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MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR  
JOHN C. GAULT, JR., ESQ.  
IN COURTROOM NUMBER 1 OF THE  
LYCOMING COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
48 WEST THIRD STREET  
WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701  
ON MAY 15, 2015  
BEGINNING AT 4:05 P.M.

COMMITTEE:

- C. EDWARD S. MITCHELL, ESQ. - CHAIRPERSON
- JOHN M. HUMPHREY, ESQ.
- JOHN P. PIETROVITO, ESQ.
- KEVIN WAY, ESQ.
- RONALD C. TRAVIS, ESQ.

 COPY

1  
2           JUDGE BUTTS: Good afternoon. And I  
3 welcome you all today here for the memorial  
4 service for John C. Gault, Jr. I would first  
5 off announce that both Judges Lovecchio and  
6 McCoy are still in court hearings and as soon  
7 as they're able they'll come and join us but we  
8 wanted to get started without any undue delay.  
9 We want to recognize and appreciate the  
10 attendance of everyone here today, specifically  
11 Mr. Gault's son, Jeff, who traveled over here  
12 from Europe, my understanding is, to be here  
13 today for this service.

14           I would also recognize that this Court on  
15 April 9th of this year issued an order  
16 appointing a committee of members of the  
17 Lycoming County Bar. Ed Mitchell was the  
18 chairperson, John Pietrovito, Jack Humphrey,  
19 Ron Travis, and Kevin Way were all appointed as  
20 part of that committee. And we direct -- the  
21 court directed them to prepare resolutions for  
22 this hearing here today. And I would now  
23 recognize Mr. Mitchell as the chairman of that  
24 resolutions committee to present the efforts of  
25 the committee.

1           MR. MITCHELL: Thank you, Your Honor. May  
2           it please the Court, fellow members of the bar,  
3           Jeff, and friends and acquaintances. The  
4           resolutions committee appointed to adopt  
5           resolutions -- or present resolutions in memory  
6           of John C. Gault, Jr. proposes the following:

7           To the Honorable Judges of the Court. The  
8           committee appointed by your Honorable Court to  
9           prepare resolutions concerning the death of  
10          John C. Gault, Jr. reports as follows: John C.  
11          Gault, Jr. was born in Olean, New York on  
12          September 28th, 1917. He was the son of John  
13          C. Gault, Sr. and Mary Emma Couling Gault.  
14          John was known throughout his life as Jack.  
15          Jack grew up in Potter County, Pennsylvania,  
16          and was a graduate of Galeton High School.  
17          Following high school Jack attended Bucknell  
18          University and graduated in 1939 with a BS in  
19          economics.

20          Jack then attended Dickinson School of Law  
21          and graduated with an LLB in 1942. While in  
22          law school Jack was accepted in the Federal  
23          Bureau of Investigations. He was given a delay  
24          of entry by J. Edgar Hoover to permit him to  
25          graduate from law school and take the

1 Pennsylvania bar exam. Jack passed the  
2 Pennsylvania bar exam in 1942 and entered the  
3 FBI immediately thereafter.

4 Jack served as a special agent on the west  
5 coast until 1946. Jack came to Lycoming County  
6 in 1946 at the suggestion of his father who was  
7 a bank president in Mansfield and Coudersport.  
8 Jack served a preceptorship under Joseph  
9 Keliher, father of Mary Keliher Gibbs Smith,  
10 wife of Senior Judge Clinton W. Smith. Jack  
11 was admitted to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court  
12 on September 30, 1946. He was subsequently  
13 admitted to the Court of Common Pleas of  
14 Lycoming County in 1948 after serving a  
15 two-year residency, which was then a  
16 requirement, even though he had grown up in  
17 adjoining Potter County. Other members of the  
18 bar admitted on the same day were John Thomas,  
19 who relocated to Philadelphia, and George  
20 Williams, who relocated to Wellsboro. Jack was  
21 also admitted to the Federal District Court for  
22 the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

23 Jack married Katherine Kay Webb on  
24 November 27, 1940. Kay preceded Jack in death  
25 on March 17, 2012. Jack and Kay raised two

1           sons in Williamsport. John C. Gault, III, is a  
2           graduate of Williamsport High School, Yale  
3           University with a BA in 1966, and Harvard  
4           University with a Ph.D in 1975. John has a  
5           career in the Middle East as a consultant in  
6           the oil and gas industry and resides in  
7           Switzerland with his companion, Heidi Dixon.

8                     Jeffrey A. Gault, who is here with us  
9           today, graduated from Williamsport High School  
10          and St. Lawrence University. Jeffrey is an  
11          owner/operator of Marketing Services, Inc.,  
12          which provides consulting services in OSHA  
13          matters pertaining to pipeline compliance.  
14          Jeffrey lives in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and  
15          Naples, Florida with his wife Cindy. They have  
16          one daughter, Lauren, who Jeffrey told me today  
17          resides in Dallas.

