

Harry L. Bricker, Jr., Esq.
Memorial Resolution

Dauphin County Bar Association
Presented in Special Session of the
Court of Common Pleas, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania

Courtroom No. 1, Dauphin County Courthouse
Harrisburg, PA
September 21, 2016 at 4:00 P.M.

Greetings to the Judges of the Court, to family members, to our colleagues at the Bar, and to friends in attendance.

Our colleague and friend, **Harry L. Bricker, Jr.**, died on Friday, April 1st, 2016, at the age of 87. He had practiced law in Dauphin County, and was a member of our Dauphin County Bar Association, for fifty-three years.

What is a proper standard before this Court, and for us in attendance, to determine the “Measure of a Man”, as applied to this man, **Harry L. Bricker, Jr.**?

Of course, Harry’s religion -- and each of ours – delineates values and codes of conduct. That is beyond our consideration here.

Instead, among his fellow professionals this afternoon, we consider the “Measure of a Man” in a civil setting.

Greek philosopher Plato (428 - 348 BC) first stated such a standard when he said, “The measure of a man is what he does with power.”

Others weighed in more recently with different definitions:

- Writer Samuel Johnson (1727 - 1819) said, “The true measure of a man is how he treats someone who can do him absolutely no good.”
- Psychologist William James (1842 - 1910) concluded: “Effort is a measure of a Man.”
- Contemporary writer, J. K. Rowling, postulated, “If you want to see the true measure of a man, watch how he treats his inferiors, not his equals.”

- Baseball player Ernie Banks (1931 - 2015) declared: “The measure of a man is in the lives he’s touched.”
- Vice President Joe Biden recalled his standard, “My dad always said, ‘Champ, the measure of a man is not how often he is knocked down, but how quickly he gets up.’”

We provide this background because we think Harry would have argued the standard and all related points quite deliberately and exhaustively in a conversation, if he were here with us today.

By any of these standards, Harry lived his life in *full measure*.

Harry graduated from Lebanon Valley College, and then The Dickinson School of Law. He remained connected to both. He was a recipient of an Alumni Citation from his Alma Mater, and served as president of its General Alumni Association. His connection with The Dickinson School of Law continued as a member of its President's Club and as a member of the 1834 Circle of its John Reed Society.

Harry was active in the Dauphin County Bar Association, as well as the Pennsylvania Bar Association. He practiced in Pennsylvania courts – mainly the Orphans’ Court Division -- as well as Federal courts, including Bankruptcy Court. He was also admitted – probably on a Dauphin County Bar Association get-a-way junket – to the Supreme Court of the United States.

Harry most loved handling adoptions. He completed many over more than fifty years in practice. In his later years, he handled many estate administrations. He practiced law in other areas, to be sure, but he most loved adoption practice.

His good reputation and effective service to clients was confirmed by his inclusion in *Who's Who in American Law*.

His service extended into the community, far beyond his professional duties. He served on boards of many organizations, chairing some, including: Harrisburg Community Theater; Dauphin County Child Care Service; Dauphin County Parks and Recreation; and Central Pennsylvania Legal Services. In recognition of his extensive community and charitable work, he was included in the *Community Leaders of America* publication.

Harry was a “joiner”, as well as a worker. He was a member of the Harrisburg Lions Club; Eureka Lodge 302, Free and Accepted Masons, Mechanicsburg; the Harrisburg Consistory; Zembo Temple, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; and the Royal Order of Jesters Court No. 116.

He expressed his spiritual side as a Lutheran, being a member of Zion Lutheran Church, in Hummelstown, Pennsylvania. He also served on the Council of the United Churches of Greater Harrisburg.

So that’s the life record we produce for Harry, which should be sufficient to show the good measure of this man. But, wait -- we have character witnesses too!

Those who knew him long and well, uniformly testify that Harry was a good attorney, a good conversationalist (especially on the speaking side), and a good man.

Attorney LeRoy Zimmerman began his legal career at the Harrisburg law firm of Compton, Zeigler and Hepford, where Harry already was working. Roy recalls that Harry, who was a few years ahead of him, was very helpful.

