

This June, the Harrisburg legal community suffered a major loss, with the passing of Edward “Ed” Lanza. Ed was one of the Minority Bar Committee’s own.

Born in Honduras in 1966, Ed’s family moved to the United States when he was a teenager. Ed learned English watching television. His mother worked two sometimes three jobs to support four children. As a student at Messiah College, Ed was active with the campus international student organization. He would remain active with Messiah and the international student population even after he graduated. As an attorney, Ed was appointed to the college’s President’s Leadership Council.

Ed’s passion for the law developed after college, while he worked as a bilingual paralegal for a law firm in New York City.¹ He returned to Central Pennsylvania for law school, attending the Dickinson School of Law (now Penn State Dickinson School of Law), and graduated in 1997. After law school, Ed developed a practice in the area of administrative law particularly public utility law while working in the Office of Consumer Advocate. It was at this juncture in 1998 that serendipity brought us together. I recruited Ed to leave the sanctuary of the OCA for the bright lights of a Madison Avenue law firm and our band of merry men and women in LeBoeuf Lamb’s utility practice. I remember our first lunch together because Ed was only interested in what health care benefits the Firm could provide because of his wife Teresa’s health issues. We then spent nearly every working day together for eleven years and I quickly realized that Ed had become my sensei and I the pupil in contemplation of the quiet life of the peaceful honest soul for which Ed was truly the master. The quote from Diogenes

¹ Bray, Erin, *Alum brings Latino roots and passion for community service to Governor’s Advisory Commission*, Messiah College, Aug. 16, 2012, <http://storylink.messiah.edu/?p=1264>.

and his lamp searching for the honest man always comes to mind when thinking of Ed. Ed would have stopped old Diogenes in his tracks. But the translation of the original Greek quote is inaccurate. Diogenes when asked, said he was searching for a truly evolved human being, not an honest man. No matter, Ed would have quickly ended that search as well. He never raised his voice, never raised his fists to the heavens or to fellow members of the legal profession. His test in life was to restrain his foolish pupil (me) with quiet example. Very difficult weedhopper. The joy of the pupil was to make the master laugh which occurred frequently every day. It was my simple joy. We shared the cataclysm of 911 together glued to the conference room TV while I tried to get my sister, located a block from the Twin Towers, on her first day on a new job, transport to our office uptown. I have never in all my years thought of or considered the possibility of knowing a saint, but Ed gets my vote for his unrelenting Christian faith and commitment to a virtuous life. He was, like my immigrant grandparents, the embodiment of the true American, steadfast in his belief that America was for those seeking an opportunity not an outcome. I think of and pray for Ed every day. I have been truly blessed for his company and will forever feel his loss.

Following our years together at LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae, and briefly at Saul Ewing, Ed moved to Eckert Seamans and in 2014, Ed went out on his own and opened the Lanza Firm, where he continued to practice public utility law and licensure law. In this new practice, he had the opportunity to represent individuals from the consumer side of public utility law. He was also a regular speaker and lecturer on issues related to the intersection of technology and ethics in the legal profession.

Ed was committed to serving the community, strategically advocating for professionals of color, especially Latinos. Ed was a founding board member of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Central Pennsylvania, which was formed in 2010. During the administration of Governor Corbett, he was appointed to serve on the Governor's Advisory Commission for Latino Affairs. Within the legal profession, Ed was a member and former officer of the Keystone Bar Association and was responsible for developing and maintaining its website. He was also an active member of the Hispanic Bar Association, for which he served as regional president responsible for Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware for several years. Ed was an active member of the PBA Minority Bar Committee, most notably chairing the Central Pennsylvania Minority Law Day for several years.

In his personal life, Ed was a dedicated and loving husband to Teresa and father to two teenage boys, Lucas and Tristan. He coached soccer and was active in his church, Linglestown Life Church, where he served on the administrative board.

Ed also accomplished something that few lawyers in this age do: he garnered the genuine admiration of both lawyers and non-lawyers. One only need look to the notes of condolence on Ed's obituary page for this to be evident. In entry after entry, colleagues, clients and friends, noted not only Ed's professional integrity, but his kindness and commitment to his faith:

"[H]e was a quality attorney [and] a genuinely good person . . . that we should all honor and strive to achieve."

