

Dauphin County Bar Association
Memorial Resolution on the Death of
Richard R. Lefever

Richard Roop Lefever, a respected Dauphin County practitioner, died on October 28, 2023, at his home in Mechanicsburg. He was 87 years old. Dick Lefever was born in Carlisle on March 19, 1936, to the late LeVerne B. Lefever and Etta R. Lefever.

After graduating from high school, Dick attended Princeton University, graduating in 1958. He went on to Harvard Law School and graduated from that institution in 1961. Immediately after graduation he joined the firm of McNees Wallace & Nurick, then housed at Second and Pine Streets in the Commerce Building. Mr. McNees had established the custom of assigning a routing number to each lawyer. Mr. McNees was No. 1; Gilbert Nurick was No. 3, and Dick Lefever was designated number 17 in that growing organization.

Dick was assigned to work with the group of lawyers whose practice was focused on business and tax matters, a group headed by the late Arthur Berger, also a Harvard graduate. The Tax Department as it was then called, handled the full range of business matters, including business formation, transactions, counseling and real estate. It was an era when lawyers tended more toward being a generalist than a highly focused specialist, and that was true for Dick's practice as well.

The firm at that time had a growing role in representing Hershey interests, and in those days they were an interlocked set of interests, headed by Hershey Chocolate Company, The Milton Hershey School and its Trust, and the Hershey Estates entity which managed a wide array of property interests including the Community Building, and the Amusement park, to name a few. Dick was one of several lawyers who were chosen by Mr. Nurick to serve legal needs of the Hershey interests as they arose and were entrusted to the McNees firm.

In time, as the volume and variety of Hershey work increased, Dick's work was increasingly devoted to the Hershey client needs. Notably, he worked on the legal teams that accomplished two significant changes in the Milton Hershey School Trust – the noteworthy *Cy Pres* proceeding that contributed \$50 million and land for the construction of the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, and a lesser known but important modification of the Deed of Trust which opened the School to admission of girls and removed the restriction which had limited School admission to "boys."

In personality and manner, Dick was bright, focused, and projected an intensity and clarity about his work that was impressive. He was analytical and a quick study. He worked collegially with other lawyers and was attentive and courteous to the arguments and positions of others while advocating for his desired outcome. However, if pushed by

people or positions that offended his sensibilities he could be pointed in his reaction and opinions. Dick helped in the recruitment and development of younger lawyers coming into the firm. Dick became chairman of the Tax Department and served in that capacity for a number of years prior to his retirement from the firm at the end of 1996.

Dick was of slender build and athletic; he had a classic button-down ivy league style about him. For many years he was a noontime jogger, and, with several other McNees running devotees, would go out for a noontime run along the riverfront. The lobbying efforts of that group led to the installation of a shower room in the mid-1980s major renovations of the office. Dick also was an avid tennis player throughout much of his life.

That group of McNees runners had an epic but unscheduled race that is fixed in the memories of those who saw or participated in it. It took place at the end of a social evening – hosted by Senior Partner Ed First at the Penn National Race Course. For a number of years, Ed would invite the firm’s lawyers and spouses to a social summer evening in the newly constructed Turf Club – the private club on the top floor of the Race Course, overlooking the track. The evening was spent with drinks, dinner, alcohol, and betting on the 9 races of the evening, one race going off every twenty minutes. So there was plenty of time for socializing with an open bar close by. After the last horse race was run, someone issued a challenge – to run around the mile-long track. Male bravado being what it is, or was, the challenge was answered and five McNees lawyers climbed over the chain link fence that separated the race track from the patrons, and took off running. By report, they ran the race in their shorts. The time it took to complete the race isn’t recorded, but, also by report, their spouses were mortified. Four of the participants are living today and will not be named in this record, but Dick was one of them. Because Ed First was one of the ten owners of the Penn National track, there was no consequence for that escapade.

Dick was active in the Dauphin County Bar Association for a number of years, serving on the board and in various leadership positions leading up to service as President in 1986. We had 835 members in that year, and during his term were several notable accomplishments. The newly founded “Minority Relations Committee” as it was then called, organized a job fair to encourage firms to hire minority lawyers. The fair was held in October of that year and fifteen firms invited minority student candidates for employment interviews. Also noteworthy, the “Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee” was formed, and the Association established its first substantive law sections, leading off with the Domestic Relations Section and the Government Law Section, both formed during his presidency. The Bar was very supportive of the legal services program and made preparations to underwrite the cost of adding one additional lawyer to the local legal services office, with funding through the Bar Foundation. (The 1986 minutes of the Board also show that John Cherry was admitted to membership in September of that year. An outstanding year for the Association indeed.)

In addition to his service to the organized bar, Dick also was active in multiple charitable activities, and was active for many years on the annual fundraising work of the Tri-County United Way Campaign, serving as a volunteer, as a Leadership donor and Board member.

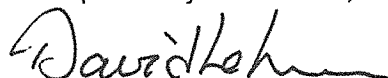
Dick and his wife enjoyed traveling both in the U.S. and the world, and he also enjoyed photographing his travels.

Dick was married to Linda Lefever, who predeceased him. He is survived by his daughter Elizabeth and by his son and daughter-in-law Richard and Christy Lefever.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THIS ASSOCIATION MOURNS THE DEATH OF RICHARD R. LEFEVER AND WITH HIS PASSING WE MARK THE LOSS OF A GOOD MAN, A FINE LAWYER, AND A LOYAL AND PRODUCTIVE MEMBER OF HIS FIRM, HIS PROFESSION, AND HIS COMMUNITY.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THIS RESOLUTION BE FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE PROTHONOTARY, AND THAT COPIES BE MAINTAINED WITH THE RECORDS OF THE DAUPHIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION. OFFICE, AND FORWARDED TO HIS CHILDREN.

Respectfully submitted,



David E. Lehman

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March 6, 2024