



**A RESOLUTION OF THE
FRANKLIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
IN MEMORY OF EDWARD IRWIN “ED” STECKEL**

WHEREAS the members of the Franklin County Bar Association met in a Special Meeting this **first day of May 2023** to celebrate the life and honor the memory of our colleague and fellow member, EDWARD. IRWIN “ED” STECKEL, who was called home by his Almighty God April 9, 2023, 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 Ed 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.

Ed was born July 17, 1944, in Newark, New Jersey, the son of the late Eve and Maurice Steckel. He is survived by his wife Diana, daughter Julia, son David, granddaughters Margaret and Caroline and his brother Randy and sister Judee as well as many nieces and nephews.

Ed graduated from Bound Brook High School, the University of Wisconsin, Madison class of 1966 and the University of Kentucky School of Law.

Following graduation from college, Ed worked for the National Labor Relations Board in Washington, D.C. before working in Philadelphia for the Office of Economic Opportunity, followed by service as a Deputy Attorney General with the Department of Justice in Harrisburg.

Ed moved to Chambersburg in 1975 and was a lawyer in the office of Black & Davidson before establishing his own solo practice, sharing office space with William and Kathleen Cramer in the Chambersburg Trust Company building on Memorial Square. He maintained a solo practice until his retirement in 2022. Ed was admitted to the bar of Franklin County on March 17, 1976

In 2016 Ed received the Edmund C. Wingerd, Jr. award in presenting the award then President of the Franklin County Bar Association, now Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of the 39th Judicial District, Mary Beth Shank, stated:

“Attorney Steckel is most deserving of this recognition and his commitment to client and community embodies the spirit of this award in a manner that should truly inspire the 172 members of our association. Ed cares about his clients and consistently demonstrates professional and personal integrity in addressing and serving their needs, whether on behalf of private or pro bono client,”

Ed enjoyed many fall afternoons cheering his beloved Wisconsin Badgers and spending time in Southwest Harbor Maine and on Martha’s Vineyard where he spent countless hours reading the collections of his favorite authors, E.B. White, Henning Mankell and Alan Furst.

The following are memories and observations submitted by his fellow members of the Franklin County Bar Association:

I will always remember seeing Ed in the Register of Wills or Prothonotary's Office, clutching files and leaning in to give me a piece of advice, discussing Wisconsin sports, or debating the latest political outrage. Although we had differing political views, Ed and I always had civil discussions about the candidates for office or the Supreme Court and the policies he favored or abhorred.

Ed's care for those with intellectual disabilities and mental health challenges made him a stalwart in both mental health hearings and guardianship proceedings. His selfless representation always struck the right tone for the proceeding, and I have no doubt many proceedings went more smoothly because of Ed's gentle demeanor with his client. That made his times of vigorous advocacy even more pronounced, as you knew he felt an injustice was being heaped upon his client, and their rights being improperly infringed. Even if he lost an argument or case, he accepted the ruling with grace.

Ed was a friendly presence outside the courthouse. Many enjoyable moments were shared talking about his family, books, travel destinations and other cultural topics on our sidewalk on a pleasant spring or fall evening.

In the end I most appreciate that Ed was willing to get to know the whole person and refrained from jumping to premature conclusions about someone until he got to know them, especially me.

I am glad that I had the chance to practice law and serve as a judge when he was a member of our legal community and the community at large.

Shawn D. Meyers, President Judge

Ed was committed to seeing that underserved segments of our community received legal representation and gave of his time to serving on the Board of Franklin County Legal Services. He was an integral part of our Mental Health court process and dedicated a large portion of his professional life to ensuring that those with mental health concerns were professionally represented. Beyond his professional life, Ed was a committed husband and father and proudly spoke of the accomplishments of his children. Always one to deflect from his own accomplishments, it was gratifying to see Ed chosen by his colleagues to receive the Edmund C. Wingerd Award and be recognized as an outstanding attorney who demonstrated ethical commitment to the interests of his clients. His passing leaves a void in our bar association and in our community that will not easily be filled.

