

**A RESOLUTION BY THE
FRANKLIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
IN MEMORY OF GREGORY L. KIERSZ**

WHEREAS, the members of the Franklin County Bar Association have gathered in a special meeting on May 14, 2005, to celebrate the life and honor the memory of our colleague and fellow member, Gregory L. Kiersz, who was called home by his Almighty God on May 10, 2005; and

WHEREAS, although saddened by his death, it is our desire and our tradition to share our recollections of Greg and honor him with a memorial resolution at this special meeting; and

WHEREAS, before offering this resolution, we want to offer a brief record of his life and career.

Greg was born October 18, 1947, in Buffalo, New York, the son of the late Leon and Arlene Formaniak Kiersz. He graduated from Clarence Central High School in 1964, then received his bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Albany. He earned his juris doctor from The Dickinson School of Law (now The Pennsylvania State University Dickinson School of Law) thereafter.

Greg was admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania on October 30, 1975, and to the Bar of Franklin County on January 5, 1976.

He came to Franklin County to join the practice of Lloyd Reichard, with whom he worked until 1978, when he joined the practice of Roy Angle. Attorney Angle passed away within a year after that, and it likely was Greg's efforts to administer the substantial estate practice of Attorney Angle that determined the area of practice where he would later excel.

Thereafter Greg merged his practice with several other members of our bar to form the firm of Beck, Patterson, Kaminski, Keller and Kiersz in 1979, which evolved into Patterson, Kaminski, Keller and Kiersz. Subsequently Greg and Steve Patterson formed the firm of Patterson & Kiersz, which today is Patterson, Kiersz & Murphy, P.C., with Tom Murphy becoming a partner this year.

Greg married his wife, Marguerite "Marge" Feldman Kiersz, on September 6, 1969. They have two children, Martha S. Kiersz of Chambersburg and Benjamin L. Kiersz, who followed in his father's footsteps and became an attorney himself, of Falls Church, Virginia.

Greg developed an expertise in estate administration and planning to such a degree that he was uniformly regarded by his colleagues in Franklin County and throughout Pennsylvania as an expert in elder law. For more than 10 years he focused his practice on elder law, specializing in asset preservation, trusts, estate planning and administration, guardianships, and real estate.

The culmination of his dedication to the practice of elder law came in the spring of 2004, when Greg successfully completed the examination and application process of the National Elder

Law Foundation to become a Certified Elder Law Attorney. This certification demonstrates an attorney's knowledge of the legal issues that impact the elderly and their families. Greg was one of only 320 attorneys in the entire country to achieve Certified Elder Law Attorney status.

Greg's commitment to serving the legal needs of older persons extended to his membership and involvement in the Franklin County Bar Association and the Pennsylvania Bar Association. Greg was a willing participant and presenter in a number of programs for the public presented by The Law and You Committee of our bar, most recently as a panel member at a 2001 program on estates and wills in Chambersburg. He had been a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Elder Law Committee since its inception in 1998, and when it became the Elder Law Section in 2002, he began serving on the council of that section. He also was a member of the faculty of the Pennsylvania Bar Institute, and taught continuing legal education programs for our local bar as well. He co-authored an article on long-term care insurance for the PBA Quarterly in 2003.

Greg served on several bar association committees, including American Citizenship from 1976 to 1980, Public Records and Archives from 1985 to 1986, and Lunch and Learn from 1999 to 2004. He helped organize events throughout the county as a member of the Constitution Bicentennial Committee in 1987. He also served the court, and the bar, for more than 25 years as a member of the Law Library Committee, chairing the committee for some 20 years until stepping down in January 2005. He was very supportive of the bar's project, now under way, to move the law library and bar association office together into the new Heritage Center in Chambersburg, and was enthused by the opportunities the move would bring.

Greg's generous spirit extended to the community at large. He was a member of Mount Pisgah Lodge 443 F&AM of Greencastle; a member and past president of Rotary Club of Waynesboro; and a member of the Eagles Club Inc., BPO Elks Lodge 731 of Waynesboro, and Waynesboro Fish and Game Association, among other organizations.

In sharing their memories of Greg, members of our bar were quick to cite his extensive professional contributions, but just as quick to enumerate the many facets of his personality — sometimes quirky, sometimes surprising — that made him, in the words of one member, “a true renaissance man,” and, according to another, “a completely authentic original.”

He was an avid hunter and fisherman who sometimes wore camouflage to the office, yet was skilled at the ancient arts of origami and bonsai cultivation. He played bridge, panned for gold in California, relished both fine cooking and a good beer, collected barbed wire, and could tell you not only the names of constellations but what class a particular star was. As yet another of his colleagues put it, “Greg packed more fun in more varied forms into his 57 years than any five other people would in 75 years.”

Greg was one of our most eclectic members and a truly unique spirit. He treated all he encountered with respect and deference while vigorously pursuing his clients' interests. He himself was respected not only by the bar but also the Bench. He was a great resource for fellow attorneys and gladly shared his knowledge with us all. He will be missed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Franklin County Bar Association express our sympathy at the loss of Gregory L. Kiersz, a husband, father, colleague and attorney at law. We will strive to keep his memory alive, for the strength, dedication and wisdom of those who have gone before us are the foundation for our future.

Respectfully submitted,

Member, Memorial Resolutions Committee
Franklin County Bar Association