

Thomas M. Devlin

**Memorial Resolution
Dauphin County Bar Association**

October 13, 2021

Greetings to the Judges of our Court, to Tom's beloved wife Erin Devlin, to his children Marcy, Paul and Neil Devlin, his daughter-in-laws Leigh Ann and Maureen, his granddaughter Holly, his sister Kathleen, his brothers John and Scott, his sister-in-law Ann, and to his former coworkers and his colleagues at the Bar.

If you knew Tom Devlin, you liked him. Part of that was his ever present friendliness and kindness. Part was his vast stores of knowledge on nearly any topic, which he would gladly share to help you understand something or solve a problem. His advice had to be sought, came with no judgment and had great value. Another reason you liked him was his good cheer, his ability to find humor in life. And his quiet resolve to live life fully.

Tom was born in West Reading, PA on January 6, 1951 – he was 69 years old at the time of his passing on July 6, 2020. He graduated from Trinity High School, then received his college and Masters degrees from the Pennsylvania State University. After college, Tom had several jobs, including as a janitor at the Quaker Oats plant, before he began his legal studies at Ohio Northern University College of Law. Tom learned from everything he did. But in law, Tom found his calling. He had a passion for the philosophy of law, its purpose and foundation, its framework.

Because of this, Tom felt at home in any area of law. He started his legal career as a federal law clerk for Judge Robert J. Woodside, Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court of the Middle District of PA. The two were kindred spirits, sharing a love of the law, nature and boating. One of Tom's few unrealized dreams was to become a bankruptcy judge, and he kept current in this area of law for the rest of his career. Tom next went to the Department of General Services, which manages the real estate and physical assets of the Commonwealth. He also had his own private practice in Camp Hill for several years. He spent most of his career, however, in the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General, serving under twelve attorneys general.

Prior to his retirement in late 2017, Tom served as Chief Deputy Attorney General of the Health Care Section, Acting Chief of the Civil Rights Enforcement Section, and Senior Deputy Attorney General in the Charitable Trusts and Organizations and Torts Litigation Sections. Tom tried injury cases before juries in the county courts, worked with attorneys from all 50 states in multistate consumer protection cases,

investigated and sued unscrupulous nonprofits, and was a zealous advocate for patients in nursing homes and beneficiaries of health insurance. His question about a case was usually the best one, and the one others had not considered. He served as the Attorney General's designee on the state chiropractic and pharmaceutical licensing boards.

Tom's professional career also included serving as a pro bono mediator for the U.S. District Court, and an adjunct professor for the Pennsylvania State University. He served on the Board of Governors of the St. Thomas More Society, an organization of Catholic attorneys, as well as painting a portrait of St. Thomas More for the group. He was a Barrister member of the Cumberland County American Inns of Court, and a member of the Pennsylvania, Cumberland and Dauphin County Bar Associations. After his retirement from the Commonwealth, Tom could not part with the law, so he used his financial background and mediation training from Harvard University to qualify and serve as an arbitrator and mediator for FINRA, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority.

Tom was active in our community, serving as Scout Master for Boy Scouts of America Troop 58 at Good Shepherd Parish, Camp Hill, where Tom was a parishioner and former member of the school board. With the late Judge Todd A. Hoover, Tom created a Law Merit Badge and had the Scouts doing mock trials in this Courthouse. He served as chairman of the Camp Hill Borough Planning Commission. He was a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. He owned several rental properties and largely maintained them himself. He was a long-time sobriety monitor for Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers, but respected the confidentiality of this program so much that few knew this.

Tom's many many interests included oil painting, golfing, fishing, horseback riding, swimming, biking, boating, glider planes, karate in which he attained a Black Belt, teaching himself Spanish and taking pilot and scuba diving training. Tom's curiosity and sense of adventure were boundless. Tom and his brothers were the proud owners of the Pontanic, a pontoon boat that provided many enjoyable evenings on the Susquehanna River for Tom's colleagues, friends and family.