"He was a genuine spirit and a kind soul."

"[He] was one of the most pleasant people I have ever worked with."

“He was an excellent attorney and an exemplary person.”

“[H]e was the most honest lawyer and absolute gentlemen we’ve ever known.”

“His ethics, integrity, compassion, warmth and kindness are some of the admirable qualities that made Ed so approachable and loved.”

“Ed made the people around him better. He took a genuine interest in others and will be missed by so many.”²

The harsh reality is that lawyers are not always viewed as moral and ethical beings by the public. Sure, there are many lawyers out there who are not bad people, but few are admired as genuinely good. Ed managed to maintain a glowing reputation despite that perception of the profession.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, members of the Dauphin County Bar Association, extend our sympathy to the family of Edward G. Lanza, his wife Teresa and his sons Lucas and Tristan;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Memorial Resolution be spread upon the records of the Dauphin County Court and the Dauphin County Bar Association.

² *Edward Lanza Obituary*, Hetrick-Bitner Funeral Home, Inc., <https://www.hetrickbitnerfuneralhome.com/obituary/Edward-Lanza/Harrisburg-Pennsylvania/1799257> (last accessed Sept. 14, 2018).

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED by the Memorial Committee on
the death of Edward G. Lanza, this 14th day of November, 2018.

EDWARD G. LANZA, ESQUIRE
SECONDING MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

DAUPHIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Presented in Special Session of the
Court of Common Pleas, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, November 14, 2018

SECONDING RESOLUTION – Ed Lanza joined what was then Saul Ewing LLP in 2007, and brought with him a wealth of experiences that added considerably to the overall background of the attorneys in the office. Ed was a proud graduate of Messiah College and the Dickinson School of Law, where he received an award for Distinguished Achievement in Advocacy from the International Academy of Trial Lawyers.

Following law school, Ed clerked for Judge William Kaye in Franklin County, and then took his skills to the Pennsylvania Office of the Consumer Advocate to practice before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, as well as state and federal courts.

Ed then went into private practice, including several years at Saul Ewing, where he advised and represented regulated entities on safety requirements, power and service contracts, and affiliated interest agreements. Ed’s professional impact was perhaps felt most outside of the law firm, as Ed played a key role in establishing the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and participating in Leadership Harrisburg.

Those of us at Saul who had the privilege of working with Ed were blessed to spend time with one of the most pleasant, positive and upbeat people who has ever practiced law. Despite the rigors of the practice of law, Ed maintained his characteristic positive attitude and graciousness. Ed was always willing to mentor younger lawyers, and he did so with remarkable kindness and patience. Ed left Saul for other adventures, which eventually included starting his own firm, but many of us stayed in touch over the years. Even as he battled illness, Ed was characteristically friendly, happy and the example of a gentleman. His example of what it means to practice law as a good person, and not just a good lawyer, will not be forgotten.


Perhaps most memorable about Ed was his love of his family – his wife Teresa, and his sons, Lucas and Tristan. Ed was certainly not one to turn a conversation to himself, but when you asked Ed how he was doing, he would proudly smile and tell you in a warm voice about how his family was doing. Throughout our time with Ed, it was clear to us at Saul Ewing how incredibly proud Ed was of Teresa, Lucas, and Tristan. Ed spoke warmly of other interests as well – he enjoyed watching, playing and coaching soccer, being active at Linglestown Life Church, and supporting Covenant Christian Academy. But his greatest joy—and his greatest pride—was his wife and sons.

On behalf of our colleagues at Saul Ewing, we honor Ed, and extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

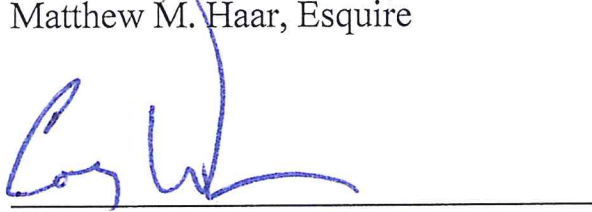
Respectfully submitted,



Matthew M. Haar, Esquire



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