

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION UPON**  
**THE DEATH OF PAUL J. DELLASEGA**

Paul Joseph Dellasega passed from this life on June 2, 2009 at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center.

In his passing, his family, the Bar, and especially those of us at Thomas Thomas & Hafer have lost an able practitioner and a loyal friend and colleague. Paul was a true gentleman: a kind, patient, and compassionate person; an Abraham Lincoln admirer and scholar, and an attorney of exceptional skill who brought zeal and passion to the practice of law.

Paul was born in Charleston, South Carolina on August 11, 1951, the son of Joseph Leonard Dellasega and Marie (Thornton) Dellasega. His father served as a naval officer, and so the family was later posted to San Diego, California and to Chicago, Illinois. While growing up in Chicago Paul developed his love for the hapless Chicago Cubs, perhaps guided by St. Jude, the patron Saint of lost causes. Following his graduation from high school, Paul attended Kenyon College where he formed a lifelong bond with the school and its alumni. He often mentioned how pivotal his Kenyon years were in his growth and development. It was there that he earned the nickname "Kong" for a particularly outlandish party costume: the nickname says all you need to know! Each time the beloved name of "Kenyon College" was uttered, Paul would get a tear in his eye and faint smile would cross his face. Paul encouraged a number of young men and women to follow in his path to Kenyon.

Upon graduation with distinction from Kenyon with a degree in Political Philosophy, Paul attended the Dickinson School of Law from which he graduated in 1976. While there, he was the case notes editor of the Dickinson Law Review, working under the stewardship of Chip Rubendall who championed a uniform style of scholarly legal writing. Although he sometimes chaffed at the notion of "uniformity" in scholarly legal writing, his two years on the law review taught him invaluable skills which he brought to bear in his 33 years of practice. He was a mentor to many on the law review staff including Burke McLemore who succeeded him as case notes editor on the Review. While in law school, he was a member of the Corpus Juris Society. He was elevated to this high honor because of his "high scholastic standing, his interest in the law, and loyalty to his school and fellow students". In reality, while this statement clearly applied to Paul, the Corpus Juris Society was in fact a club formed by law students who enjoyed eating, drinking, playing cards and general camaraderie with one another.

It was while at Dickinson that those who knew him first heard his "maniacal mid-western laugh" which, although sparingly used, generally brought everyone else to the point of convulsive laughter as well. Paul enjoyed a good story. And while not known as one to tell long stories himself, he could always be counted upon for a pithy response.

While still at Dickinson Paul began a clerkship with the firm of Handler, Gerber & Weinstock where his interest in labor law first developed. After graduation he commenced work at that firm. He formed a lifelong bond with Ira Weinstock which continued long after Paul left that phase of his practice and moved to the defense side of the Bar. Paul continued to practice in the field of labor law, expanding his practice to include workers' compensation, unemployment compensation law, and employment law practice. He was instrumental in a number of key labor negotiations including those for the Borough of Lewistown. He became an approved labor arbitrator for the Pennsylvania Bureau of Mediation and a contributing editor to the publication "The Developing Labor Law". He lectured in the field of labor law with the Pennsylvania Bar Institute. Among his publications included "Before you Fire that Troublesome Workers' Compensation Claimant" published in the Pennsylvania Bar Association Quarterly.

Paul moved to the defense side of the Bar in the 1980's, eventually becoming a partner at the firm of Thomas Thomas & Hafer, LLP where he rose to become Chair of the firm's Employment Law Section. His insightful comments and cool demeanor made him an invaluable asset to the firm during a period of growth and expansion. Frequently when difficult decisions required dispassionate advice, Paul's clarity of thought aided his partners in reaching consensus on critical issues.

Paul was a member of the Mifflin County, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania and American Bar Associations, and had been named a "Pennsylvania Super Lawyer" by Philadelphia Magazine.

