

**THERESA BARRETT MALE, ESQUIRE**  
**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

DAUPHIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
Presented in Special Session of the  
Court of Common Pleas, Dauphin  
County, Pennsylvania  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, March 7, 2018

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGES OF THE DAUPHIN COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, our colleagues at the Bar, to Theresa's beloved husband, Jon Male, and family and friends, my name is Mark Silliker and I am honored to be here today as we gather to celebrate the life of our colleague and dear friend – Theresa Barrett Male, otherwise known affectionately to all her friends as “T”.

Theresa was born on May 11, 1952, in Washington, D.C. However, Theresa moved with her parents to Scranton, Pennsylvania where she was raised. T attended Marywood College where she focused her studies in psychology, receiving her Bachelor's Degree in 1974, followed by her Master's Degree in 1976. In 1986, Theresa obtained her Juris Doctorate from The Dickinson School of Law in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. In between those educational milestones and her 30 year legal career, Theresa filled our lives with unmatched energy, laughter and love.

I first met Theresa over 30 years ago. She was an excellent lawyer and a tenacious advocate. Indeed, in law school she was nicknamed “Theresa Barracuda”. She always did a good job, and when the work day was over, she was full of warmth, support, and she was always a good friend to one and all.

As most of you know, Theresa was Irish and indeed she was intensely proud of her Irish heritage. The Irish have a saying that you are truly blessed if you have –

Honest work to occupy you.

A love of life to sustain you.

A good man to love you.

And a wink from God above you.

Theresa would tell you that she was truly blessed – she had them all.

As the oldest of the six Barrett children, Theresa was no stranger to hard work and, perhaps, it was her role as “big sister” to the Barrett clan that caused her to focus her career on helping children and families.

After completing her undergraduate work and obtaining her Master’s degree, T chose to work as a caseworker for Lackawanna County Children and Youth. When she realized that she could better serve the needs of children if she could more actively advocate on their behalf, she enrolled in Dickinson School of Law where she excelled. Her focus remained on the needs of children and while serving as an editor of the Law Review, she wrote and published an article entitled “Suffer the Little Children” in which she provided an analysis of the problems children encountered under Pennsylvania’s Child Protective Services Law.

Upon her law school graduation, Theresa was employed by Berman, Boswell, Tintner and Piccola where she remained until 1989, when she opened her own firm. She remained a solo practitioner for over 25 years concentrating her practice in the family law arena always reaffirming her commitment to helping children and families in turmoil.

In 2012, Theresa began a new venture when she joined the law firm of Smigel, Anderson and Sacks. At SAS, she continued her work with families and children but her career took on an additional dimension. Theresa was always well-versed in the law and developments within her field. Likewise, she was always eager and willing to share her knowledge of family law and family law practice. I want to stress, she was always there as a resource for any of us who needed assistance or insight. However, when she moved on to Smigel, Anderson and Sacks, she had the opportunity to become actively involved in mentoring young and new attorneys, helping

to shape their careers, and sharing with them her vast knowledge of family law. Indeed, some of us felt she even spent some time mentoring our friend and colleague, Lee Smigel. I think he would agree that she was of great assistance to him and his firm. Theresa thoroughly loved this additional role of teacher and continued with SAS until eventually declining health forced her to stop practicing law and give up the career that she loved so much.

Honest, hard work was T's mantra throughout her life and as she battled cancer. During that eight year battle, when asked how she managed to carry on, she always replied that it was her work that enabled her to continue the battle, and believe me, she fought hard. Although she was diagnosed with advanced cancer, it did not stop her. She worked and fought almost until the end. God bless her.

But while Theresa's work gave her the drive and the will to carry on, it was her love of life that stands out above all else. If Theresa was involved, no matter what the event, you could be sure that a good time would be had by all. Whether she was entertaining at her home in County Mayo, Ireland, making jewelry to adorn her friends and family, or climbing the holy mountain of St. Patrick in Ireland, she did everything with a joy and determination that was contagious.

Whether she was chairing the Dauphin County Bar Association Family Law Section, attending meetings of the Collaborative Professionals or volunteering her service to the Court, Theresa brought new energy to each endeavor. And of course, we have the Domestic Divas, known also as the Matrimonial Mommas. Theresa was one of the founders of this group, the purpose of which she and her colleagues would proudly tell you was to get the "girlfriends" together for a drink, and usually lots of drinks, and a laugh. But over the years, the Divas did much more. The periodic, spontaneous meetings that T would call provided the Divas, the

Mommas and an occasional Poppa, with an outlet and a touch of sanity in the often hectic, stressful, day-to-day practice of Family Law.

And the final blessing – a good man to love her.

That good man was Jon Male. Theresa and Jon had one of those rare marriages that survived for over 40 years and survived despite the fact that, for many of those years, they actually worked together!

Jon would frequently appear in the courtroom to, if nothing else, help Theresa tote brief cases and boxes of exhibits and Jon never missed an opportunity to accompany Theresa to meetings of the Family Law Section whether they were in a distant exotic location or at the Hilton, just down the street from their office. Both Jon and Theresa delighted in recounting incidents that they encountered in the courtroom or while traveling and the good natured way that they occasionally poked fun at the other, made it evident to all of us, just how special their relationship was.

Whether Jon was assisting T in the Courtroom or helping her to climb a mountain in Ireland, Theresa was certainly blessed with a good man to love her.

Theresa was diagnosed with cancer in 2009, ironically the same year that she and Jon realized their dream and purchased their home in Ireland. As she did with all challenges – Theresa met Cancer head on and fought the good fight for many years. She never gave in and never gave up and never let on how difficult that battle must have been.

Theresa was truly one of those special people who could smile even when everything went wrong and she never quit smiling until she got that last wink from God.

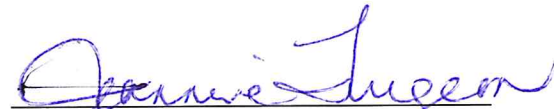
Theresa Barrett Male died on October 1, 2017.


We will miss our Supreme Diva, our most Marvelous of Matrimonial Mommas, our supportive colleague, and most of all our very, very dear friend.

And so BE IT RESOLVED that the Bar Association mourns the death of Theresa Barrett Male, and extends to her husband, Jon Male, her siblings and all her family, our deepest sympathies. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial resolution be placed on the records of the Dauphin County Courts and the Dauphin County Bar Association, that the original be filed in the Office of the Prothonotary, and that copies be transmitted to her family.

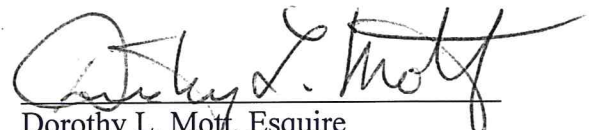
Respectfully submitted,

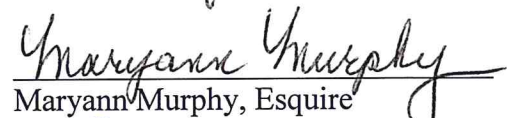
  
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