

DAUPHIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
MEMORIAL RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF
JOHN C. "JACK" SULLIVAN (1927-2015)

Our friend, longtime colleague and partner, John C. "Jack" Sullivan, passed away on September 11, 2015 at the age of 87. Jack was born on October 23, 1927 in Erie, Pennsylvania, the son of the late John C. and Catherine (Carney) Sullivan. Jack's father was a fireman in Erie. Jack would often speak with fondness of the northwestern part of the Commonwealth despite its rigorous weather reputation. He graduated from Academy High School in Erie. He then attended Allegheny College, in Meadville, PA, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1953, and where he met his future wife, Helen, or "Betty" as she was known to her family and friends. At Allegheny, Jack and Betty also met lifelong friends and one of Jack's future law partners, Dave and Mary Eaton. In February, 1951, Jack had the good sense to marry Betty at a ceremony at the First Presbyterian Church in Jamestown, New York.

Jack went to work for IBM and then attended the Dickinson School of Law from which he graduated in 1959. Jack often spoke of his experiences with IBM and the business sense that it instilled in him and which he would later translate into his law practice.

Jack and his young family settled in the City of Harrisburg where Jack became actively involved in local Republican politics and which culminated in his being elected during a special election in November, 1963 to a seat in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives where he served until 1964. At that time, he decided to direct his efforts solely to the practice of law. He began his career with the firm of Nissley, Cleckner & Fearen and then moved to the firm he would stay with until his retirement, Nauman, Smith, Shissler & Hall. Jack's sense of public service was further evidenced by his prior stints as a member of the Harrisburg City Council, Director of Accounts and Finance for the City of Harrisburg, and as an Assistant City Solicitor and City Solicitor. Jack retired from Nauman Smith in 1997.

Jack had a sharp "legal mind" and practiced in many areas of the law over the years. He represented numerous businesses of various sizes and their officers in all aspects of their legal needs and developed a considerable practice representing creditors when the "new" Bankruptcy Act of 1979 became effective. He also developed a particular interest and demonstrated notable ability in the representation of news media organizations, particularly *The Patriot-News* and *The York Daily Record*. Jack's representation of these clients involved several areas, including the defense of reporters protecting the confidentiality of their sources when subpoenaed by government agencies, involvement in grand jury proceedings and in obtaining access to government records under the predecessor of our current Right to Know Law. An open and transparent government at all levels was a strongly held principle of Jack's.

Also, Jack's representation of *The Patriot-News* in defamation claims resulted in case law which still governs today not only in defamation defense, but also resulted in the adoption by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court of the federal standard of review applicable to non-moving parties opposing motions for summary judgment.

Jack was a zealous advocate, and there may be some in the room today who were the recipients of one of what we referred to as his "double book" letters. We often said that if you went into Jack's office while he was composing a letter and he had his dictionary open, that the recipient was really in for it. If he had both his dictionary and his thesaurus open, his opponent may as well run for the hills. His enthusiasm for his clients was steadfast and tenacious.

Jack was a member of the Pennsylvania Society. He would often use the occasion of its annual dinners to visit with his son, Michael, who is also an attorney, currently living and practicing in Colorado.

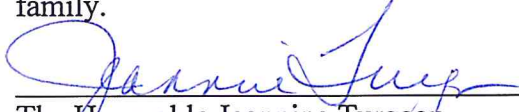
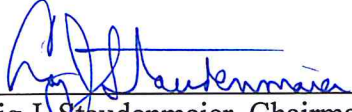
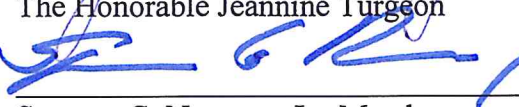
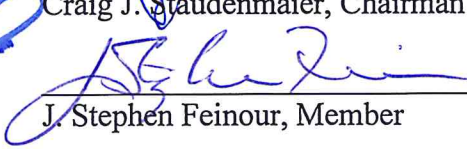
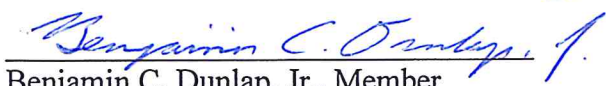
Unfortunately, Betty, or Tini, as Jack affectionately referred to her, predeceased him having passed away in 2002. He is survived by his four children, John C. Sullivan, III, of Mechanicsburg, Timi Sullivan, of Mechanicsburg, Michael Sullivan and his wife, Lynne, of Denver, Colorado, Elizabeth Randolph and her husband, Douglas, of Cochranville, and the apple of his eye, a granddaughter, Ellie Sullivan, as well as, a brother, James Sullivan of Erie.

Those of us who had the pleasure of knowing and practicing law with Jack will always remember him as a skillful practitioner, a knowledgeable mentor, a valued partner, a trusted colleague and friend. Memories of the lawyer and colleague he was will be treasured, and his presence will be sorely missed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in the passing of John C. "Jack" Sullivan, his family, his colleagues and the community have lost an honest, dedicated and trusted colleague and friend, and that our Bar has lost one of its most able practitioners.

And Be It Further Resolved, that the members of the Dauphin County Bar Association, in meeting assembled, mourn the death of our esteemed colleague, John C. "Jack" Sullivan, and tender our deepest sympathies and condolences to his family, John, Timi, Michael, and Elizabeth, his brother James, and their children and families.

And Be It Further Resolved, that copies of this Memorial Resolution be spread upon the records of the Dauphin County Courts and the Dauphin County Bar Association, that the original copy be filed in the Office of the Prothonotary, and that copies be transmitted to his family.

 _____ The Honorable Jeannine Turgeon	 _____ Craig J. Staudenmaier, Chairman
 _____ Spencer G. Nauman, Jr., Member	 _____ J. Stephen Feinour, Member
 _____ Benjamin C. Dunlap, Jr., Member	