

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, DAUPHIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE DAUPHIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
UPON DEATH OF ITS MEMBER

**JUDITH A. CALKIN**

Good afternoon, my name is Mark Silliker. I am here to speak on behalf of our dear friend, Judy Calkin. Judy was born in Owosso, Michigan in 1940. Her parents were Frank and Muriel Finton. She attended the University of Michigan where she met her college sweetheart Ken Calkin. She graduated in 1962. Judy and Ken were blessed with three children: Lisa is an engineer in Pittsburgh, David is a college professor in Missoula, Montana, and Jamie is a college professor in Athens, Georgia. As we all knew, she was also blessed with seven grandchildren. For 12 years after college, Judy taught social studies and English to middle school students. She then decided she wanted to be a lawyer, and she graduated from Dickinson in 1978.

Judy worked for Legal Services in Carlisle for three years, and then she came to Harrisburg in 1981 and opened her own law practice with Maxine Lewis. When she started, she was doing both criminal law and domestic law, but she quickly switched over to just family law.

Judy was an extremely skilled practitioner. She was a zealous advocate for her clients, but she was also absolutely respected by her peers. She mentored many, many young lawyers, including myself. She was held in the highest esteem by those of us in the legal community, and for that matter, anyone who ever came in contact with her. But that is just Judy the lawyer. While she was certainly a gifted lawyer, she was one of the most extraordinary people I will ever meet in my life.

The Calkin household was always full of neighbors, friends, attorneys, and anybody who wanted to stop by. Everyone was welcome, and if it was dinnertime, you were encouraged to take a seat and share in their meal.

I think anybody who knew Judy would readily agree that she was one of the kindest and most thoughtful persons we will ever know. She was incredibly supportive of everyone, and I think her whole life revolved around helping others. Everywhere Judy went, joy followed. She had that Irish twinkle in her eye, she was always smiling, and she was usually laughing.

I think the bottom line with Judy is that she was just an extremely sociable person. She just lit up whenever she saw a person, and that means any person. She loved her friends, she loved her co-workers, she loved her clients, she loved opposing counsel, and she just loved everybody. She was one of the founders of a group of female domestic attorneys in the late 80's. They called themselves the Matrimonial Mammams. I guess eventually as they got older they changed the name to Domestic Divas, but all of you get the idea. This is a group of 40 or 50 women who would go to Judy's house once a month and hang around her pool. They made it real clear that men were not invited, but that seemed kind of foolish because I don't know any man in his right mind who would have ever gone near that group anyway. I guess they consumed a fair amount of alcohol, told a lot of jokes, and had a lot of fun. It certainly led to a lot of camaraderie, and I have to say it helped our Bar Association.

Judy served this county for many years as a court-appointed Custody Conciliator. She was probably the best we ever had. Again, she was always so helpful, kind, and thoughtful towards all the people who came through her conferences. She took their problems and made them her own, and she helped a lot of families rebuild through difficult times.

Again, I think the bottom line is that Judy just liked to help people. If someone was in need, she was always there. She would help her clients regardless of whether they could pay her fee, and believe me, most of them never even tried. She would also help opposing counsel, and she helped a lot of judges.

Did I tell you she went to the University of Michigan? Well, for the record, she did. She was a Wolverine through and through. During most football seasons, you could find Judy walking through the halls of the fourth floor of the Courthouse happily singing the Michigan fight song. For all her kindness and thoughtfulness, she never missed a chance to give us Penn State fans a hard time. But she saved the real abuse for Notre Dame fans. Unfortunately, it was some sort of fall ritual for Michigan to beat not only Penn State, but also Notre Dame. She would go out of her way to find Mike Rozman, Bill Tully, or for that matter His Honor John Cherry himself and make sure they knew that the hallowed halls of college football were actually in Ann Arbor, not South Bend. Seriously, she showed no mercy. Her greatest put-down of all was to tell Judge Cherry, "You guys are no big deal, you can't even beat Penn State."

If she saw somebody who was sad or stressed, she would do her best to cheer them up. She would always be there to help. I remember one time we were up on the fifth floor waiting to see Judge Turgeon about a custody case and Judge Clark came walking through the hall. I think he had been having a bad day, because believe it or not, as hard as it may seem to believe, Judge Clark was actually frowning. Judy saw the frown and she walked right up to him as fast as she could, and started talking to him and gave him some words of encouragement. She patted him on the back and the next thing you know, despite his best efforts to the contrary, Judge Clark was smiling, laughing, and describing a difficult case. That is just how Judy was. When I spoke with Judge Clark a couple days ago, he aptly described Judy as one of God's angels.



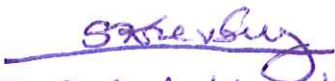
Judy had incredible strength. In 1990 she was diagnosed with advanced breast cancer and the doctors told her there was a good chance she might not survive. It took her a while, but she beat the disease and blessed us with 20 more years. Throughout the ordeal, she would generally refuse to talk about herself, and continued to be a source of kindness for others. When I visited her in the hospital, she refused to talk about herself. She only wanted to know how I was doing. I could go on forever. I sure do miss her. I will never forget that happy woman with that sweet voice and the beautiful smile.

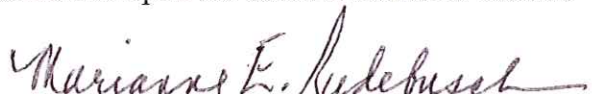
Judy Calkin represented the best of life, and certainly the best of our profession.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in the passing of JUDITH A. CALKIN we have lost a valued member of our profession and that it is meet and proper that her death should be remembered and memorialized by our bench and bar.


AND FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be spread upon the records of our Court, with the original filed in the Office of the Prothonotary, and a copy become part of the records of the Dauphin County Bar Association and copies be transmitted to her widower and family.

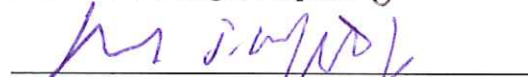
Respectfully submitted by the Memorial Committee upon the death of Judith A. Calkin.


  
Sanford A. Krevsky

  
Marianne E. Rudebusch, Esquire

  
Elizabeth A. Hoffman, Esquire

  
Joanne H. Clough, Esquire

  
Richard F. Maffett, Jr., Esquire

  
Mark T. Silliker, Esquire, Chair