

Peter B. Foster was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on July, 7, 1940. He was one of three children, the only one of which left Pittsburgh for the "East Coast," and he was very close with his parents who were Pittsburgh natives. He loved to read as a child and although very social and friendly, his clear preference as a boy was to surround himself with novels, history books and fiction and nonfiction mysteries which he would read late into the night.

Peter always maintained how his father's occupation made a lasting impression on him. He also often noted that his father's world of corporate law and his world of civil and criminal litigation and criminal defense (after years of serving as a prosecutor) were two entirely different occupations and that he may have chosen the more stressful, yet more exciting of the two.

Peter had an impressive resume which, upon close inspection, reveals a man who was highly passionate and extremely devoted to the legal profession from the very start of his career. He began his career as an Assistant District Attorney in Allegheny County after which he served as a Deputy Attorney General in the Shapp Administration. He would often recount the experience he accumulated during those years as crucial to the development of his skills as a private practitioner and he would gladly recount anecdotes and case examples whenever he was asked for advice by his fellow practitioners, to which he always felt obliged to help.

After ten years representing the State as a prosecutor, Peter entered the relaxed, easy-going world of private practice and he maintained a private practice for over thirty five years joining forces with several Harrisburg attorneys along the way. Peter's office was located in downtown Harrisburg, PA and he was a "regular" at the hot spots. One could catch him on one of his many daily walks to the Dauphin County Courthouse during which he would delight in talking entertainment news, politics, and sports, especially those that involved the Three Rivers area, with his many neighbors and friends.

Peter would beam a smile when others referred to him as a "hard-charging" litigator, but in reality, his greatest asset as an attorney was, quite simply, a cerebral thoroughness coupled with that rare capacity to understand the big picture while not overlooking the countless fine details and litigation techniques, strategies and tools that all highly skilled practitioners must employ to assist their client in reaching their objective.

He never shied away from even the most complicated or untrodden area of the law. However, in his forays into the many esoteric areas of the law, he was often compelled to use increasingly creative research techniques (or calling in favors from friends) as he did not often employ, nor was he interested in learning, techniques of modern research. Peter's obituary referenced that Peter Foster was determined that [the law] equally serve the weak as well as the powerful." To go a step further, observing Peter in his private practice would reveal an attorney who deeply understood what Martin Luther King, Jr. meant when he stated "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Peter was opinionated, but not judgmental. He was sensitive to the many

delicate positions that so many clients find themselves in and he never judged them for it.

Although he maintained a busy wide-ranging practice, Peter had many hobbies and he enjoyed a wide variety of sports. He was resolute in his loyalty to his hometown favorites, The Pittsburgh Steelers as well as The Pirates and The University of Pittsburgh Panthers. In fact, he was spotted on more than one occasion on National Television chanting while sporting full Pittsburgh Steelers regalia and a headdress of his favorite Defensive player (specifically, a Troy Polamalu wig). He relished attending nearly every game with his grand-nieces and grand-nephews and he would plan for them months in advance.

However, Peter did not just watch sports, he participated as well. An avid skier, outdoorsman and fisherman from his youth until his unexpected passing, he never stopped trying new activities and was always willing to try new things and he constantly made efforts to broaden his horizons.

There was a "goodness" in Peter that his colleagues, his clients, his family and his friends all recognized. He was extremely generous and understood the value of public service. Many would not understand just how much Peter gave back to the community because he received very little formal recognition for it during his lifetime. This was by choice. He did not seek it. He loved giving and he received a great deal of personal satisfaction by simply giving his clients his stellar personal service and helping them navigate increasingly stressful legal situations. Sir Winston Churchill once stated that "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." Peter clearly made a great life for himself.

Therefore, be it resolved, that in the passing of Peter B. Foster, our community has lost a most honorable gentleman and citizen and a truly fine practitioner and affectionate Member of the Bar.

And resolved further, that the members of the Dauphin County Bar Association, in meeting assembled, mourn the death of our esteemed colleague, Peter B. Foster, and extend our deepest sympathies to his many family members and friends.

And resolved further, that copies of the Memorial Resolution be spread upon 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 the copies be transmitted to his family.

Respectfully submitted:

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