Carol L. Van Horn, Senior Judge

Since the passing of our friend, colleague and mentor, Ed, I am struggling to picture the practice of law, the FCBA, or the town of Chambersburg without him. For decades, he was a steadying presence in our lives, always offering sound advice, a kind word, and a thoughtful and reasonable perspective. He dedicated his life to helping others and served as an example to all of us of how to practice law. He loved his family more than anything, was incredibly proud of his children and grandchildren, and was a devoted and caring husband. I have known Ed for my entire life, with him and Diana being in some of my earliest memories. He was like a brother to my dad and an uncle to me. I will very much miss our many talks over the years about sports (go Wisconsin Badgers!), music, travel spots (Maine and the Vineyard), and life in general.

Several years ago, as he approached retirement, Ed graciously gave my office a beautiful, reclaimed church pew that he had used in his office for many years. It now sits front and center in our

foyer under a piece of stained glass, offering a sanctuary from the stress of the day. Ever since Ed's generous gift found a new home, I always find myself sitting on the "Ed Steckel bench" whenever I need a moment of peace to reflect, pray and ask for guidance. Even though he has passed on, I very much look forward to continuing our talks. Rest peacefully my friend.

Tony Cosentino

I had little legal work contact with Ed, but 25 years ago when my daughters were working for me in the recorder's office Ed was a guide for them, helping them out if needed, with glowing reports back to me as to how hard my daughters worked. Made me a proud papa. Later on, in life his daughter and my daughter became "friends" or at least acquaintances in Philadelphia through contacts he arranged, which was special. He certainly upheld the high ideals of professionalism here in our county bar.

William S. Dick

We were saddened to learn today of the passing of Ed Steckel.

Back in the early 2000s, for several years my family and I were volunteers for the annual book sale held by Friends of Legal Services. We worked there along with Ed most days during the set up for the sale, and he took the time to chat with our children, who were fond of him and looked forward to those meetings. Each year, Ed would recommend books to them that he thought they would like.

Ed had also lived in New Jersey, where I lived and practiced before moving here, and we would share memories.

Joseph S. "Joe" Macaluso

I am deeply sorry to hear of our loss of Ed Steckel. I will always be grateful for his commitment to representation of those in need, and to our local legal services program. He was also an avid reader and book lover. I can still see him at the Friends of Legal Services annual book sale, going from table to table and carefully examining every book! He was also always truly kind to my son, also named Ed.

My deepest condolences to Diana and the rest of his family.

Carolyn Carter

I just wanted to say that he was always so kind and collegial. We didn't have cases together, however any time we interacted I knew I would be met with kindness, civility, and collegiality - something that we always strive for in this profession.

Victoria M. Beard

Franklin County Legal Services (FCLS) will greatly miss Ed, and his contributions to the organization cannot be measured. He always enthusiastically helped with anything FCLS needed and was a consistent source of strength and assistance for us. He served as the Vice President of our Board and of the Friends of Legal Services for many years. Ed handled pro bono cases and volunteered at the Book Sale. When he and FCLS both had offices on the fourth floor of the old Courtside Professional Building, we at FCLS enjoyed seeing him and having a chance to chat. Ed was caring, compassionate, and committed to serving those in need going through traumatic experiences. Ed's many years of service to legal aid and our community will continue to be an example for all of us.

Brittany R. Henderson

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Franklin County Bar Association assembled at a Special Meeting held the **first day of May 2023** express our sympathy on the occasion of the loss of Edward Irwin “Ed” Steckel 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, President Judge
39th Judicial District of Pennsylvania

Anthony J. Cosentino, Esquire
President, Franklin County Bar Association

Forest N. Myers, Esquire
Chair, Memorial Resolution Committee

George S. Glen, Esquire
Member, Memorial Resolution Committee