

**DAUPHIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
MEMORIAL RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF DENNIS R. SHEAFFER**

Dennis R. Sheaffer, a member of the Bar of Dauphin County for more than three decades died on November 30, 2016 at the age of 58. Dennis was born March 11, 1958 in Mechanicsburg. He is survived by his parents, Donald R. and Joanne Sheaffer.

Dennis was the son of a railroader and the grandson of a railroader. Appropriately, he grew up in Enola. He attended East Pennsboro Schools. He starred in golf and baseball. He graduated in 1976. He continued his studies and baseball career at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster. He majored in Mathematics and Government, graduating in 1980.

After graduating from the National Law Center at George Washington University, Dennis began the practice of law in 1983 as an associate with Hepford, Swartz, Menaker & Wilt on Front Street in Harrisburg. Dennis ultimately became a partner. By 1998, the firm was Hepford, Swartz and Morgan and it merged with Pittsburgh's Tucker, Arensberg. Dennis served for many years as the managing shareholder of Tucker's Harrisburg office.

Dennis was a gifted civil litigator. When the Workers' Compensation Act was amended in the 1990's, Dennis developed a special expertise in the new

requirements for hearing loss cases. As a result, Dennis represented self-insured employers throughout Pennsylvania.

Given the railroad in his DNA, it is not surprising that Dennis developed a keen interest in legal matters dealing with railroad safety and operations. He represented injured railroad employees in FELA cases and members of the community injured as a result of the actions of railroad operators. He achieved his largest verdict in one such case here in Dauphin County.

Dennis wore many hats during his career. The bread and butter of his practice was plaintiff personal injury work. He understood the problems faced by his clients. He zealously pursued their claims. His relationship with his clients was epitomized by the fact that his clients called him "Denny" not "Dennis".

The breadth of Dennis' practice is illustrated by the variety of matters that crossed his desk. In conjunction with his long time partner Lee Swartz, he sought damages for the owners of poisoned racehorses. He assisted in the representation of the Commonwealth in the various damage claims arising out of the Pittsburgh Convention Center and he successfully represented holders of music copyrights in infringement cases. Dennis also represented clients in the retail, building supply, construction and hospitality industries.

Dennis was an aggressive advocate. More importantly, he was a gentleman. He understood decorum. He conducted himself with dignity. He invariably won the respect of opposing counsel.

It would be unfair to say that Dennis was all work and no play. He knew how to have a good time. The athleticism Dennis demonstrated in his youth continued throughout his life. If a game involved a ball whether it was a baseball, softball, golf ball, volleyball or even a bowling ball, he would excel.

Dennis was an avid golfer. He played all over the country and in Mexico. He had the ability to remember courses and holes and shots that he played and that others played.

Dennis was a stalwart of the Dauphin County Bar Association summer volleyball league. He put together a team and led it to multiple championships. Dennis and his wife Cathy also played competitive volleyball throughout the winter in a league established by the East Shore Y. In recent years Dennis added bowling to his repertoire and, not surprisingly, he became more than proficient.

Dennis enjoyed sports. He reveled in the participation and competition. Also, he did not like to lose.

Dennis had a generous heart. He quietly provided pro bono service. He generously contributed to the Harrisburg Area YMCA. Over the years Dennis gave a helping hand to many, which was unknown until he passed away.

Dennis is survived by his loving wife, Cathleen (Kohr) Sheaffer. Dennis and Cathy were a dynamic duo. They loved to travel and their trips often were built around exploring distant golf courses. In addition to his parents and Cathy, Dennis is survived by his son Derek, his brother Gary, Gary's wife Kimberly and nephew, Lorin.

Dennis enjoyed coaching Derek in baseball and basketball beginning in elementary school through high school. Every year he looked forward to planning and going to Saratoga Springs with Cathy, his dad Donald and Derek for a long weekend of horse racing. He treasured the time he spent with his family.

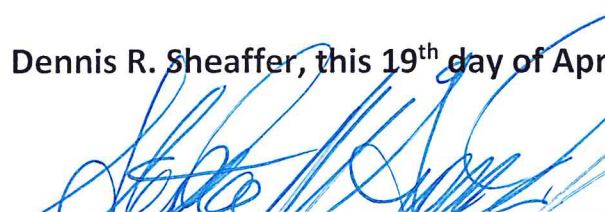
As we remember our colleague, Dennis Sheaffer, recall the words of Emerson: "It is not length of life, but depth of life".

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we members of the Dauphin County Bar Association extend our sympathy to the family of Dennis R. Sheaffer, to his beloved wife Cathleen Sheaffer, his son Derek Sheaffer, his parents


Donald R. and Joanne Sheaffer, his brother Gary Sheaffer and Gary's wife Kimberly and his nephew Lorin Sheaffer.

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

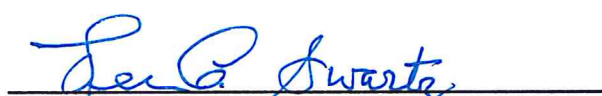
Respectfully submitted by the Memorial Committee on the death of Dennis R. Sheaffer, this 19th day of April, 2017.



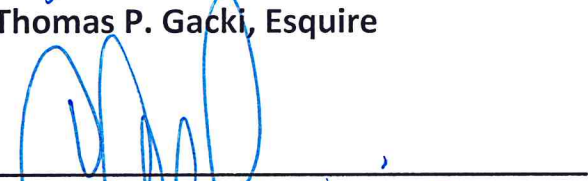
Stephen M. Greecher, Jr., Esquire




Thomas P. Gacki, Esquire



Lee C. Swartz, Esquire



Christopher M. Cicconi, Esquire



The Honorable Bruce F. Bratton



Terrence J. McGowan, Esquire