MEMORIAL RESOLUTION UPON THE DEATH OF JACQUELINE M. WELBY

Jacqueline Moran Welby, known to us as "Jackie," died November 7, 2008, at the Hershey Medical Center after a brief illness. She was only 44 years old.

After Jackie's death, one of the items her law firm colleagues took down from her office wall was a framed quotation attributed to Ralph Waldo Emerson. Entitled "Success," it reads, "To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you lived; this is to have succeeded."

By this measure, Jacqueline Moran Welby indeed succeeded.

With her untimely passing, the Dauphin County Bar lost a bright, able young attorney before her professional promise could be fully realized. Her clients lost a caring and trusted counselor. Her colleagues at Skarlatos & Zonarich LLP lost a valued co-worker and friend. Her family lost a beloved wife, mother, daughter, sister, and daughter-in-law. She leaves, among others, her husband, Sean, also a lawyer, and a beautiful 8-year-old daughter, Erin.

Jackie was born in Binghamton, New York, and grew up in Cressona in Schuylkill County, the daughter of John and Rosemary Moran and the sister of Mark and Ken Moran. She graduated from Blue Mountain High School, Albright College, and the Boston University School of Law.

After graduation from law school, Jackie spent a short time in private practice, in Reading and Harrisburg, after which she became assistant counsel to the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare and then senior legal counsel to the Pennsylvania Department of Aging. During her tenure with the Department of Aging, Jackie served as counsel for the PACE prescription assistance program for seniors and represented the department in regulatory and administrative legal matters. It was a year ago that Jackie joined Skarlatos & Zonarich to begin a private practice in elder law.

Jackie was an active member of the Bar. She provided pro bono legal services through the Philadelphia-based Senior Law Helpline. She was a member of the Elder Law Committee of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and the Continuing Legal Education Committee of the Dauphin County Bar Association.

Many of Jackie's colleagues and friends have offered their recollections and appreciations of what Jackie meant to them and what she contributed to her profession.

Jackie and Christine Consiglio met in the fall of 1992 when Christine took her first job after law school at the Department of Public Welfare. They became best friends. As Christine said, they "went from co-workers to roommates to bridesmaids to advisors on raising children." Christine remembered Jackie as a very accomplished attorney who rendered valuable service to the Commonwealth. Countless regulations that bring rational order to the machinery of justice are her efforts. Legislation for the aging, which was signed into law and guides this Commonwealth are her words. She put it this way: "Clients who were counseled by her clear, insightful advice live today under the justice she helped bring them, not even really knowing how remarkably she managed their problems. She was always looking out for the underdog and this is why she was an outstanding friend and attorney."

Thomas Snedden, director of the PACE program, said it was his good fortune to have worked with Jackie when she came to the Pennsylvania Department of Aging as the Assistant Chief Counsel. "The PACE program has an outstanding reputation for compassion, customer service, innovation, and efficiency, all of which Jackie had a hand in encouraging and supporting," he stated. "It did not take very long to realize that Jackie was very different from those who preceded her. She was consistently engaged, energetic, curious, funny, informed, smart, and personable."

Ruth O'Brien, an attorney who worked with Jackie at the Department of Public Welfare, spoke highly of Jackie's professional attributes, describing her as a "wonderful advocate and counselor," but also remembered her as a friend who could fill a room with warmth and charm. Jackie's friendship helped Ruth through the loss of Ruth's daughter. "Jackie was able to lighten the burden of the pain I was feeling," Ruth said.

Irene Bizzoso, Deputy Prothonotary of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, also counted Jackie as both colleague and friend. "Jackie's story ended all too early and she will be dearly missed by her family and friends," Irene said, "but she leaves a legacy behind in her daughter, Erin, and her husband, Sean."

On January 1, 2008, Jackie joined the Law Firm of Skarlatos & Zonarich as a part-time Senior Associate devoting her practice to matters involving elder law, healthcare, Medicaid eligibility, long term care issues and administrative law.

Jackie found a way to balance the demanding pressures of private practice with her role as a wife and mother. Without exception, every staff member loved Jackie. When she inquired, "How are you?", she really wanted to know. Her genuine compassion and caring nature blended perfectly with her elder law expertise.

The attorneys in the firm who worked with Jackie respected the level of her expertise in healthcare law and her willingness to drop what she was doing to help resolve their problems. No amount of work was too much nor any problem too difficult. She willingly accepted both. The memories of Jackie as an attorney in the firm, sadly as short as they are, will never be forgotten.

Jackie's life was remarkably full beyond her professional activities. Family was everything to her. "She adored and was so proud of Sean and Erin," Jackie's friend, Christine, said. Jackie felt the same way about her parents, her brothers, Sean's siblings, and her mother-in-law. According to Christine, "The way Jackie lived her life, it was almost as if she knew she did not have a lot of time. Every party she always overdid it. When her career took too much time from Erin, she worked part-time. She insisted on regular dates with her husband. And every year she and Sean put on their Mickey ears and went to Disneyworld."

Jackie was a member of St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church and also served on the board of the Twin Ponds Figure Skating Club, where her daughter took skating lessons. Chantell Thomas of the Skating Club recalled the good times Jackie had encouraging her daughter and taking her to competitions. "She could proudly tell you the name of each jump and spin as Erin learned them on the ice."

Jackie and her friend Jane Veliky shared trips together to their daughters' school and to Girl Scout events and the local swimming pool. Jane says she appreciated Jackie's great sense of humor, her optimism, and her strong support as a friend, and vowed that Jackie's "positive energy" will stay with her forever.

Therefore, be it resolved, that in the passing of Jacqueline Moran Welby, the legal community of Dauphin County and the larger general community of Dauphin County has lost a dedicated, respected, and admired member, who will be missed and mourned by colleagues, friends, and family.

Be it resolved further that the members of the Dauphin County Bar Association extend their sympathy and condolences to her husband, her daughter, and the other members of her family.

And be it resolved further that copies of this Memorial Resolution be added to the records of the Dauphin County Courts and the Dauphin County Bar Association, that the original copy be filed in the Office of the Prothonotary, and that copies be transmitted to her husband and family.

Respectfully submitted,

DAUPHIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION MEMORIAL **COMMITTEE:**

ward Centard

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Chantell Thomas, personal friend Thomas Snedden, Director
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