

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION HONORING

JOSEPH R. D'ANNUNZIO

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGES OF THE COURT, colleagues at the Bar,
and friends in attendance:

Joseph R. D'Annunzio, of Harrisburg and formerly of Conshohocken,
passed away on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at the age of 73. Born on
October 4, 1951, to the late Thomas D'Annunzio Jr. and Dorothy (Surace). Joe
married his late wife Kathy (Nowicki) in 1981, and they were married for 32 years.
Joe was able to find happiness again later in life as he was married to Evelyn
(Sponsler) for seven years.

After graduating magna cum laude from St. Louis University, Joe served as
a lawyer for forty-nine years, ensuring that anyone who needed help was cared for.
Joe found value in being a kind ear and voice of guidance not only for his family,
but also for his friends and members of his community. One of the highlights of his
life was being sworn into the Supreme Court in front of his mother. Joe began his
career in the Public Defender's Office, where he worked to achieve his dream of
opening his own private practice. In 1978, he achieved this goal. Upon closing his
practice after eighteen years, Joe was recruited to work for St. Paul Fire and
Marine Insurance Company in 1996, where he was appointed as a Hearing

Member for the St. Paul Disciplinary Board. After six years and two terms, Joe became a managing attorney for Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. His drive to succeed allowed him to represent the office in regional and executive meetings, representing the most prestigious Staff Counsel Office in Pennsylvania. In 2009, Joe and his family moved from Plymouth Meeting to Harrisburg, establishing a Staff Counsel Office for GEICO. During his time with GEICO, he constantly achieved awards for the most cases tried among national offices, demonstrating his strong-willed character, which allowed him to represent the company in all administrative hearings before the Pennsylvania Insurance Department. In 2018, Joe returned to private law, assisting several practices in the Harrisburg area.

Joe served as a member of the Republican Committee by acting as the Judge of Elections and served as a Solicitor to the Civil Service Commission and the Zoning Hearing Board for Plymouth Township in Montgomery County, where he became the Chairman of the Zoning Hearing Board. He also served as a Solicitor for the Montgomery County Funeral Directors Association. The Norristown Times-Herald highly praised Joe's hard work and compassion for others, naming him "One of Montgomery County's" community leaders. Joe also served as a Solicitor for the Montgomery County Office, where his role was representing the Petitioner in Mental Health commitment hearings.

Joe was able to combine his love of law and faith by devoting his time as the Board Secretary to the Saint Thomas Moore Society, a not-for-profit organization for Catholic Lawyers dedicated to promoting the study of principles of the Catholic Church, relating to the moral and legal problems encountered in the practice of law. Joe was also able to show his strong commitment to his faith by being appointed as an Assessor for the Tribunal of the Diocese of Harrisburg.

Throughout his life, Joe's faith was evident by being active in the church. He volunteered his time annually to the Saints Cosmas and Damian feast by both running the feast with his late wife, Kathy, and leading the parish procession and saying the rosary. Joe served as a Eucharistic Minister and could also be found calling bingo numbers during church games and being the MC for the Night at the Races event held in the church hall. Upon moving to Harrisburg, Joe remained active in the church at St. Catharine Laboure parish in Harrisburg by participating in the church's annual Oktoberfest celebration.

During his free time, Joe could be found reading the newspaper, traveling to Florida with his family for their annual Disney World trips, and cheering on his Philadelphia Phillies and Eagles.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that members of the Dauphin County Bar Association do hereby extend our deepest sympathy to Joe's family, friends, colleagues, and all who mourn his passing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Memorial Resolution be placed in the records of the Dauphin County Court and the Dauphin County Bar Association, that an original be filed with the Prothonotary, and that copies be transmitted to his family.

Respectfully submitted this 18th day of March, 2026.


By: Joseph P. Cardinale, Jr., Esq.

Seconding Remark to the Memorial Resolution for Joseph R. D'Annunzio

Good afternoon. May it please the Court, fellow attorneys and guests. My name is Joe Cardinale, and it is my honor to offer seconding remarks to the resolution honoring the life of Attorney Joe D'Annunzio.

I came to know Joe through our shared faith in Christ at the Central Pennsylvania St. Thomas More Society. Joe was one of the active members at the Society who served on the Society's Board while I served. The St. Thomas More Society is a very small organization and when Joe and I served on the board, the board meetings were always on a Thursday at 7:30 am. But there was always a short Mass held before the meeting so Joe would always get there at 7:00 a.m.

Joe's dedication to the STMS did not stop merely attending early meetings. He actively tried to make a difference within the Society. The STM Society, like many other professional organizations, the DCBA included, has a constant struggle with keeping their members active and attracting new members. Joe understood this challenge that STMS faced and volunteered his time to plan STMS sponsored events.

At meetings and STMS events with Joe, you could tell that his faith was central to who he was. He selflessly gave his time and effort to planning the St. Thomas More Feast Day Mass and the STMS signature event, the Red Mass. While the STMS is a very small organization, people like Joe who served on its

board while I served made it possible to organize its events with minimal resources. Joe's dedication to the organization was admirable and served to inspire others in the organization to take a more active role as well.

Serving on the STMS Board was not always easy, but when I saw Joe at the Board meetings I knew I had someone I could count on when I knew we were showing up short-handed on event organization. When I was made President of the organization I prayed how was I going to get through it planning and organizing everything. Luckily God had an answer to my prayers, and I am thankful Joe heeded the call and stood ready to help in anyway that he could. That was who Joe was, someone always ready help in anyway that he could.

Joe was one of kindest attorneys I have come to know in my career and he will be sorely missed.