Roy recalls, “He was willing to help me as a young lawyer”. Roy listened, because, in his words, “Harry was a reserved, thoughtful lawyer. He represented his clients with quiet confidence. He was a gentleman, and always a professional.”

When the two went to lunch and talked about issues of the day, Roy recalls, “You knew what Harry’s position was on a topic. He would present it with strength!”

Perhaps Harry’s best lunch mate was attorney Floyd Baturin, who also had attended Lebanon Valley College prior to law school.

Harry and Floyd met regularly for lunch at the State Restaurant, on Second Street. The waitresses knew the pair so well that placement of a food order was unnecessary. Their “usual” food would arrive at the table soon after they arrived.

When one of those waitresses died in January, 2015, at the age of 94, Harry somehow knew. He posted an online condolence: “We send our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Christine Smith. We knew her for many years at the State Restaurant; she was a fine lady.” That’s how Harry treated others: with respect and affection.

At lunch – or anywhere -- Harry loved to talk.

Floyd recalls: “Harry always had an uplifting story or thought. My wife could tell when I had met Harry for lunch. She said I was always in a ‘good state of mind’ after having lunch with him. He was very therapeutic.” That occurred even though, as Floyd recalls, "I didn't do much of the talking."

Floyd remembers another time when he and his wife attended a Christmas party among attorneys and judges. Harry and his wife, Vanora (known as Dodie), also attended. When Floyd returned home afterwards, he told his wife, “I don't remember saying much tonight.” She replied, “You didn't have to. Harry was there.”

Another long-term friend, attorney Stanton Phillips, worked with Harry on adoption cases together for over thirty years. Stanton recalls that Harry was unrivaled in his skills as an attorney and in his compassion for others.

Stanton notes that Harry was not only a good work partner, but also a great traveling companion – despite some quirks.

Stanton tells a story about their trip to Florida. Harry did not like to *drive* over a bridge, but he didn't mind if *someone else drove* over the bridge while he rode along. So, upon approaching a bridge, Harry stopped the car, got out, yielded the wheel to his wife, Dodie, and then happily rode as a passenger across the bridge.

Harry's wife, Dodie, was always by his side in later life. He loved her and enjoyed being in her company. As much as Harry enjoyed a good conversation, keeping company with Dodie was probably his life's greatest joy.

The staff of the Dauphin County Register of Wills and Clerk of the Orphans' Court Office, per Jean Marfizo King, posted a sympathy message online after Harry died:

“We were sad to learn of Mr. Bricker's passing. He visited the Register of Wills office often and we will remember him to be very professional, kind, warm-hearted, and funny. We will miss working with him. We send our condolences to your entire family.”

Harry is survived by his wife Vanora (“Dodie”) N. Bricker; by three children, namely, David L. Bricker, Esquire, of Connecticut, Judith A. Patrick of Harrisburg,


and Julia M. Killinger of Virginia; by three step-children, namely, Kenneth E. McNulty of Mechanicsburg, Jennifer A. Springer of Florida and Patrick B. McNulty of Chambersburg; and by eleven grandchildren.

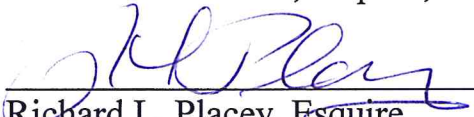
We, the Memorial Committee, agree with the closing comments made by our member, Roy Zimmerman: "Harry will be missed. He was one of a kind."

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, in the passing of **Harry L. Bricker, Jr.**, the Bar, the Court, and the community have lost a colleague, a friend, and a contributor -- that is, we have lost a *man of significant measure*. We tender our condolences to his wife, to his extended family, and to his many friends.

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 with the Office of the Prothonotary, and that copies be transmitted to his family members.


Respectfully submitted, this 21st day of September, 2016, by this Memorial Resolution Committee:


Neil E. Hendershot, Esquire, Chair


Richard L. Placey, Esquire


Leonard Tintner, Esquire *DEC*

LeRoy S. Zimmerman, Esquire


Mark A. Mateya, Esquire,
Cumberland County Bar Association,
Ex Officio