Tom and his wife were frequent and generous hosts, and there were traditions: lobster tail for New Year's Eve, watching "The Quiet Man" movie to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, cream of crab soup for holiday parties, Nissley Winery concerts in the Summer. Chubby's Barbeque on any trip to D.C., and New Regal Café ribs on any trip to Ohio Northern law school. Lunches with Tom might be at Molly Brannigan's or McGrath's Pubs, but you WOULD discuss law.

Professionally and personally, Tom was there for you. His religious beliefs, his character and his ethics as a professional all coalesced into one compassionate guy. He was the consummate public servant in his work. He never held a grudge and

was an asset to any team. He did countless favors for countless people, seldom mentioning it. This included a place to stay if needed.

Tom's story is not complete without his struggle with Parkinson's disease for the last twenty years of his life. Tom's unstoppable nature, discipline and optimism became so apparent. He didn't stop working. He didn't stop traveling. He didn't stop sports, although he eventually had to give up his horse. He didn't stop socializing. He didn't complain or lose his dry sense of humor. He used dictation software when he could not write, and claimed he never got cold when, actually, it was too hard for him to put on an overcoat. To replace martial arts, he took adaptive boxing lessons. He kept walking his beloved poodles, Winston and then Duncan. He poured his energy into researching the latest treatments and advances, went to New Mexico for stem cell therapy, and eagerly awaited a cure. His desire to continue, contribute and provide for his family never waned. He was determined to keep going, by plowing through or by working around. At the moment of his death, he was jumping into a swimming pool, doing something he loved with family.

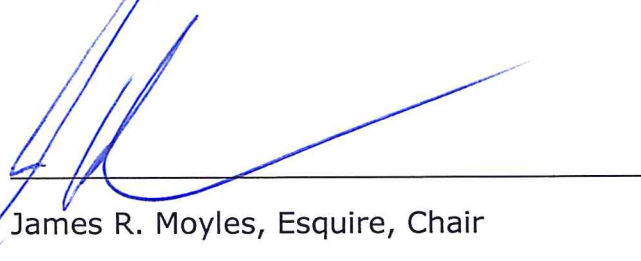
Conclusion

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, in the passing of Thomas M. Devlin, the Bar, the Court and the community have lost a friend, a mentor, an advocate, a distinguished professional colleague and a "wonderful counselor." We offer our sympathies and condolences to his widow, children, family members and many friends and colleagues.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we reaffirm for ourselves that the life example he gave us - of accomplishment, virtue, compassion, curiosity and lifelong learning, service to others, strength and determination in adversity, and a full and balanced life - is one that we would do well to emulate.

AND RESOLVED FURTHER that copies of this Memorial Resolution be placed in the records of the Dauphin County Court and the Dauphin County Bar Association, including its website, that the original and a copy be filed with the Office of the Prothonotary, and copies be transmitted to his family members.

Respectfully submitted, this 13th day of October, 2021, by this Resolution Committee:



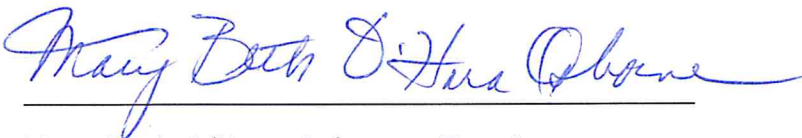
James R. Moyles, Esquire, Chair



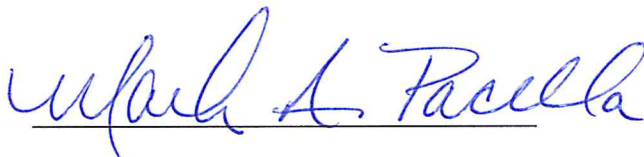
The Honorable Victor P. Stabile, Superior Court of Pennsylvania



Neil T. Devlin, Esquire



Mary Beth O'Hara Osborne, Esquire



Mark A. Pacella, Esquire



Jessie L. Smith, Esquire, Drafter



Thomas J. Sniscak, Esquire