

**Dauphin County Bar Association
Memorial Resolution on the Death of
William Fearen**

William Fearen, a member of the Bar of Dauphin County for decades, died on February 24, 2021, at the age of 93, following an extended illness. He was an accomplished attorney, gaining national recognition in the field of education law, and a prominent member of the bar and the community.

Born in Trenton, New Jersey and raised in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Bill graduated from Susquehanna Township High School in Harrisburg. Following high school he attended Virginia Military Institute and served in the United States Army. After receiving his Honorable Discharge in 1947 he matriculated to Bucknell University, from which he graduated in 1950.

Having decided to pursue a career in the law, Bill was accepted by several excellent law schools, including those at Harvard and Yale, but chose to attend the University of Pennsylvania Law School. (In actuality, his parents insisted that he enroll at Penn as they had already paid the deposit there and weren't about to forfeit it so he could go elsewhere!) A top student, Bill was a member of the University of Pennsylvania Law Review, enabling him to secure a clerkship with Pennsylvania Supreme Court Chief Justice Horace Stern upon graduation.

Returning to Central Pennsylvania after his clerkship concluded, Bill worked at some of Harrisburg's better known law firms before founding the firm of Cleckner & Fearen with his friend and longtime law partner, Dick Cleckner. He built that firm through hard work and his reputation for honesty and impeccable ethics. As a new lawyer he was advised by a senior member of the bar to always remember that his word is his bond, and Bill did. He would not countenance lies or deceit. Over the years Bill himself mentored several men and women lawyers, a number of whom ultimately became members of the firm that bore his name.

A well regarded small general practice firm, Cleckner & Fearen gained recognition in the field of education law. The firm acted as solicitor to many school boards throughout Pennsylvania, and Bill himself served as President of both the Pennsylvania and National School Boards Solicitors Associations. He also was honored with a lifetime achievement award from the Pennsylvania School Boards Solicitors Association.

Bill was active within the local bar, as well as the community at large. He served on the Board of the Dauphin County Bar Association, and in 1975 was elected President of the DCBA. Bill was a steadfast supporter of the Dauphin County Bar Foundation.

When Bill and Dick Cleckner closed their firm in 1998, they donated their building at 31 North Second Street to the Foundation. Eventually, the building was sold in 2002, providing significant financial resources to the Foundation. As noted in the Foundation's newsletter for the first quarter of 2021:

The monies from that sale serve as the cornerstone of the Foundation and its development of the We Care About Children Campaign. WCAC provides for a dedicated Family Custody Attorney at MidPenn Legal Services. The generosity of Attorneys Fearen and Cleckner is a sustaining force for the many years of good works that our Foundation has accomplished and for the good works yet to come.

Bill also served as a Dauphin County Arbitrator. He was a director on the Boards of Fort Hunter Mansion and Park and the Homeland Center, and was a member of Christ Presbyterian Church in Camp Hill.

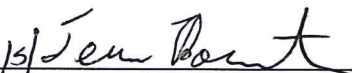
Bill was the quintessential lawyer and looked every bit the role. With a full head of silver hair, Bill appeared to have stepped out of central casting for distinguished attorneys. Those who knew him most likely remember Bill as a gregarious soul, with a rapier wit and vocabulary to match. He loved to be with people of all ages, engaging with toddlers, teens, and adults, young and old, whatever the setting. And engage he did! Bill was a guy who joined the singles line at a ski resort with a complete stranger and knew his life's story by the time they reached the top of the hill.


Bill is, and will be, greatly missed. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family.

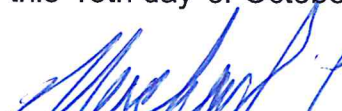
The original and a copy of this resolution shall be filed with the Office of the Dauphin County Prothonotary and in the permanent records of the Dauphin County Bar Association.

Respectfully submitted, this 13th day of October, 2021.


P. Daniel Altland



Terry R. Bossert



Stuart L. Knade


Michael I. Levin


Franklin A. Miles, Jr.


Kent H. Patterson


Ann E. Rhoads


Dennis J. Shatto