

**A RESOLUTION OF THE
FRANKLIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
IN MEMORY OF JASON P. KUTULAKIS**

WHEREAS, the members of the Franklin County Bar Association wish to celebrate the life and honor the memory of our colleague and fellow associate member, Jason P. Kutulakis, who was called home by his Almighty God on Sunday, January 31, 2016 at the age of 47; and

WHEREAS, although saddened by his death, it is our desire and the tradition of our Bar, to share our recollections of Jason and honor him with a memorial resolution to be shared with his colleagues and family and;

WHEREAS, the members of the Franklin County Bar Association desire to offer a brief record of his life and career.

Jason was born May 29, 1968 in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, the son of the late Peter and Mary Kutalakis. He married Ms. Joanne Cassidy 1999. In addition to his wife Joanne he is survived by his beloved daughter Alexandra, who was born in 2001, his mother and father-in-law, Marrie and Richard Cassidy; as well as four nephews and two nieces.

Jason graduated from Big Spring High School in 1986. He attended and graduated from Pennsylvania State University in University Park, Pennsylvania in 1991, and graduated from the Dickinson School of Law in 1994 where his father had been a member of the faculty. After Penn State merged with Dickinson, Jason served on Dickinson Law's Board of Governors and worked hard to keep the law school based in Carlisle, PA.

Jason was admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar in 1994. He became an associate member of the Franklin County Bar Association on May 26, 2005.

Jason's career was multi-dimensional with a particular emphasis on advocating for the welfare of children. In 1997, he joined the Dauphin County Public Defender's Office where his primary responsibilities were in the Appellate and Juvenile Divisions. In 1999, Jason joined the Camp Hill law firm of Marshall, Smith and Haddick, P.C.

In 2001 he founded his own law firm, Abom & Kutulakis, in downtown Carlisle. Jason focused his practice on child advocacy, civil litigation, workers' compensation, and business counseling.

From 1999 to 2010 he served as the Solicitor for Dauphin County Children and Youth Services. In 2004, he formed the non-profit organization The Pennsylvania Children and Youth Solicitors' Association. In 2006, The Pennsylvania Bar Association's Children's Rights Committee honored Jason with The Child Advocate of the Year Award.

Jason's vision helped to create ChildFirst PA, making Pennsylvania the 17th state in the nation to offer a certified forensic interview training program for child abuse cases. The

ChildFirst PA program is specifically designed for investigative teams of law enforcement officers, social workers, prosecutors, child protective attorneys, and mandated reporters of abuse who must provide essential information to investigating professionals.

In January 2012, Jason was selected to serve on the Pennsylvania Governor's Task Force on Child Protection. The 11-member Task Force was formed after the Jerry Sandusky-Penn State child sexual abuse scandal to review and make recommendations on how to overhaul the child abuse laws of Pennsylvania including the definition of child abuse, mandated reporter and perpetrator. The General Assembly has adopted more than two dozen changes to state law, largely fulfilling the recommendations made by Jason and his Task Force colleagues. He proudly served on the board of directors of Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance (PFSA). Jason's counsel was instrumental in helping PFSA secure a Department of Human Services' statewide contract in 2016 to provide training to mandated reporters of child abuse in Pennsylvania.

Jason received numerous professional and volunteer accolades, including: Brad M. Jackman Award from the Pennsylvania Children and Youth Solicitors' Association; George E. Hoffer Service to Youth Award from the Cumberland County Bar Association; Central PA Business Journal's 40 Under 40; 2006 Outstanding Citizen from the Dauphin County Commissioners' Office; 2006 Child Advocacy Award from the Cumberland County Commissioners' Office; and elected first president of the Big Spring School District Bulldog Foundation.

In his free time, Jason cheered vigorously for the Nittany Lions, renovated the family's home, Fieldwood Farm, tended to the menagerie of family pets and domesticated animals. Jason founded the Bulldog Foundation which supported Big Spring School District initiatives and served as its first president. Jason loved to cheer on Alex during gymnastic meets, field hockey, volleyball and basketball games, and instilled in her an abiding love of animals. He especially loved their dogs.

Jason was an avid sportsman who drew inspiration from the natural beauty of Pennsylvania. As a young man, Jason was drawn to the woods and waters of Raystown Lake. He spent many joy-filled days there hunting with his high school buddies. As an adult, he introduced his beloved wife and daughter to the adventure of cabin living as well as boating, fishing, and tubing.

Jason wasn't content to remain on the sidelines when it came to politics. He was active in the Cumberland County Republican Party and worked tirelessly on behalf of dozens of GOP candidates over the last 15 years, in fact, spending his last day at a GOP endorsement meeting serving as the Party's vice chairman. He was a strong advocate for farmland preservation and responsible development of communities throughout Cumberland County.

The following are some observations submitted by members of the Franklin County Bar Association:

Jason was zealous advocate when appearing in court for his clients. He was well prepared and always had a very clear vision of what he thought the outcome of the case should be even if the judge didn't see it that way.

I first met Jason several years ago at the annual Solicitors Association meeting held at the Nittany Lion Inn in State College. He was in his element as a presenter and host of the conference on Child Welfare Law. He was, of course, knowledgeable, wise, detailed, efficient and often played devil's advocate to the crowd of attorneys and judges. I didn't know then how involved he was in the world of child welfare. Over the next couple of years, I gained a better insight to just how immersed and dedicated he was to the children of this state. Last year, Jason and I facilitated the Bridge the Gap training for new attorneys. It was then that I got to see another side to Jason P. Kutulakis, Esquire. Where the video information was dry, he made it sparkle. Where it was cheesy, he highlighted the worst and made us laugh. When there were questions, he answered with clarity, thoughtfulness and humor. Throughout the day he was an advocate- devil's advocate that is- keeping the young lawyers on their toes. He was gracious and welcoming to the newest in our profession; and, I am glad to have had the opportunity to spend that day in his company. ~ Deborah Dresser Neiderer

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Franklin County Bar Association express our sympathy on the occasion of the loss of our fellow associate member and colleague, Jason P. Kutalakis, husband, father, and attorney at law. We will strive to keep his memory alive, for the strength, dedication and wisdom of those members who have gone before us represent the foundation of the future generations of our profession.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn D. Meyers, J.
Memorial Resolution Comm.

Forest Myers
Memorial Resolution Comm.

Mary Beth Shank
President, Franklin County Bar
Association