates who went on to establish their own successful law firms even if they became his opponents, perhaps especially if they became his opponent.

Bruce also served as a mentor to accountants and other expert witnesses involved in his cases, preparing them for testimony and trial. Both the experts involved in his cases as well as his clients held tremendous respect and admiration for his professionalism and expertise.

Bruce was an aggressive and skilled litigator and a master of the art of cross-examination. Even if he was your opponent, you had to admire his skill in the courtroom which was something to behold.

Bruce was competitive in everything he did. He loved sports. He was an avid runner who ran a number of marathons. He also loved deep sea fishing and loved to turn fishing into a competition. Bruce loved the outdoors, boating, skiing and hiking. He loved to travel and traveled all over the world. Bruce had a wide range of interests and loved to learn new things, he was always up for a challenge. In middle age he studied for his Captain's license so he could pilot his yacht "The Proper Lady".

After retirement, Bruce divided his time between his homes in Florida and Florence, Italy. After moving to Florence, he became fluent in Italian, throwing himself into the language whole heartedly and attending Italian language classes 5 days a week.

Bruce was married to René the love of his life for 43 years. He is also survived by his two brothers, and his two sons and daughter.


Bruce had a great sense of humor and sharp wit. He had a larger than life personality and an invincible spirit. He passed away peacefully at his home in Florence, Italy on February 9, 2022. He was 82 years old at the time of his death. Bruce was one of a kind and he will be missed.

And so, **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Bar Association mourns the death of Bruce D. Desfor, and extends to his wife, René Desfor, and other family members and friends, our deepest sympathies. **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this memorial resolution be placed on the records of the Dauphin County Courts and Dauphin County Bar Association, that the original be filed in the Office of the Prothonotary, and that copies be transmitted to his

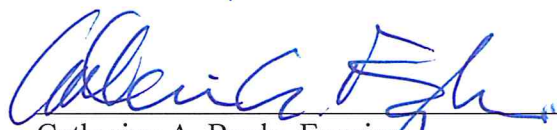
family.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED by the Memorial Committee on the death of Bruce D.

Desfor, this 26th day of October, 2022.



Laurie A. Saltzgeber, Esquire



Catherine A. Boyle, Esquire