18                    Jack began his practice with Joseph  
19          Kelleher and then joined Candor, Youngman,  
20          Gibson, later Candor, Youngman, Gibson and  
21          Gault, where he remained for the remainder of  
22          his career. He practiced with John G. Candor,  
23          John C. Youngman, Sr., Harry R. Gibson, J. .  
24          Nafie Mitchell, John C. Youngman, Jr., Allen E.  
25          Ertel, Ronald C. Travis, John M. Humphrey, John

1 P. Pietrovito, Cynthia Ranck Person, Kevin Way,  
2 Peter White, and Romaine Bastian.

3 Jack's career concentrated in real estate  
4 and industrial finance. He was instrumental in  
5 forming the Industrial Properties Corporation  
6 and the Lycoming County Industrial Development  
7 Authority, which attracted industry to Lycoming  
8 County by making available favorable financing.  
9 The development of the Reach Road Industrial  
10 Park is largely the result of efforts by Jack  
11 and his partner, Harry Gibson, and others.

12 Jack served on the Williamsport  
13 Redevelopment Authority and the boards of the  
14 Saving Institution, First National Bank of  
15 Williamsport, the YMCA, and Wildwood Cemetery  
16 Association. He served for ten years as  
17 secretary of the board of directors of the  
18 Consolidated Sportsmen of Lycoming County. He  
19 was a past president of the Lycoming Law  
20 Association in 1971 and a past president of the  
21 Lycoming Day Nursery Center. He was a past  
22 master of Lodge 755 F&AM Dietrick Lamade Lodge.  
23 Jack was also a member of the LLA, the PBA, and  
24 the ABA. The Boy Scouts of America Susquehanna  
25 Council, at that time known as the West Branch

1 Council, presented Jack the Silver Beaver Award  
2 in 1973.

3 Jack was an avid outdoorsman whose many  
4 skills included hunting, fishing, beekeeping,  
5 water fowl carving, furniture building, skiing  
6 and golf. Jack designed and built two cabins  
7 along the west branch of the Loyalsock Creek  
8 south of Farragut. He then designed his home,  
9 which was built at the top of a high bank  
10 overlooking the Loyalsock Valley. The home was  
11 called Point of View.

12 Jack was an efficient practitioner. He  
13 moved rapidly. He kept himself in excellent  
14 physical condition. He enjoyed outdoor  
15 physical activities. He balanced his life  
16 between professional and personal activities.  
17 When he was honored for 50 years of service to  
18 the Lycoming Law Association in 2003 he  
19 complimented the Williamsport Area School  
20 District for what he described as an excellent  
21 education received by his sons. He said he  
22 would not have changed anything in his career.  
23 He said he enjoyed raising his family in  
24 Williamsport. Jack was proud of his family and  
25 was a devoted husband and father.

1           Jack died October 26, 2014 at age 97.

2           Jack's family has lost a beloved father and  
3           grandfather. Society has lost a contributing  
4           and exemplary member. The Lycoming Law  
5           Association has lost an excellent practitioner.

6           Your committee recommends the adoption of  
7           the following resolutions: Be it resolved that  
8           in the passing of John C. Gault, Jr. there has  
9           been loss to the bar of Lycoming County of an  
10          able and conscientious member who upheld and  
11          exemplified the highest tradition of the legal  
12          profession, a loss to the community of a valued  
13          participant, a loss to his family of a devoted,  
14          kind and loving father and grandfather, and a  
15          loss to his friends and acquaintances of a  
16          sincere and caring man. Be it further resolved  
17          that this Court and this Bar do hereby extend  
18          to Jack's sons John and his companion Heidi and  
19          Jeff and his wife Cindy and granddaughter  
20          Lauren a deep and heartfelt expression of  
21          sympathy. Be it further resolved that this  
22          resolution be spread at length upon the minutes  
23          of the Court of Common Pleas of Lycoming County  
24          and that copies of the same be sent to Jack's  
25          sons and granddaughter.



1           Your Honor, I will present the resolution  
2           to the Court for consideration.

3           JUDGE BUTTS: Thank you. Court will  
4           accept the resolutions and enter the following  
5           order: And now, this 15th day of May 2015, in  
6           consideration of the resolutions presented by  
7           the committee appointed to draft resolutions in  
8           the death of John C. Gault, Jr., the said  
9           resolutions are adopted and it is hereby  
10          ordered and decreed that the resolutions  
11          herewith submitted and attached be adopted as  
12          an official expression of the Lycoming County  
13          Law Association and this Court and that the  
14          same be spread upon the records of the Court  
15          and that copies of this resolution be delivered  
16          to the two sons of Mr. Gault, and it is further  
17          ordered and directed that the resolutions be  
18          entered at large upon the record of the Court  
19          and that it be printed in the Lycoming  
20          Reporter. By the Court.

21                 Thank you, Mr. Mitchell.

22                 MR. MITCHELL: Thank you, Your Honor.

23                 JUDGE BUTTS: I think customarily at this  
24                 time we turn it over to the committee to see if  
25                 the committee members themselves wanted to make

1 any comment. Mr. Travis.

