



**A RESOLUTION OF THE
FRANKLIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM SHEAFFER**

WHEREAS, the members of the Franklin County Bar Association met in a Special Meeting this 20th day of September, 2018, to celebrate the life and honor the memory of our colleague and fellow member, William “Bill” Sheaffer, who was called home by his Almighty God the 31st day of July, 2018; and

WHEREAS, although saddened by his death, it is our desire, and the tradition of the Franklin County Bar Association, to share our recollections of Bill and honor him with a Memorial Resolution at this Special Meeting; and

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

Bill was born March 29, 1950 in Lancaster Pennsylvania, the son of the late Paul David Sheaffer and Ruth Burkhart Sheaffer. He was married to his beloved wife, Sandra “Sandy”, for 45 years who survives him, and his daughter, Laura Amy Maiurano, her husband Marco, and cherished granddaughter Cecilia “Cece” Maiurano.

Bill attended public schools in Lancaster, graduating from Conestoga Valley High School. He was a 1972 graduate of Shippensburg State College (now Shippensburg University) where he received Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science Degrees in Business Administration.

Upon his graduation from Shippensburg University, Bill was appointed as the first Court Administrator of the Thirty-Ninth Judicial District by the late President Judge, George Eppinger. His first office was located on the second floor of the Old Court House outside what at the time as the law library. Office is using the term loosely since it consisted of a desk in the hall. He served in this position for 35 years until his retirement in 2007. Bill served President Judges Eppinger, Keller, Walker and Herman during his tenure as the Court Administrator. He can be said to be the person who kept the Court in Franklin County operating smoothly.

Bill had a love of sports and was active as a PIAA referee in central Pennsylvania, officiating football and basketball. He also refereed semi-pro football games in central Pennsylvania. He enjoyed following the Penn State Nittany Lions football team and the Baltimore Orioles baseball team.

He was active in his church, the Chambersburg Gospel Church, where he served as an Elder. Bill was past president of the Chambersburg Noontime Lions Club and also past President of the Chambersburg YMCA.

When not serving others, Bill enjoyed time spent with his wife and daughter and granddaughter, gardening, travel, golf and bicycling.

Bill was honored by the Franklin County Bar Association with an Honorary Membership upon his retirement in 2007 and continued to attend FCBA events after his retirement.

The following are memories and observations submitted by his fellow Franklin County Bar Members:

Bill’s laugh was one difficult to escape and could be heard throughout the entirety of the third floor of the Courthouse. His approach to life was simple – faith, family, friends and maybe a good beer now and then. Hired right out of college by Judge Eppinger, he had the opportunity to shape the position of Court Administrator for the 39th Judicial District since he was the first in that position. He controlled the Court calendar and I definitely mean

“controlled.” Hearings were scheduled through him with his “black book” and requests were ALWAYS met with, “Geez – can’t you settle that?” He was respected statewide for his service to the Pennsylvania Association of Court Administrators and rose to the rank of President of that organization. Since his passing, I’ve been reminded that the task for which he was best known among his colleagues was arranging the annual golf tournament making sure there were appropriate refreshments! I had the unique opportunity to work with him when I served as a law clerk, then as an attorney and lastly as a judge. My favorite memory of him as a law clerk is the day he found out that he was going to be a dad! I can still hear the laugh and see the smile on his face as he came back the hall to tell me the good news. As a judge, I can honestly say that he gave me some of the best on-the-job training in those first few years. He had an unmatched ability to see through the pleadings, determine how much time was truly needed, and schedule accordingly. There were times when he double-booked to a fault, but there weren’t many. He was a committed father and husband but saved his biggest dose of pride for his granddaughter, Cece. My last few conversations with Bill, mostly in the grocery store, revolved around our grandchildren and his latest trip. Bill lived life to the fullest and enjoyed each and every day. He never complained about his health issues but took them in stride. His is a life that will be remembered by me with a smile. President Judge Carol Van Horn

One member remarked that Bill had an incredibly low threshold for pain. When these folks were playing racquetball, they would intentionally aim at Bill. In one instance, after being hit, Bill collapsed in the corner of the court. Thinking they had inflicted grievous harm to him they carried him to his car. They were understandably upset when Bill showed up for work the next morning without so much as a bruise.

