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**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE
DAUPHIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
UPON THE DEATH OF
HONORABLE CLARENCE C. MORRISON**

Clarence C. Morrison died on Thanksgiving Day, November 22nd, 2012. His death at age 82 brought to a close a remarkable life and a distinguished career of public and professional service. Born February 17, 1930, in Charleston, South Carolina, he graduated from Howard University, receiving his B. S. degree in 1954. He then served in the U.S. Army, as a second lieutenant for two years, and entered Howard University Law School in 1956. Upon graduation from law school in 1959, he moved with wife Grace and young son Derricott, to Harrisburg to start his legal career.

He began his career in this Courthouse, in 1960, serving as a law clerk to the legendary Judge, Carl B. Shelly. He then worked in the Auditor General's office, and thereafter in the Pa. Department of Revenue for several years, but returned to the courthouse in 1965 and served as an Assistant District Attorney for four years. (His years with Judge Shelly and the D.A.'s office were a rich storehouse of memorable anecdotes, stories, and lessons for Judge Morrison.) From 1969 to 1976, he served as counsel to the Pennsylvania State Education Association, and also maintained a private law practice, under the firm name of Morrison and Atkins.

In 1980, Clarence Morrison was appointed as a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in Dauphin County, by Governor Dick Thornburgh. He was elected by the citizens of Dauphin County in November 1981 to a ten year term, and retained in the election of 1991. He was the first, and to date, still is the only African-American person to serve in that office. His election reflected the confidence which his professional brethren had in his experience, his

temperament, his judgment, and his integrity. At that time, the endorsement of the majority party (Republican voter registration was dominant in the county), was a critical prerequisite to a successful candidacy, and Clarence Morrison's success in the general election (and in his retention election) was a testament to the broad support he enjoyed throughout the county.

Those who did not live through the times should understand that the bar (and its Association) were highly exclusionary when Clarence Morrison came to town – now 54 years ago. It was understood that only a single African-American lawyer ought to be admitted to active practice here. Clarence Morrison was on the leading edge of change in that invidious practice. It should also be noted that members of the bar like Judge Shelly, Dick Cleckner, and Dick Placey were instrumental in vouching for Clarence Morrison and helping him to overcome some of the barriers of that history. Judge Morrison worked tirelessly and throughout his career to encourage and to open opportunities for aspiring African-American students who had potential interest in professional and legal careers.

On taking the bench, Judge Morrison quickly demonstrated his unique blend of personal qualities that made him a fine judge: He brought humility, decency, and empathy, but combined those attributes with a quiet strength and resolve, as well as a highly developed understanding of the foibles of human nature. He could demonstrate real firmness in administering justice, but was open to the appeal for mercy as well. He was free from prejudgments; he listened carefully to the matters at hand, and demonstrated independence of thought in his decisions. He expected professionalism from lawyers who appeared before him, and allowed lawyers to try their cases and present their arguments. He would show patience with litigants, even when patience was undeserved.

In 1993, Judge Morrison became President Judge of the Court, and served in that capacity until his retirement in February 2000. As President Judge, Judge Morrison appointed a number of Custody Conciliators, Juvenile Court Masters, and Divorce Masters, some who are still serving today. Former Middletown Mayor, Robert G. Reid, served as his Court Administrator; both had a mutual respect, trust and confidence in one another. As President Judge, he would preside over the monthly meetings of the entire court. Those meetings were cordial, practical, and short. He did not favor lengthy meetings. He then accepted Senior Judge status and continued to serve until the end of 2005, completing 25 years of judicial service to the citizens of the County and Commonwealth.

At the time of presentation to him of a "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the PBA Minority Bar Committee, it was said:

"Judge Morrison's greatest contribution to the legal profession may be in the profound impact he made on the careers and lives of countless young people, young lawyers, and law students...He served as a mentor and role model to law clerks, interns, and many youth organizations. Judge Morrison instilled in young people the belief that careers were available to them in the legal profession. He opened his courtroom on countless occasions, permitting them to observe the legal process from a perspective other than as a participant in the juvenile justice system. Moreover, he always took the time to say a few encouraging words to the young people visiting his courtroom."

Fittingly, our Association, in the year 2000, established the Clarence C. Morrison Equal Professional Opportunity Award, to recognize annually some exceptional contribution made by a person or law firm to advancing the cause of equal opportunity, and to keep that cause ever before us.