2 MR. TRAVIS: Back in 1971 after spending a  
3 year with the Chief Justice of the Pennsylvania  
4 Supreme Court I returned to Williamsport at  
5 Candor, Youngman, Gibson and Gault, and Jack's  
6 office was essentially right across the hallway  
7 from my office, and when Ed in the resolution  
8 talked about Jack moving with great speed he  
9 was not kidding. Jack would roll into the  
10 office about 8:30 in the morning and  
11 immediately hit his chair, picked up the  
12 dictaphone and started dictating. By nine  
13 o'clock he'd have three or four belts. And  
14 back in those days the dictation was on a belt  
15 and after you filled up the belt you pulled it  
16 out of the machine and you gave it to, in  
17 Jack's case to Sherry, and she would start  
18 typing whatever he was doing that day. Ten  
19 minutes later you'd look around and he had  
20 disappeared. But he was not out playing golf  
21 like Mr. Humphrey. He was off to a meeting  
22 because he spent a lot of his time outside of  
23 the office working on very important projects  
24 to the county, a behind the scene man. Spent a  
25 lot of time at Fidelity Bank, which was good

1           because we were on the sixth floor. Spent a  
2           lot of time at Williamsport National Bank. He  
3           spent a lot of time with the Industrial  
4           Properties Corporation and he spent a lot of  
5           time with the Lycoming County Redevelopment  
6           Authority. And many of you probably don't even  
7           remember that there was a point in time when  
8           Lycoming County had a redevelopment authority.

9           One of the first things Jack taught me was  
10          how to try a condemnation case. And those of  
11          you who know me are going to say, wait a  
12          second. Travis used to try condemnation cases?  
13          Back in post-Agnes Flood time Lycoming County  
14          Redevelopment Authority, which was then headed  
15          by Bob Yowell, had flood clearance projects.  
16          The borough of Montgomery, borough of Jersey  
17          Shore, the borough of Montoursville were  
18          devastated by that flood and they came up with  
19          this manner of clearing up these floodplains by  
20          condemning and taking the properties that were  
21          devastated. I didn't even know how to spell  
22          condemnation, let alone have any concept of  
23          what to do. Jack took me in my office -- into  
24          his office, explained to me, here's what you  
25          have to do, gave me a couple of transcripts,

1           and all of a sudden I was the solicitor for the  
2           Lycoming County Redevelopment Authority  
3           handling condemnations, and I'll say this:  
4           When we finished doing those flood clearance  
5           projects I have not done a condemnation case  
6           since.

7           The other thing that Jack was great at is  
8           Jack was not a round-to-it lawyer. I don't  
9           know if -- I don't want to speak ill of the  
10          dearly departed, but those of you who are  
11          familiar with the Candor Youngman firm know  
12          that we had one or two round-to-it lawyers.  
13          You say, what's a round-to-it lawyer? That's a  
14          lawyer that would do it when they got around to  
15          it. And it might be tomorrow and it might be  
16          next month. Jack didn't practice that way. He  
17          believed that people that he represented  
18          deserved his attention and he did it tomorrow  
19          even if it wasn't due until two weeks from  
20          tomorrow. And he did it the right way, he did  
21          it the proper way, and he always acted in a  
22          professional way. And I've always been  
23          impressed by the way that he approached the  
24          practice of law and essentially said, look, if  
25          you don't want to do it right, find another

1           occupation. I tried but I couldn't find  
2           another occupation.

3           The final thing that Jack Gault was kind  
4           enough to teach me was how to do a title  
5           search. After we had returned and spent a year  
6           at Grampian Hills Manor we bought a house on  
7           Elmira Street that was still occupied. And I  
8           thought this -- and then when they started  
9           talking about doing a title search and closing  
10          I thought, this would be great because Jack  
11          Gault is world renowned as a title searcher.  
12          Well, Jack believed that it would be simple for  
13          him to do all the work but it would be better  
14          for me if I learned how to search a title. And  
15          so in my career I have searched one title and  
16          that is the title at 1509 Elmira Street. I  
17          appreciated learning how to do it and I had  
18          great respect for the fact that Jack spent so  
19          many years doing that type of work because it  
20          is not pleasant work. At least I didn't  
21          perceive it as pleasant work.

22          A couple of years ago I was having a  
23          conversation with Federal Judge Jones and he  
24          used a term that has stuck with me since then,  
25          and he talked about a particular attorney that

1 we were dealing with and he said, that man is a  
2 lawyer's lawyer. And that phrase, being a  
3 lawyer's lawyer, describes to a "T" the Jack  
4 Gault that I was privileged to practice with  
5 for ten years, and we should all aspire to  
6 practice law in the way that he did.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. HUMPHREY: After serving for two years  
9 as a law clerk to Judge Muir, I joined Ron as  
10 an associate at the Candor, Youngman, Gibson  
11 and Gault firm in 1974. We had several strong  
12 persons in that firm, the Youngman guys and  
13 Harry Gibson among them. Jack Gault was of a  
14 different type. He was quiet, he was  
15 competent, he was the kind of person that you  
16 would go to for questions about practice, about  
17 ethics and that type of thing. I, too, was  
18 amused by the "he moved rapidly" sentence in  
19 the resolutions because I will second what Ron  
20 said. He moved rapidly. If you wanted to talk  
21 to Jack you better catch him, talk to him when  
22 you see him, because if you turned your back he  
23 was gone. And he was -- he just was in and out  
24 of that office all the time. And he was a very  
25 fine lawyer.

1           I had a number of interesting encounters  
2           with Jack Gault, two of which I will describe  
3           to you. Just a couple of weeks after I started  
4           in August of 1974 my wife Karen and I bought  
5           our first house. It was a large fixer-upper, I  
6           think better described as a money pit.

