

## DAUPHIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

### MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

#### WILLIAM H. NAST JR.

William H. Nast Jr., a long-time member of the Dauphin County Bar Association, passed away on October 8, 2013. He was survived by his wife, Lucille, who passed away on February 2, 2014, and by three children and two stepchildren.

He graduated from Dickinson College and the University of Michigan Law School. After graduation, he served as law clerk to Judge Woodside of the Pennsylvania Superior Court. William Nast served for many years, first, as Counsel, then as Executive Director, of the Joint State Government Commission. He was an expert in Legislation, Legislative Drafting, and Administrative Law. He drafted hundreds of bills and proposed sections of the Pennsylvania Constitution for the Legislature, many of which became law. He served as the co-reporter for the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws Uniform Statutory and Rule Construction Act. Afterwards, he became a tireless proponent and successful prime mover for consolidation of the Pennsylvania statutes. After substantial years on the Joint State Government Commission, he began a part-time private law practice.

Bill Nast made significant contributions to many professional legal organizations. He was Parliamentarian on many occasions to the House of Delegates of the Pennsylvania Bar Association. He was an active member of the PBA Bylaws, Statutory Law, and Professionalism Committees, and of the Family Law, Real Property, Probate and Trust Law, and the Administrative Law Sections of the PBA.

He served as the president of the Dauphin County Bar Association in 1993, and was the first government lawyer to serve in that capacity. He also promoted and supported the formation of the Government Law Committee of DCBA, and initiated the practice of admitting law students.

William H. Nast Jr. was also one of the founding members of the James Bowman American Inn of Court. He remained active at the Inn, where he gave generously of his time to mentor young lawyers, until just before his death.

William H. Nast Jr. was a lawyer for all seasons. In addition to his expertise in the area of legislation, in his private practice he represented clients in a wide variety of cases ranging from family law and criminal law to real estate matters. Working with another attorney, he even helped to found a title insurance company. He was a formidable, but civil, advocate in the widest variety of trials. As one friend familiar with him for many years put it, he “labored in the trenches” trying difficult cases on numerous occasions. He was not only an expert specialist at legislative matters, but also a successful general trial lawyer.

One trait that distinguished Bill Nast was his enjoyment of the adversarial dialectic: Bill was ready, willing and extremely able to debate persuasively on virtually any subject. Although he enjoyed the adversarial setting, Bill was a thorough professional who at all times argued his

position in a civil manner. He had a quick wit and did not hesitate to use it. He represented the finest qualities of professionalism in the law whether drafting a statute or trying a case.

Bill Nast's particular interest, one that he pursued throughout his life, was training and mentoring young lawyers. As counsel and director of the Joint State Government Commission, he took particular care not only to train young law staffers in legislative drafting and research, but also to analyze Pennsylvania and U.S. Supreme Court cases with them. He was instrumental in founding the Bowman Inn of Court, the purpose of which is mentoring young lawyers in government law. He always made himself available to discuss a problem with fellow lawyers, young and old, even as his health was failing only a few months ago.


William H. Nast Jr. gave unstintingly of his legal talent in pro bono activities throughout his legal career. He represented numerous indigent criminal defendants. It is some measure of his commitment to representation in our legal system that at one point he participated in an eight week long criminal trial involving a riot at the Lewisburg Penitentiary.

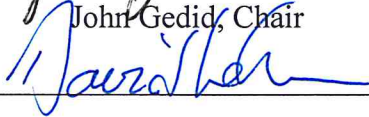
Bill Nast was accomplished in areas other than the law. As a law clerk for Judge Woodside on the Superior Court he travelled to Pittsburgh and roomed near to the Carnegie Museum. During frequent visits to the museum he was captivated by Impressionist and Cubist art. For the rest of his life he studied, enjoyed and collected modern art. Bill was an excellent chess player who competed regularly in a chess club; he also participated in the state chess finals on at least one occasion. He was a gourmet who brought French food to Harrisburg as a partner in the excellent French restaurant, Au Jour Le Jour. He and his wife went so far as to take a "Three Star French Restaurant" tour in France, where they ate supper at a different three star restaurant every evening.

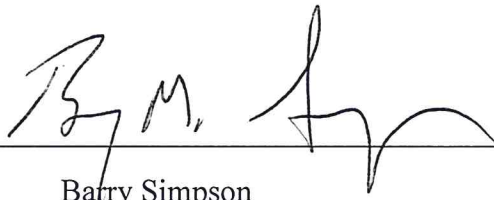
In the passing of William H. Nast Jr. we have lost a friend and mentor to the legal and the larger community. He was learned, and freely shared his expertise and knowledge about legal and other matters. His contributions have been exceptional. We are all better for having known and loved Bill Nast. We will miss him.

We extend our sympathy to his children and stepchildren to whom copies of this resolution shall be provided. The original and a copy of this resolution shall be filed with the Dauphin County Prothonotary and the permanent records of the Dauphin County Bar Association.

Respectfully submitted this 19th day of March, 2014.

  
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John Gedid, Chair

  
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David Lehman



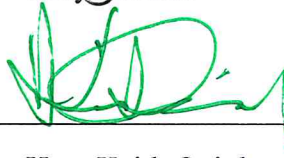
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Barry Simpson



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Amy Putnam



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Hon. Keith Quigley



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Dan Schuckers