

Dauphin County Bar Association**Memorial Resolution****On the Death of****Matthew R. Gover**

Our friend and colleague, Matthew R. Gover, better known as Matt or just plain Gover, died on November 27, 2012, at the age of 52. Our profession is far better off because of him, the examples he set and the life he lead.

Matt was born on November 22, 1960, in Flint Michigan, to Raymond L. and Frieda J. Gover. Matt's siblings include sisters, Janine Park (Camp Hill, PA), Janet Gover (Kalamazoo, MI), and brother, Mark Gover (Saginaw, MI). Matt's pride and joy were his two sons, John Gover, a junior at Gettysburg College, and Andrew Gover, a junior at Camp Hill High School. Matt recently reconnected with his high school sweetheart, Juli Simpson, and six weeks prior to his diagnosis with brain cancer, she became Juli Gover. Juli was by Matt's side literally 24 hours a day during his final six months and she gave him great comfort during this tragic period.

Matt graduated from Saginaw (MI) Arthur Hill High School in 1979. He then earned his college degree from Alma College (MI) in 1983, and law degree from the Dickinson School of Law in 1986. His legal career began as a clerk for the Honorable Warren G. Morgan, former President Judge of the Dauphin County Court of Common Pleas. "I owe Judge Morgan more than he will ever know," Matt used to say.

From 1987-1989, Matt served as a Dauphin County Deputy District Attorney under District Attorney Richard A. Lewis. He quickly developed a reputation as a skilled trial lawyer with keen intellect. In 1989, Matt joined Caldwell and Kearns, a Harrisburg law firm. "Tom Caldwell and Dick Kearns taught me not only how to practice law but how to treat people," Matt often said. He developed a thriving criminal defense practice in addition to handling insurance defense cases and collections for the Harrisburg Patriot-News Company, then run by his father, Ray. Matt rose to co-managing partner, along with James G. Nealon, in 1995.

In May of 1996, Matt Gover and Jim Nealon departed Caldwell and Kearns, and Nealon and Gover, at 301 Market Street, Harrisburg, began. This two person firm thrived and in January of 1997, Brian Perry became the first associate. At that time, Matt's practice transitioned into primarily insurance defense for Allstate and Progressive Insurance Companies. Perry handled most of the firm's criminal matters, but Matt always kept his hand in the criminal defense business.

The firm became Nealon Gover and Perry in 2000, and quickly grew to 9 lawyers, and full time staff of 7, with offices at 2411 North Front Street, Harrisburg, and various locations in York. From 2001 on, Matt's practice shifted back to his true love, criminal defense, in both state and federal court. His reputation as one of Pennsylvania's best defense lawyers quickly grew. His notable clients included Chauncey Gladfelter, a defendant in the York "Race Riots" case; former State Representative Thomas Druce; and many other prominent politicians, professionals, and government officials. Matt lived by the words:

"No one will ever out work me"; "Never forget where you came from"; "Treat your clients as though they were your own family"; and "Always be fair to clients and tell the truth". After Matt's passing, many attorneys have commented on how much they learned by watching Matt in Court and how he conducted himself. One younger attorney noted, "He was always so prepared...and so smart. He was always in control, yet respectful to the Court".

In 2009, with the addition of Casey G. Shore, Nealon Gover and Perry became Gover Perry and Shore, primarily a criminal defense firm. The awards and notoriety soon followed for Matt. He became one of a handful of attorneys certified as a criminal defense advocate by the National Board of Trial Advocacy, a Pennsylvania Super Lawyer, and a Top 100 Trial Lawyer by the National Trial Lawyers Association. He tried over 150 criminal and civil cases in front of a jury in counties across Pennsylvania. He loved to out-think and out-work the prosecution.

Matt was different from most criminal defense attorneys. He would battle prosecutors and police officers in court, yet remain loyal friends with his opponents outside of the courtroom. When Matt's opponent's family and friends would get arrested, he was often the first person they contacted for help. In fact, a large bouquet of flowers from the Fraternal Order of Police was delivered to the firm on the day after Matt's death. The note read, "We are sorry to lose a great lawyer and a great friend". Not many defense lawyers would receive this ultimate display of respect. "For him, honor was everything," said Dauphin County Judge John F. Cherry, Matt's friend of over 20 years. "If you were an honorable person, that's what mattered most to Matt. And he lived that way. I've been lucky enough that I can say Matt Gover was my true friend."

In his free time, Matt faithfully followed his Wolverines from the University of Michigan. He also enjoyed reading, golf and regular trips to the shore. He loved his frequent lunches—which often spilled over into dinners—with another true friend, Sal Purpura of Mechanicsburg. A glass of wine and a cigar were never far from Matt after the work day.

Matt Gover never took himself too seriously. He would often "belly laugh" in the privacy of his office, despite his often serious and focused demeanor in court. Not many people got to see this side of Matt Gover. "The captain of the debate team and the high school quarterback," Matt would frequently say to his law partner Perry. "What a combination." Perry's response was always, "You are Alaska---cold, barren and distant. I am Florida—warm, soft and fun. It is amazing we are part of the same country." Gover would always chuckle at that.

He will be missed by his partners, his family, his opponents, his clients and his friends. He has left the practice of law in Dauphin County in a better place than when he began 25 years ago.

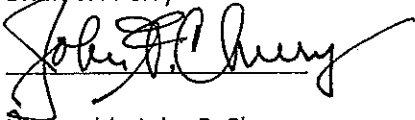
Now, therefore, be it resolved, that we the members of the Dauphin County Bar Association, extend our sympathy to the family of Matthew R. Gover, his wife, Julie Gover, his children, John and Andrew Gover, and his parents, Ray and Frieda Gover, and,

Be it further resolved, that this memorial resolution be spread upon the records of the Dauphin County Court and the Dauphin County Bar Association.

Respectfully submitted by the Memorial Resolution Committee on the death of Matthew R. Gover, this 20th day of March, 2013.



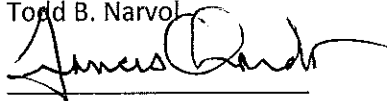
Brian W. Perry



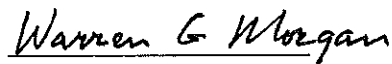
Honorable John F. Cherry



Todd B. Narvol



Francis T. Chardo III



Honorable Warren G. Morgan