7           Twenty-eight acres of land that was up in the  
8           Muncy hills, past Wenzler's fruit farm north of  
9           where the mall is now. I, too, like Ron, said,  
10          oh, this is good. Jack can search the title  
11          because I was -- figured I was brought in to be  
12          a trial lawyer. So I asked Jack and he said  
13          the same thing to me that he said to Ron, which  
14          was, you know, I could do this, knock this off  
15          in an hour or two. I think it would be good  
16          for you to do this. I said, I haven't the  
17          slightest idea. He said, well, I'll teach you.  
18          Well, he spent about an hour with me and then  
19          turned me loose on my title search.

20          Ron was much more successful than I was.  
21          I had a nervous break-down. What I recall --  
22          most have it I've blocked, believe me. But  
23          what I recall, and I'm not sure this is all  
24          accurate, but I think these big, smelly old  
25          books were down in the basement somewhere and

1           they were all moldy and they smelled. I mean,  
2           it was like mold was in the air. And I got  
3           ill. I mean, I just started sweating. It  
4           reminded me of organic chemistry lab at Penn  
5           State. That's what caused me to get out of  
6           pre-med. It was that same sort of too hot,  
7           smelly type of work and my hands got all dirty  
8           from the dust and the mold on the thing. And I  
9           was having a terrible time.

10           Jack stopped in to check on me, see how I  
11           was doing, and I said, I can't do this. I'm  
12           sorry, I can't do it. And he smiled and he  
13           said, well, we'll figure something out. Why  
14           don't you stop up at my office here, you know,  
15           when you leave. So I left and he said, how's  
16           it going? I said, I just can't do this. I'm  
17           sorry, I need help. He said, well, he says, I  
18           got a deal for you. He said, I've got a little  
19           trial, a little bench trial coming up next week  
20           and I'm trying to get rid of most of my trial  
21           work. I'm not real fond of it. I've given all  
22           of that condemnation work to Travis. You take  
23           this, I'll take your title search. I said,  
24           that's a deal. That's a deal. So I said, so  
25           when is it? He said next Friday. A judge



1 trial. Good. Judge trial. And he handed me  
2 the file. It had six pieces of paper in it. I  
3 said, this is the file? Now, remember, this  
4 was before copiers. You know, everything was  
5 done with carbon paper. But there wasn't even  
6 any carbon paper in there. There was just like  
7 six pieces of paper. And it was a case, as I  
8 recall, that involved someone cutting somebody  
9 else's trees on their land and there was like  
10 treble damages or something like that that was  
11 involved. And I spent, I bet you, 50 hours  
12 trying to figure out what this was about,  
13 trying to prepare this case for this thing.  
14 Well, we finally got through it. We did it.  
15 Jack was happy as a clam. He took his hour,  
16 did my title search, and I did his trial. That  
17 was the last title search I ever attempted and  
18 I think -- I don't think Jack Gault had another  
19 court case after that one either, so Travis and  
20 I pretty much took his court work and we left  
21 Jack to his much more important real estate and  
22 redevelopment and banking law.

23 A second story. Back in the 70s there was  
24 actually an organization called Law Wives. The  
25 wives of male lawyers got together, had social

1 events and did some community activities. It  
2 was really a nice organization. Karen was  
3 involved and she got to know Kay Gault quite  
4 well. Kay, as most people who knew her would  
5 attest to, was a lovely, lovely woman, both  
6 physically and in every other way. She was  
7 just a marvelous person. And Karen and Kay  
8 got, you know, close enough, friendly, and over  
9 the years we had -- would have them over for  
10 dinner or go out to dinner with them from time  
11 to time, Jack and Kay Gault.

12 So the last time, very last time we ever  
13 had dinner with them was probably just about  
14 two or three years -- three years maybe before  
15 Kay died, so I guess that was five or six years  
16 ago. And Karen invited them over to our house  
17 for dinner and Jack comes in with a package.  
18 And I remember that one of the other times that  
19 he had come that he had brought a really fine  
20 bottle of wine, and I was quite thrilled that  
21 he was going to do this again and we were going  
22 to have this really good, you know, Bordeaux  
23 from, you know, Chateau Such-and-Such, because  
24 that's what it was last time.

25 It wasn't a bottle of wine. And Jack

1           opened up the thing and pulls out the gift that  
2           he was bringing me. And you heard in the  
3           resolutions that he was -- he carved water  
4           fowl. I think he tried to sell me this back in  
5           the 70s, but at any rate, this time it was a  
6           gift -- a generous gift really, and I have  
7           learned that this is a -- I think it's a female  
8           wood duck, and it proudly sits on my book shelf  
9           at home and I see it frequently. And whenever  
10          I see it I remember Jack Gault, and what I  
11          remember was that he was an excellent lawyer,  
12          he was a gentleman, a kind man, and a very  
13          honorable man and a pretty decent carver of  
14          water fowl.

15                 Thank you.

16                 MR. PIETROVITO: Well, I came to town in  
17                 1981 and served as Judge Smith's law clerk, and  
18                 in late 1982 I was fortunate enough to join the  
19                 firm of Candor, Youngman, Gibson and Gault, and  
20                 that was after Jack and Ron had both left. And  
21                 one thing I -- I also, while I was with the  
22                 firm, bought a home. My wife now, Deb, and --  
23                 but Jack never tried to teach me to do a title  
24                 search and maybe it's because of the experience  
25                 that Jack Humphrey had. It ended up, I

1 believe, that my wife actually did the title  
2 search because that was something that she did  
3 in her family business back in Clearfield.

