

**JOHN J. KRAFSIG, JR., ESQUIRE  
MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

**Dauphin County Bar Association  
Presented in Special Session of the  
Court of Common Pleas, Dauphin County, PA**

**Courtroom No. 1  
Dauphin County Courthouse  
Harrisburg, PA**

**April 19, 2017  
4:00 p.m.**

GREETINGS to the Judges of the Court, to family members, to our colleagues at the Bar, and to friends in attendance.

John J. Krafsig, Jr., a member of the Bar of Dauphin County for over 60 years, died on January 3, 2017, at the age of 88.

He was born in Harrisburg, PA, on October 7, 1928 to the late John Krafsig, Sr., and Martha Shinosky Krafsig. He was a graduate of William Penn High School. His younger brother, Don, predeceased him in 2011.

John's father was a coal miner with only a sixth grade education and very much wanted his son to be a lawyer. John was a batboy for the Harrisburg Senators in the early 1940s and a talented baseball player. He had an opportunity to play professional baseball and was drafted as a first baseman by the St. Louis Cardinals, but followed his father's advice and became an attorney. Money was tight, but John was able to attend the University of Scranton by living with his grandmother. A stint as a laborer on the Pennsylvania Railroad convinced John that education was the way to go!

He was a 1949 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Scranton and a 1952 graduate of Georgetown Law School. Following graduation from law school, John remained in Washington and became a member of the DC Bar. James H. Duff, Pennsylvania's governor from 1947 to 1951, was elected the new freshman senator from Pennsylvania in the US Senate.

John, just out of law school, worked as his assistant. But life in Washington did not suit John so he returned to Harrisburg in 1954 to take up the private practice of law.

John's clients were important to him. He was a fierce advocate and, as a result, his clients were loyal to him. He took his responsibilities as an advocate very seriously and his fiduciary obligations always guided him in his practice. John was comfortable practicing in all areas of the law, including administrative law, general litigation and appellate litigation. He tried civil and criminal jury and bench trials. He was thoroughly prepared for every case and comfortable in the courtroom. He appeared impeccably dressed and always well-prepared.

Rich or poor, his clients were as diverse as the areas of law that John practiced and John was totally committed to them. At a point in time when it was unusual, John was an attorney who spoke Spanish. He was proud of his ability to assist Harrisburg's under-served Hispanic community.

Not one to sell himself short, John rarely admitted any gaps in his legal expertise. Upon occasion, however, with a twinkle in his eye, he would confess that his understanding of maritime law was not what it should be—which was okay with him as long as there wasn't a barge sinking on the Susquehanna.

John practiced law for over 64 years, appearing before all Pennsylvania Courts and the Supreme Court of the United States. He retired from the practice of law in May 2016.

John had a keen interest in American history. He was fascinated with and became an expert on George Washington and his contributions to the young republic, while his wife, Sandra, provided point-counterpoint with her preference for the contributions of Thomas Jefferson. John studied the American Revolution and the Constitution. This led him to be a student of constitutional law. He remained current in the law by reading his advance sheets on a regular basis and keeping meticulous notes for himself on changes in the law each month. He was easily able to cite current cases in his arguments before the Court or in his pleadings and briefs.

A man of faith, John was very charitable. Although Hansen's Disease (or leprosy) is almost non-existent today in the U.S.; in Asia and Africa hundreds of thousands are infected. John, with characteristic intensity, was a generous benefactor of the leper and orphan colony Thayet Myo in Myanmar (Burma), supporting them for more than 49 years.

John never took his good fortune and success for granted. He often said that he could not have imagined that his life would be so rewarding. His family, friends, clients and colleagues are better people for having known him.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, members of the Dauphin County Bar Association extend our sympathy to the family of John J. Krafsig, Jr. and his beloved wife, Sandra Schorr Krafsig.

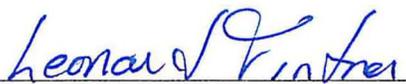
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Memorial Resolution be spread upon the records of the Dauphin County Court and the Dauphin County Bar Association.

Respectfully submitted by the Memorial Committee upon the death of John J. Krafsig, Jr., this 19<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2017.

  
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LeRoy Smigel

  
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David E. Lehman

  
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Richard L. Placey

  
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Leonard Tintner

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