Clarence Morrison's service in the wider community is equally remarkable. To name some of his more prominent engagements:

- He served for seven years on the Harrisburg Housing Authority; two as its president. The Morrison Towers building at Chesnut and Mulberry Streets is named in his honor.
- He was an integral part of Opportunities Industrialization Centers, Inc., serving as an officer, director, legal advisor, fundraiser, and mobilizer of community support over many years.
- He was a founding and active member of his church, Tabernacle Baptist Church, serving as trustee, legal advisor, Sunday School teacher.
- He served as a Scout Master for ten years.
- He served on the Mayor's Committee on Human Relations.
- He served on the Board of Directors of the Harrisburg NAACP, and the Hamilton Bank.
- He was a charter member of the Harrisburg Optimists Club.
- He was an officer of Yoke Crest, Inc. (an organization assisting ex-offenders re-entering life after prison).

He served and supported other organizations as well; in all, his was a remarkable life of public service to the community as well as to the profession. Among the other honors acknowledging that service was the designation in 2000 of a city park, near 12th and Herr Streets, to be known as "the Clarence C. Morrison Park."

This resolution should also note that Clarence Morrison was a devoted and beloved husband, father, and grandfather. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Grace Fulton Morrison, who was his life's companion. Their affection and support for each other was transparent, and a joy to behold. His two sons, Derricott and Mark honor his memory by following his guidance and his example. He is also survived by his sister Miriam Tomlinson, three grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. We express to his family our deepest sympathy for their loss; we share that loss as well.

His family and his faith were his priorities in life. Those who spoke at his funeral service affirmed his dedication to both. Judge Morrison firmly believed that death was not an end but a passage way to a new day and eternal life with his GOD. Winston Churchill had that same thought. "The Prime Minister planned his own funeral. According to the Prime Minister's instructions, two buglers were positioned high in the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral. At the conclusion of the funeral service, the first one played taps, the signal of a day completed. Immediately thereafter, with the sounds of the first song still ringing in the dome, the second bugler played reveille, the song of a new day begun!"¹ Judge Morrison's family and close friends know that he heard the notes of the second bugler.

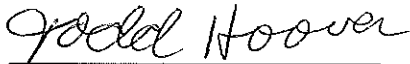
Therefore, be it resolved, that in the passing of Clarence C. Morrison, the bar, the Court, and the community have lost a friend, a mentor, a professional colleague, and valued citizen. We miss him greatly and we tender our sympathy and condolences to his widow and his family.

¹ Rev. Billy Graham remarks – April 27, 1994

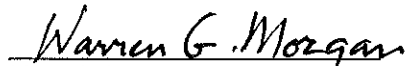
Be it further resolved, that we reaffirm for ourselves that the life example he gave us of generosity of spirit and of service to others is one which we would do well to emulate.

And resolved further 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 be filed in the Office of the Prothonotary, and copies transmitted to his widow and his family.

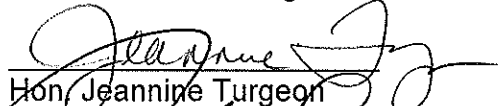
Respectfully submitted,



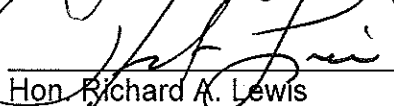
Hon. Todd A. Hoover, P.J., Chairman



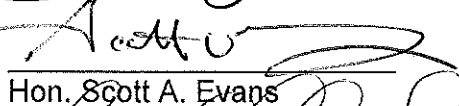
Hon. Warren G. Morgan



Hon. Jeannine Turgeon



Hon. Richard A. Lewis



Hon. Scott A. Evans



Hon. Lawrence F. Clark, Jr.



Hon. John F. Cherry



Hon. Bruce F. Bratton



Hon. Deborah E. Curcillo



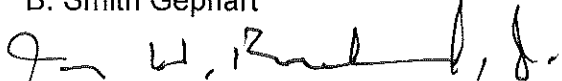
Hon. Bernard L. Coates



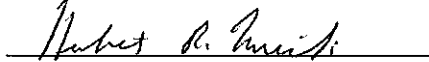
Hon. Andrew H. Dowling




B. Smith Gephart



James H. Rowland, Jr.



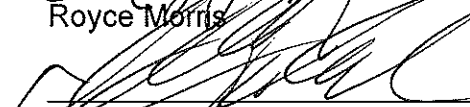
Herbert R. Nurick



William H. Nast




Royce Morris




Stephen Nudel




William H. Nast



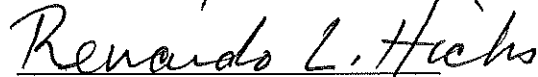
Mark Morrison




William L. Adler



Dianne I. Nichols



Renardo L. Hicks



David E. Lehman