4 The other thing I remember as well, and it  
5 had to do with a case that Jack asked me to  
6 handle. I remember him coming into my office  
7 one day. He had a yellow manila file. It had  
8 a single page of yellow legal paper in it and  
9 what turned out to be a complaint, and he said,  
10 I just talked to these folks and they have a  
11 real estate dispute, a road maintenance issue,  
12 a married couple against another married  
13 couple. He says, I don't want to have anything  
14 to do with this. And I said, well, I don't  
15 know anything about real estate, Jack. And he  
16 said, well, whatever you need to know about  
17 this particular case I will help you with.  
18 I'll tell you, you know, where to start your  
19 research. He said, but the reason I don't want  
20 to take this case is because I just spoke with  
21 the husband and wife -- they were the  
22 defendants. And he said, that lady is  
23 unreasonable, she won't take no for an answer  
24 and she's stubborn as can be and I think she  
25 will probably drive me nuts if I take the case.

1           And I thought, well, he's probably  
2           exaggerating. Nobody can be quite that bad.

3           And then I remember one day while I was --  
4           I was in the law library, which used to be on  
5           the third floor of the courthouse, sitting  
6           there doing some research, and the next thing I  
7           know is I hear some -- a lady come into the law  
8           library, and I could hear her ask for John  
9           Pietrovito. And the law librarian told her  
10          where I was. She came back to the table. She  
11          sat down and she said that I had to go with her  
12          to be able to talk to her adult son regarding  
13          the case that Jack had asked me to handle. And  
14          I said, well, I'm a little busy. I'm in the  
15          middle of doing some research. Maybe if you go  
16          back to the office you can schedule an  
17          appointment.

18          Well, at that point I learned that she had  
19          been to the office and been told pretty much  
20          the same thing and decided to hunt me down in  
21          the library. And to make matters worse she  
22          said, I'm not leaving until you come with me to  
23          talk to my son. And she sat down on the other  
24          side of the table and just started to look at  
25          me with what I will refer to as laser eyes.

1           And so I figured, well, I'm cooked. I'm not  
2           going to get my research done. She's not going  
3           to leave. So I left with her, went back to the  
4           office, talked to her son. The next day when  
5           Jack came in -- and I would attest to the fact  
6           that he moved pretty quickly. But I stopped  
7           him and I said, Jack, I need to talk to you  
8           about this particular case. And I think at  
9           that point he moved even faster than he used  
10          to. And I related to him what had happened the  
11          day before in the law library and he just  
12          smiled at me, and that was pretty much the end  
13          of me consulting Jack about that case. I  
14          finally realized that he was absolutely right,  
15          that this lady -- well, she didn't drive him  
16          crazy, but she nearly drove me crazy.

17                 The other thing that I remember really has  
18                 nothing to do with the practice of law and it's  
19                 the last time that I had a conversation with  
20                 Jack. I happened to be at Bob's Barber Shop on  
21                 Clayton Avenue in Loyalsock. I was there --  
22                 you might think, what am I doing in a barber  
23                 shop? But that was back when I needed hair  
24                 cuts. I was there with my two sons getting a  
25                 hair cut one Saturday morning and in comes

1 Jack. I'm sitting there -- I think I probably  
2 had had my haircut and one of my sons was on  
3 the barber chair -- and he sat down and I  
4 believe that's probably the longest  
5 conversation I ever had with Jack. It was  
6 probably all of ten minutes or so while my sons  
7 got there hair cut. We chatted about different  
8 things, people that -- in the firm, whether I  
9 had seen them, talked to them, but mostly about  
10 my family and his family. And my only regret  
11 is that we didn't have more conversations like  
12 that.

13 It's been my privilege to practice law  
14 with Jack for roughly nine years and it's been  
15 an honor to be on this committee.

16 MR. WAY: I didn't get to the firm until  
17 '86 and I had already bought a house so I was  
18 okay like that. But I've got to confess I was  
19 a little nervous starting there because I had  
20 never met Jack, and Jack had this great  
21 reputation as a business lawyer and Director of  
22 the Industrial Properties Corporation, and I  
23 was a little concerned because my background  
24 when I went to the firm was purely criminal and  
25 I didn't really -- was kind of concerned how I

1 would fit in with Jack and getting to know  
2 Jack, and I discovered at that time that Jack  
3 had long since retired and was working  
4 retirement hours, which meant he would come at  
5 10:30 and leave at 11:45. To get to talk to  
6 Jack you had to sort of prepare your morning to  
7 get him in between that time or else he was  
8 gone. But I met Jack and talked to him and he  
9 was very helpful. He was very kind to me as a  
10 new attorney. He was very willing to answer  
11 questions. Spent some time explaining to me  
12 the intricacies of property law, and I had  
13 about as much success as the other guys. But  
14 he was very helpful in my start at the office.