Bill ruled the Court’s schedule with his “book.” As a pretrial was concluding, the judges would call Bill into their chambers and Bill arrived with his book which contained the available court dates. Inevitably there were conflicts in the Court’s and attorney’s schedules necessitating much searching and maneuvering to arrive at dates suitable to all. Bill was especially upset when the case involved a custody matter as he held the opinion that in such matters there was no right to a hearing and why hadn’t the case settled.

Many who knew Bill will remember the day Children and Youth Services informed Bill and Sandy that there was a child available for them to adopt. Children and Youth had kept this a secret and Bill and Sandy were clearly surprised that they were about to become the proud parents of their daughter, Laura.

Bill and Sandy hosted an annual corn roast at their homes on Woodstock Road and Starr Avenue. One year the fire to roast the corn was not cooperating. Bill decided to provide some assistance in getting the fire going by using gasoline. Needless to say, the result was not pretty. The gasoline exploded but fortunately, Bill was not severely injured and the corn was roasted and enjoyed by the participants.

Dave Rahouser recalled that Bill was the chair of the annual Fastnacht day fundraiser for the YMCA. He remembers that for that day, and several days thereafter, the Court Administrator’s office reeked of fried donuts.

Denis DiLoreto remarked that in spite of fighting his illness he insisted on refereeing the last Lawyers and Doctors Gridiron Classic game.

Bill ran the annual courthouse NCAA Basketball Playoff pool. Participants in this included many lawyers, judges, court house personnel and of course members of the Pennsylvania State Police.

Attendees at events at the Luhrs Center on the Shippensburg University Campus would often see Bill and Sandy serving as ushers for those events.

Bill remarked to J. Dennis Guyer, upon being asked how he was enjoying retirement that he, “enjoyed having 6 Saturdays and then Sunday.”

Those lawyers who practiced in trials, criminal and civil, remember that on jury selection days Bill was particularly “frazzled” since his otherwise clockwork-like schedule was constantly being disrupted.

One of the great days for Bill was the day he was informed that Court Administrators in Pennsylvania were being placed under the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) and that he would be covered by the AOPC insurance, compensation and pension system.

I was fortunate over the years to share, with Bill, a mutual interest in golfing. He and I, along with Jim Schall and Denny Guyer, played numerous rounds of golf together and went on annual golf trips for quite a few years. Although the frequency of those trips decreased in recent years, all of us still looked forward to getting together again and again. Admittedly, the golf got worse as we got older, but the stories always seemed to get better. RIP Bill, you will certainly be missed, my friend. Mike Toms

Bill did a very difficult job very well for a long time. I enjoyed my regular contacts with him after I came home to Franklin County in 1983. When a client who was wrongly accused of a crime wanted to go to trial, Bill would express disappointment at me for wasting the Court's time. Before my father retired, when my mother wanted him to go somewhere he really didn't want to go, he often blamed his court schedule. Mom would invariably say, "That damn Bill Sheaffer! I'm going to give him a piece of my mind!" Dad would smile and say that Bill was just doing his job. Bill was a fine man who genuinely seemed to like us lawyers. He will be greatly missed. Respectfully, Dave Keller

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Franklin County Bar Association assembled at a Special Meeting held the 20th day of September, 2018, express our sympathy on the occasion of the loss of William "Bill" Sheaffer, husband, father, grandfather and friend and colleague of the members of the Franklin County Bar Association. We will strive to keep his memory alive, for the strength, dedication and wisdom of those who have gone before us represent the foundation of the future generations of our profession.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Memorial Resolution Committee
Franklin County Bar Association**

Shawn D. Meyers, Judge
39th Judicial District of Pennsylvania

Kristen Hamilton, Esquire
President, Franklin County Bar Association

George S. Glen, Esquire

Forest N. Myers, Esquire