

**A RESOLUTION BY THE
FRANKLIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
IN MEMORY OF NICOLE FAITH BERMAN, ESQUIRE**

WHEREAS, the members of the Franklin County Bar Association have gathered in a special meeting on January 19, 2011, to celebrate the life and honor the memory of our colleague and fellow member, Nicole Faith Berman, who died on December 28, 2010; and

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

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

Nicole Faith Berman was born September 17, 1983, the daughter of Dr. Mitchell Berman and the late Rachel McCullough. She was a graduate of Sparta High School in Sparta, New Jersey. She received her bachelor's degree in music industry, with a minor in philosophy, from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2005, and earned her juris doctorate from the Penn State Dickinson School of Law in 2009.

As a student at Dickinson, she received the Eric D. Turner Award from the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, and was named a Public Interest Advocate in the Miller Center for Public Interest Advocacy.

While at Dickinson, Nicole interned first in the New Jersey Office of the Public Defender in Essex County in the summer of 2007, then in Dickinson's Family Law Clinic from January 2008 to May 2009. She gained a great deal of experience at the Family Law Clinic, but also made her mark in a memorable case that stretched over nearly her entire time at the clinic. Through multiple pleadings and several hearings, she completed an adoption involving eight children, which included a contested involuntary termination of a natural parent's rights. At the final hearing, one of the children asked Cumberland County Judge Kevin Hess to change her middle name to Nicole, which the judge granted.

Nicole said later of her time at the clinic, "Working at the Family Law Clinic was a fantastic learning experience. It was incredibly empowering to know that my work, even as a student, had such a positive impact on the lives of such deserving clients."

After graduating from Dickinson, Nicole returned to New Jersey to help care for her mother, who was ill with cancer. During that time, she also volunteered in the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General in Newark.

Following her mother's death, Nicole came back to central Pennsylvania to accept a position as staff attorney with MidPenn Legal Services in its Chambersburg office.

Nicole was admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania on October 13, 2009, and to the Bar of Franklin County on December 10, 2010.

While Nicole was a member of our Bar for a short time, she made an impact on all who met her, as she did with her colleagues at MidPenn and the attorneys with whom she worked at the Dickinson Family Law Clinic, as a happy, confident person who loved her work.

"She was always very cheerful, and always had a smile on her face," said one of her fellow young lawyers.

“Nicole was passionate about her work and demonstrated high standards of professionalism. Even though her time with us was short, she will be greatly missed,” said another attorney.

A member of our Bench had this to say: “When I first met Nicole, I thought she came with experience as an attorney and was surprised to learn that she had only recently graduated from law school. She possessed all the necessary qualities to become a great attorney — commitment, competency, preparedness and professionalism. Her clients were well-served by her representation. The memory I choose to retain of Nicole is the day of her admittance to the Franklin County Bar. Her broad smile was not one to be missed, and it was evident that she truly enjoyed her chosen profession. Her tragic death is felt by those she served and those before whom she practiced.”

In addition to her father, Nicole is survived by two sisters and a brother, Erin, Hannah and Robbie Berman; her grandfather, Robert Berman; and a number of aunts, uncles and cousins. We join them in mourning her passing, but also in celebrating the relationships we had with her.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Franklin County Bar Association express our sympathy at the loss of Nicole Faith Berman. We will strive to keep her memory alive, for the strength, dedication and wisdom of those who have gone before us are the foundation for our future.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne M. Shepard, President
Franklin County Bar Association