15 About a month into the -- my start it was  
16 decided that I would participate with Jack in a  
17 closing or sit in with Jack when he did the  
18 closing of the Kellogg's Corporation for the  
19 Industrial Properties. I thought that that was  
20 kind of neat because I knew the sale price was  
21 like 14 million dollars and I figure I wouldn't  
22 see people come in with suitcases, but at least  
23 I'd see some big checks and going to the  
24 closing. And Jack took a lot of time with me  
25 going over the paperwork, the releases and



1 everything that they had to sign at the  
2 closing, and it was probably about a two-hour  
3 closing that we did right in the office. And  
4 we got done with the closing and I didn't say  
5 anything but I didn't want to appear kind of  
6 silly, but after everybody had left the one  
7 thing I noticed is nobody had ever mentioned  
8 any money and so I asked Jack, weren't you  
9 going to exchange money? I mean, this is a  
10 purchase. And he looked at me and said, we can  
11 now wire money. And they actually wired the  
12 money from the Pittsburgh banks, and that was  
13 1986 so I'm sure he'd be amazed at how we can  
14 send money around today.

15 The other incident I had with Jack that --  
16 some time later it was decided that we had to  
17 take a trip on a case we were working on to go  
18 to Harrisburg, and when I started at Candor  
19 Youngman every time I would go into -- out in  
20 the morning through our parking lot there was a  
21 sports car in our parking lot, and it was  
22 really a nice two-seater sports car and I had  
23 no idea whose it was and I wasn't going to ask  
24 around because it seemed kind of not really  
25 important, but I really admired the sports car.

1 I was a little concerned we were going to take  
2 this trip because it would have been a longer  
3 conversation than Jack was used to because we  
4 were in the car and we had, like, a two-hour  
5 trip ahead of us and I wasn't sure what I could  
6 talk to Jack about. So the morning came and we  
7 started out and Jack said, I'll drive. So we  
8 took the elevator downstairs and went to the  
9 parking lot and Jack got in the sports car.  
10 And I said, this will be okay. And he drove a  
11 two-seater sports car. We had a very good day.  
12 We got our work done in Harrisburg, and it was  
13 pleasant, we had a nice lunch and we exchanged  
14 a lot of information. He was a constant  
15 professional, he was an excellent attorney, and  
16 he was very helpful and concerned about young  
17 attorneys coming up and I appreciated his  
18 efforts for the five years I was there.

19 JUDGE BUTTS: Mr. Mitchell, did you want  
20 to say anything?

21 MR. MITCHELL: I never practiced with  
22 Jack. My father did, but I knew Jack from the  
23 time that I could remember anything. And the  
24 things that -- he was a man of great  
25 intelligence but a man of a lot of varied

1 interests and he had talents in all of those  
2 interests, I thought, better than anybody else  
3 I ever met in the legal profession. He  
4 balanced himself between the practice of law  
5 and his personal interests, as I said, better  
6 than anybody else I knew.

7 There were some interesting things about  
8 his life on the Loyalsock. He lived at the end  
9 of a long -- a very long driveway, and I asked  
10 him one time how he kept his driveway plowed in  
11 the winter. He said, I have a bulldozer.  
12 That's how he got in and out in the winter, was  
13 a bulldozer.

14 The other thing I remember about him that  
15 I thought was humorous; I was talking to him  
16 one time about his beekeeping, and he said his  
17 biggest problem with his beekeeping was bears.  
18 Bears wanted to get into the honey that he was  
19 trying to get from the bees. Those are two  
20 interesting conversations I had with him.

21 As Jack Humphrey has said, Kay was just a  
22 wonderful person. They were a neat couple and  
23 I'm privileged to have known them.

24 JUDGE BUTTS: I now ask my colleagues who  
25 have practiced or known Mr. Gault if they

1 wanted to say anything.

2 JUDGE GRAY: I can give you a little bit  
3 of different perspective. I never practiced  
4 with Jack but I actually tried a case, a jury  
5 trial, against Jack and I'm trying to  
6 remember -- I'm a little foggy on the dates. I  
7 assume it was very early 80s after Ron and Jack  
8 left and before John started. It must have  
9 been in that gap where poor Jack had to do his  
10 own trial.

11 Well, he had this case and it's a case  
12 that will live in infamy in my mind forever.  
13 He represented this farmer. And beware of  
14 being on the wrong side of farmers. He was a  
15 farmer in Montgomery named Mowery. Sherry  
16 might remember, but anyway -- and it's not a  
17 relative of Cory's, but every once in a while  
18 when I'd go to Montgomery I still go by that  
19 barn and it irritates me. In any event, the  
20 case was called Mowery versus Old Guard  
21 Insurance Company, and the issue was, did the  
22 barn come down -- did it collapse as a result  
23 of weight of snow on the roof or as a result of  
24 wind, because wind was covered, snow load was  
25 not covered. Kind of a technical thing, but

1 Jack didn't do much of anything and I had this  
2 case all prepared. I had an expert from  
3 Accu-Weather saying how much snow was on the  
4 ground and how much would have been on the  
5 surfaces at that time, and I had experts,  
6 structural engineers, that said, well, wind  
7 wouldn't have taken this down. There wasn't  
8 enough wind. It was definitely snow load. So  
9 I was all ready and prepared like a cocky young  
10 lawyer is. And I kept asking Jack what his  
11 case was and -- because I had taken the  
12 farmer's deposition and I didn't see much  
13 there. And he said, you'll see.

