MEMORIAL RESOLUTION UPON THE
DEATH OF SAMUEL C. HARRY

Sam Harry died on June 4, 2011, at his home surrounded by his family. Sam was 89 at the time of his death. Sam practiced Pennsylvania tax law and was widely respected and liked, not only by his fellow members of the Tax Bar, but also by all of the attorneys and other representatives of the Department of Revenue, Board of Finance and Revenue and Office of Attorney General with whom he sought fair treatment for his tax clients. Sam was a true gentleman of the Bar Association.

Sam was born in Clearfield, Pennsylvania, on April 12, 1922 and was a graduate of Clearfield High School. He then graduated from Penn State University and Dickinson School of Law.

Throughout his early academic career, Sam was also an outstanding wrestler. He had the unique distinction of being the first Pennsylvania state wrestling champion in 1938. He was literally the first state wrestling champion, since 1938 was the first year in which Pennsylvania had state wrestling championships and Sam’s weight class was the first to participate at the finals.

Sam went on to win the Eastern Intercollegiate wrestling championships in his weight class in college in 1942 and again in 1946.

Sam continued to follow closely and attend both high school and Penn State wrestling matches. He always enjoyed talking about the current Penn State
wrestling teams and high school wrestlers who participated in the Pennsylvania State wrestling championships which he regularly attended.

Sam's other great passion began in 1942 when he enlisted in the United States Army Air Corp. He became a pilot and continued to fly both gliders and acrobatic aircraft throughout his life. With his son, Tom, a commercial pilot, in another single engine plane, Sam flew throughout Alaska landing at various small airstrips, including a stop-off in Barrow, our northernmost town. He also made a similar trip around Australia. Sam's joy of life and inquisitive nature are evidenced by these trips.

One of my most memorable experiences was on a day when he took me up in his glider. Prior to going to the air field, Sam warned me that the tow plane pilot by the name of Johnny was an older gentleman, but that I should not feel uncomfortable because Johnny had flown planes for more than 60 years and flying was something he didn't forget. As promised, at the air field, we were met by a gentleman who was at least 80 years of age. He and Sam pulled the glider into place, attached it to the tow plane cable, and off we went behind Johnny. After we got aloft. Johnny released the glider and Sam asked me if I would like to take the controls. I told him that I thought it might be more fun if he flew the plane. Sure enough, this decision significantly enhanced my experience. Sam immediately caught a thermal and we circled up to about 2,000 or 2,500 feet and Sam then asked me if I would like to do a 360 degree turn. I said that would be
great. Sam then said don’t get alarmed because we are going to plunge straight down until we reach the necessary speed, which as I recall was 90 or 95 miles per hour. Sam then pulled us out of that dive and we did this lazy 360 degree circle. I can only describe it as being very different from the super/dooper/looper at Hershey Park, which is so fast you don’t really experience it. In a glider, you are very aware of the time you are upside down.

Not only was Sam good at flying a glider, but just with wrestling and his practice of law, Sam was an expert at flying the glider. When we first got into the glider, Sam said to me that the wheel in the tail of the glider was slightly bent so when we were finished, he would stop the glider by the garage door at the air field so that the glider could be easily pulled into the garage and repaired. When we returned to the air field, Sam landed on the front wheels of the glider and taxied on those two front wheels without allowing the wheel in the tail of the glider to touch down. More importantly, when the glider came to a stop, he was within six feet of the garage door that he had talked about. His ability to do all this using only wind as propulsior was extremely impressive.

That experience in the glider reflects Sam’s generosity, as well as his desire to share his experiences and expertise. He loved to do favors for others, and he loved his planes.

Sam’s generosity was also evident when he flew from Harrisburg to Bradford, Pennsylvania, to pick up our partner John Enos’ mother who was no
longer able to drive. He flew her back to Harrisburg so that she could visit with John and other family members here.

Throughout his life, and I suspect up until very close to his death, he still owned and flew either his glider or his acrobatic plane. Sam also loved to talk about his planes and his flying experiences.

When Sam joined our firm in December 1981, after many years as a partner with the firm of Morgan Lewis & Bockius, I immediately related to him as a friend, not only because of his kind and good nature, but also because of our mutual affiliations with both Penn State and Dickinson School of Law, and further because while I was not a wrestler, I went to Bedford High School, which has a strong wrestling program and which is not too far from Clearfield High School. As a result, I was very aware of and talked with Sam about the Clearfield wrestling reputation.

Aside from Sam’s kindness in matters beyond the office, he was also extremely giving in the office and was always available to answer a question or discuss a legal matter.

Sam retired as an active attorney from Keefer Wood Allen & Rahal in 1994. He will be greatly missed by members of the Tax Bar, the individuals in our law firm, and by others with whom he came in contact.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in the passing of Samuel C. Harry, the community has lost a true gentleman and a respected citizen, the Bar
has lost one of its able practitioners, and the family has lost an affectionate and devoted member.

AND RESOLVED FURTHER, that the members of the Dauphin County Bar Association, in meeting assembled, mourn the death of our esteemed colleague, Samuel C. Harry, and offer our sympathy and heart-felt condolences to his widow Betty of 67 years and their four children, Thomas C. Harry, Nancy L. Harry, Susan J. Plank and Debo'a Harry-Spencer, as well as to his surviving brother Kenneth.

AND RESOLVED FURTHER, that copies of this Memorial Resolution be spread upon the records of the Dauphin County Courts and Dauphin County Bar Association, that the original copy be filed with the Office of the Prothonotary, and that copies be transmitted to his widow and family.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 8/31/11

Robert L. Weldon, Esquire
Chairman, Memorial Committee

John H. Enos, Ill, Esquire

N. David Rahal, Esquire