Paul was the husband of Cheryl Dellasega, and the father of Ellen and Joseph Dellasega, and stepfather to Matthew Thorn. He was devoted to his family. Although raised in the Catholic tradition, consistent with Paul's contemplative nature, he was drawn to the practice of Quaker, and regularly attended meetings. Paul was very private about his family and religious life, but was clearly a person of deep and abiding faith. Paul's life was not necessarily an easy one, however, but he bore with patience and dignity burdens that would cripple most of us. He was the proud grandfather of Blaire Dellasega, who became the light of his life. He and Cheryl treasured the times on the weekends when they could just be with their granddaughter and enjoy that special bond that only grandparents and grandchildren can share. He was also especially proud of Cheryl's own professional accomplishments as a published author and national authority. He liked to talk about their trips to New York where she would be a guest commentator on various television programs. Although he sometimes groused about the fact that she had to have both an agent and a publicist you could tell he was not really upset about it and took great pride in her accomplishments. Although quiet by nature, Paul's many friends of longstanding attest to his ability to touch each of us. Indeed, even clients became friends. In the final hours of Paul's life and in the days that followed, Dominick DeRose, the Warden at the Dauphin County Prison, demonstrated the strength of the bonds that Paul had forged on both a personal and professional level with those for whom he had worked.

Perhaps the most telling example of Paul's generosity and compassion can be illustrated in the events which occurred in the weeks leading up to his death. During that time, Paul had organized a group of law school friends to travel from the far corners of the country to Philadelphia to visit with a Dickinson classmate, Jim Koller, who himself was suffering from "Lou Gehrig's disease". The day of Paul's funeral was to have been the date they all were to have converged in Philadelphia to visit with Jim, to reminisce, have a couple of beers, and just let Jim know how much he meant to each of them. Little did he know that they would all get together, but at a different place and for a very different reason. They all converged in Hershey for Paul's services—Jim Koller, too. So, I guess in the end, he did manage to get everybody together, didn't he?

Paul was like that. He was never pushy, never crude, never told a blue story, but he would always appreciate the quiet times he could spend with friends and colleagues. Paul's end came quickly. Too quickly. None of us even got to say goodbye. But maybe that's how Paul would have liked it. He never wanted accolades, never put the spotlight on himself, and always reflected the best in each of us. He was a true gentleman in every sense. He will be missed by all of us at Thomas Thomas & Hafer, and by his friends, colleagues and clients throughout the Commonwealth. He was a loyal friend who brought honor to the profession and respect to his firm.

Therefore, be it resolved that in the passing of Paul J. Dellasega, we have lost a true friend and able practitioner. His family has lost a devoted, caring, and unceasingly loyal advocate.

And be it further resolved that the members of the Dauphin County Bar Association, in meeting assembled, mourn the death of our esteemed colleague, Paul J. Dellasega, and tender our sympathies to his widow, Cheryl, and to his children and granddaughter.

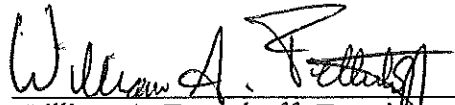
Be it further resolved that copies of this Memorial Resolution be spread upon the records of the Dauphin County Courts of Common Pleas and of the Dauphin County Bar Association, that the original be filed in the Office of the Prothonotary, and that copies be transmitted to his widow and to his family.

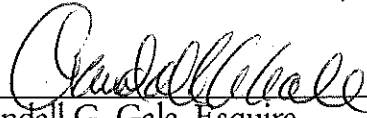
Respectfully submitted,

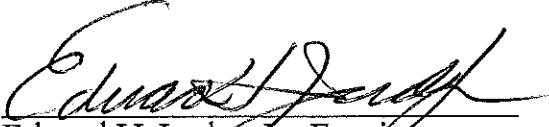
  
R. Burke McLemore, Jr., Esquire  
Chair, Memorial Resolution Committee

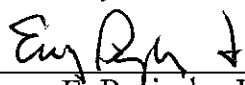
Committee Members:

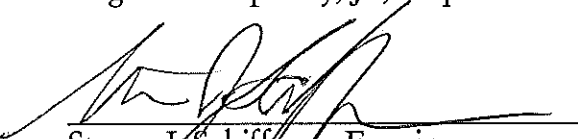
  
Michael F. Brown, Esquire

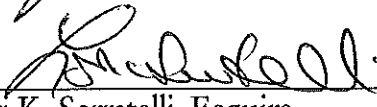
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William A. Fetterhoff, Esquire

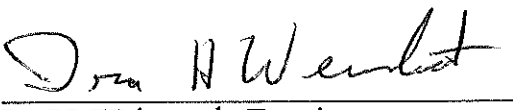
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Randall G. Gale, Esquire

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Edward H. Jordan, Jr., Esquire

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Eugene E. Pepinsky, Jr., Esquire

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven J. Schiffman, Esquire

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lori K. Serratelli, Esquire

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ira H. Weinstock, Esquire