14 Well, to make a long story short, the  
15 thing -- and the other thing, Judge Greevy said  
16 to me, don't you think you ought to offer some  
17 money? And then I started getting antsy, but  
18 Judge Greevy always said that, but I still got  
19 kind of antsy. So Jack put on his case, and he  
20 had identified his witnesses but they were just  
21 laypeople. I didn't know who they were. They  
22 all testified that they have barns and they had  
23 a lot of cows and the heat that the cow poop  
24 gives off melts off the roof and there couldn't  
25 possibly have been -- and I had to sit through

1 five of these witnesses about the poop, and I  
2 was done before I even -- I put on all my  
3 experts. The jury was out roughly 20 minutes  
4 and gave the farmer \$55,000, which was big  
5 money back then. And Jack was very nice and  
6 everybody said how polite and gentlemanly he  
7 was. Didn't brag, but he did kind of break  
8 into a smile, and I said, how did you do that?  
9 What happened, Jack? He said, I told you. And  
10 that was the story.

11 He was a man of few words. He was polite.  
12 He was somebody you could always accept his  
13 word, it didn't have to be in writing. He was  
14 a good guy. And I lost.

15 JUDGE ANDERSON: My experience with -- and  
16 I called him Mr. Gault. You know, I was just  
17 thinking about this as you were going through  
18 this; that I'm on a first-name basis with  
19 almost ever lawyer in Lycoming County that I've  
20 met, but I always referred to Jack Gault as  
21 Mr. Gault. And I think that the genesis of  
22 that lies in the fact that Candor, Youngman,  
23 Gibson and Gault, when I arrived in town, was  
24 the gold standard for law firms. They were far  
25 and away the most prestigious firm in town and

1           they had the business.

2           People today, and the younger lawyers  
3           don't understand what a big deal the IPC was,  
4           the Industrial Properties Corporation, back  
5           then. But nothing got done in this county  
6           without the Industrial Properties Corporation,  
7           running it through there, and I know Mr. Rider  
8           was involved with them. And Jack Gault was  
9           almost this mystical figure that you had to go  
10          through if there was any kind of industrial  
11          project that was going to be done. And they  
12          had the redevelopment authorities and they had  
13          Fidelity Bank and they had Northern Central  
14          Bank and they had a pile of insurance companies  
15          and they had the business.

16          And they were run by these guys that were  
17          older than I was and my association was and  
18          that building that's catty-corner was where I  
19          was first associated with Mr. Wollet, and above  
20          us was Candor, Youngman, Gibson and Gault. And  
21          so I would see them on a regular basis, Ron,  
22          Jack, Mr. Gibson, and Mr. Gault and the  
23          Youngmans on a fairly frequent basis. And in  
24          fact, our law firm had an association with  
25          them -- this is in the early days of copy

1 machines, and Mr. Wollet wasn't about to spring  
2 for a copy machine. So what he did was he paid  
3 so much a copy, ten cents or something, a copy.  
4 And because Floretta Hunter, his secretary, was  
5 paid many times what I was, that I would be the  
6 guy that would run up there and have -- make  
7 the copies and I would see -- I would see these  
8 fellas on a fairly regular basis.

9 But Mr. Gault was always a man of few  
10 words and he was a very prestigious lawyer,  
11 almost intimidatingly so, although he never  
12 acted that way. It was just the fact that he  
13 had what I considered that -- I had him on kind  
14 of a pedestal because of the position that he  
15 had in town. And he was really very revered by  
16 all lawyers that practiced in Williamsport.  
17 You never heard a bad word about him. He was  
18 held in a bit of awe. I'm going to suggest to  
19 you that if they ever made a hall of fame of  
20 lawyers and they did it like they do one of the  
21 sports halls of fame, that Mr. Gault would be  
22 preeminent among the inductees. He would be  
23 one of the first ones in there from any age.  
24 And the reason is that he carried himself in  
25 such a way that he commanded -- he didn't



1 demand respect, he commanded respect. And I  
2 will always have a very, very high opinion of  
3 John C. Gault.

4 JUDGE BUTTS: Unfortunately, by the time I  
5 came here he had already retired and my  
6 practice area was primarily criminal so I  
7 really didn't -- was not acquainted with  
8 Mr. Gault at all.

9 JUDGE MCCOY: And neither was I, though I  
10 really enjoyed hearing all the stories.

11 JUDGE BUTTS: It's good to hear about the  
12 history of the county and the lawyers in the  
13 county.

14 Anyone currently here who would like to  
15 come forward and say a few words?

16 MR. CARLUCCI: May it please the Court,  
17 I'll save time and make my remarks from where I  
18 stand.

19 I did not have the privilege of practicing  
20 with Jack Gault, and Mr. Humphrey's one title  
21 search ahead of me. I've never done one. I  
22 know a little, however, about what it is to be  
23 recognized by the Boy Scouts as a Silver  
24 Beaver.

