

Memorial Resolution
Honoring the Life of Alvina Roberta Martin Forthner

Alvina Forthner, our beloved friend and colleague, suddenly departed from this life on March 29, 2012 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. That day will always be known as one in which the lights of one of our shining stars was diminished too soon from this earth.

Alvina, known as “Vina” by her family and friends, was born in Trenton, New Jersey and was the daughter of Patricia Killingsworth Martin and the late Lester Martin. Always known as being very bright and inquisitive, she informed her family at a young age that she was going to be an attorney. She received her formal education in the Trenton, New Jersey Public School System, graduating at the valedictorian of her class from Trenton High School in 1986.

Alvina received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science in 1991 from Rutgers University and her Juris Doctor in 1994 from the University of Maryland School of Law. After completing law school she served as a probation officer in the Mercer County Probation Department in Trenton, New Jersey, as well as a law clerk and Attorney for the firm of Gray and Gray. Upon moving to New Orleans, Louisiana, she became an assistant District Attorney and operated her own practice as a sole practitioner for four years.

Alvina came to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania as a result of Hurricane Katrina. Her daughter and In-laws were one of the first families to relocate here with the assistance of Bethel Village A.M.E. Church. The Pastor, Rev. Martin D. Odom, was her former Pastor in New Orleans. Her church family provided the emotional and physical support that her and her family needed as they struggled to adjust to their new lives here in Pennsylvania. It was through her church family that I first met Alvina and her daughter.

Through all the adversities of this struggle, Alvina was strong willed and focused on passing the bar exam for Pennsylvania, which she did with ease, on

the first try. She quickly obtained a position with the Office of General Counsel, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, where she served as a Prosecutor for the Licensing Boards in the Department of State. Her co-workers loved the joy she brought to the office, the commitment that she brought to her work and for showing them how to truly celebrate Mardi Gras each year.

As a caregiver to a young child and elderly family members, she persevered and worked to help others. She loved the Lord and was active in her church, serving on many boards, teaching Vacation Bible School, Sunday School and serving as an advisor in the Young People's Department.

She was also active in the Harrisburg Alumni Chapter of her Sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated, as well as Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated, and the Civics Education Alliance of the Harrisburg School District.

As a member of the bar, her activities were also numerous. In addition to being a member of the Dauphin County Bar Association, she was also active with the Pennsylvania Bar Association and the Pennsylvania Bar Institute. She was also a member of the Black Prosecutor Association, American Health Lawyers Association, all while going to school to obtain her Master of Laws Degree in Trial Advocacy, which she earned in 2011 from the Temple University's Beasley School of Law.

Alvina showed us that we can overcome obstacles and struggles and achieve our goals. But most of all she showed us how to love one another and to provide a helping hand to those around you. If you ever thought you were helping out Alvina when you first met her, you quickly found out that she was really helping you.

Alvina will be greatly missed for how she loved her family and friends and the joy that she brought to them. She will be missed greatly by her loving husband, Desaray and her beautiful and loving daughter Amira.

Therefore, be it resolved, that in the passing of Alvina Roberta Martin Forthner, her family, friends and the community have lost a beautiful and caring person and the bar has lost a truly talented legal mind.

And Further Resolved, that the members of the Dauphin County Bar Association, mourn the death of our colleague, Alvina Roberta Martin Forthner, and express our sympathy and condolences to her family,

And Further Resolved, that a copy of this Memorial Resolution be spread upon the records of the Dauphin County Courts and Dauphin County Bar Association, that the original copy be filed in the Office of the Prothonotary, and that a copy be transmitted to her Husband and Daughter.

Respectfully submitted,

Gladys M. Brown, Member
Dauphin County Bar Association

September 19, 2012