25 About ten or 12 years ago the then dean of

1           the Yale Law School wrote a book called The  
2           Lost Lawyer, and the gravamen of his argument  
3           was that from about the formation of our  
4           republic until about the time of the Civil War  
5           lawyers made it their business to be involved  
6           in civic life, that the practice of law was  
7           their job but that they recognized a duty to  
8           the community to be involved in whatever they  
9           believed was necessary to make their community  
10          more -- a better place to live, a better place  
11          to work, and to create a better environment.  
12          And that since the Civil War law schools and  
13          lawyering have become something of a Socratic  
14          undertaking. Sometimes I think in the Lycoming  
15          County Courthouse if I want to go to the  
16          bathroom I have to file a brief in support. I  
17          find that we tend -- we tend to spend a whole  
18          heck of a lot of time on emails and briefs and  
19          cover sheets and stuff and not nearly as much  
20          time being the sort of folks that we revere in  
21          the community. And that's what the author was  
22          talking about and Jack Gault was one of those  
23          lost lawyers. That is, he was somebody who  
24          accepted the responsibility to be a pillar of  
25          his community. I'm not sure how many briefs he

1           wrote in support of going to the bathroom, but  
2           I am very confident that Lycoming County was a  
3           better place because he was here.

4           JUDGE BUTTS: Thank you.

5           MR. GREEVY: I, much like Ed Mitchell, I  
6           have memories of Jack and Kay from when even Ed  
7           and I were much younger. Our parents were very  
8           close friends at that point. I can remember  
9           back in the 60s and 70s, as Ed alluded to, the  
10          home that the Gaults had over along the  
11          Loyalsock. It was right directly across the  
12          Loyalsock from a house that Les Greevy, Sr. and  
13          Clara had built for themselves, and then Jack  
14          basically built his own home, as I recall. And  
15          I can remember at points going across and  
16          sharing times with Jeff and his brother, John  
17          Gault, floating down from Slabtown to -- on the  
18          rafts.

19          They had a very nice cabin out there and  
20          we spent a lot of time -- in fact, one of my  
21          fondest memories is the year that John Gault,  
22          who was in my high school class, along with  
23          Ron, we had our senior party out at Gault's  
24          cabin and it was quite a -- I had always gone  
25          across the creek and I think this was one of

1 the few times that I came down the road and I  
2 don't see how they got in and out of there in  
3 the winter time. It was a very fine  
4 relationship. It was a relationship that  
5 continued.

6 In searching my thoughts -- and I frankly  
7 can only remember one particular case that Jack  
8 Gault was on the other side of. And  
9 interestingly, it was a family law case. It  
10 was a divorce case. I have no idea what the  
11 names were. Goes back to about the mid-70s  
12 after I started to practice. One thing I do  
13 remember from that case is that Jack offered to  
14 put together something known as a property  
15 settlement agreement. And I know it was one of  
16 the first divorces that I had handled back in  
17 the 70s. And it looked fine to me. I knew  
18 that Mr. Gault had done it, and having the  
19 respect for him up through the years and so on,  
20 certainly I relied upon what he had done. It  
21 must have been a time when -- I don't think  
22 that Jack and Ron would handle that. Certainly  
23 it must have been a client that Jack had, and  
24 it was the only family law case that I can  
25 recall that Jack had. I wasn't doing much but

1 I do remember him being a practitioner in that  
2 particular area at all.

3 More recent years I would see Jack and Kay  
4 up at Roseview Court where they were residing  
5 the last number of years of their lives and was  
6 able to share, particularly with Kay Gault, a  
7 number of very good memories that were going on  
8 and certainly Jack was there and they were  
9 still at that point a stellar couple.

10 As many of you know, my father was up at  
11 Roseview Court and I often thought it would be  
12 a real pleasure if Jack and Dad would have been  
13 up there at the same time. But Jack was a  
14 gentleman's lawyer, a -- certainly has been  
15 noted, a pillar in this community and certainly  
16 one of the finest lawyers that I have ever had  
17 an opportunity to know from many perspectives.

18 Thank you.

19 MS. STEINBACHER: I actually didn't come  
20 here to share today, but I just feel a little  
21 compelled to -- I actually knew Mr. Gault and  
22 Kay really well because I used to go with my  
23 Nanny Clara to their house quite often as a  
24 really little kid, and it's really interesting  
25 to me because I really remember the wood

1           carvings of the water foul. And many of you  
2           have shared that he was a man of few words.  
3           That's not my memory of him as a little kid  
4           when he would talk about his wood carvings and  
5           the water foul. Honestly, I think I learned  
6           quite a difference of the different types of  
7           carvings and different types of ducks and all  
8           kinds of things. But I have very fond memories  
9           of Kay and Mr. Gault as a really little kid  
10          with my Nanny Clara Greevy.

11                 JUDGE BUTTS: Anyone else?

12                 Well, then, ladies and gentlemen, thank  
13                 you very much. This would conclude our  
14                 memorial service for John C. Gault, Jr. Thank  
15                 you all very much for attending. We appreciate  
16                 it.

17                 (Whereupon, the memorial service was  
18                 concluded at 5:00 p.m.)  
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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA :  
COUNTY OF LYCOMING :

I, Dawn M. Sweeley, a Notary Public in and for said Commonwealth and County, do hereby certify that the witness named in the foregoing deposition was personally sworn by me at the time and place designed for the taking of the said deposition; that this is a true and correct copy of the notes taken by me at the time and place set for the taking of the deposition; that I have no interest whatsoever in the outcome of these proceedings.

Dawn M. Sweeley, Notary Public