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IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
OF LYCOMING COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

SPECIAL SECESSION OF COURT
MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR
T. MAX HALL

Committee Members: Michael H. Collins, Chairman
Dudley N. Anderson, Judge.
Joy Reynolds McCoy, Judge
George Cohen, Esq.
Thomas C. Marshall, Esq.

Reported by: Ann E. Diggan
Official Reporter
Lycoming County, PA

1 (The following proceedings were commenced at
2 3:32 p.m. on May 25, 2016 in Courtroom Number 1 of the
3 Lycoming County Courthouse, Williamsport,
4 Pennsylvania.)

5 * * * * *

6 JUDGE ANDERSON: Good afternoon, and welcome.
7 We have called this Special Session of Court for the
8 purpose of honoring T. Max Hall, a long time colleague
9 of all of us at the Bench here, and many of you in the
10 Courtroom, with respect to his recent passing. Our
11 condolences to the family. We thank you for your
12 attendance, and certainly appreciate your being here.

13 I am going to call on Michael Collins, who was a
14 long time partner of Mr. Hall's and who is Chairman of
15 the Resolution Committee, to make the presentation. Mr.
16 Collins.

17 MR. COLLINS: Judge, may it please the Court,
18 and members of the family, members of the Bar, members
19 of the McNerney Page family who are here too.

20 The members of the Committee, if you haven't
21 guessed, is myself and George Cohen, Tom Marshall, Judge
22 McCoy, and Judge Anderson.

23 And so what I would like to do right now is read
24 the Resolutions of the Committee and then present that to
25 the Court.

1 (Whereupon the Resolutions of the Committee are
2 read into the record, a copy of which is attached to this
3 Transcript.)

4 MR. COLLINS: So if it please the Court, I
5 would like to present these.

6 JUDGE ANDERSON: Thank you Mr. Collins.

7 MR. COLLINS: Now before I have George step up
8 and Tom, the other two people we talked to about this
9 was Bob Elion and Tony Grieco. And these are two
10 attorneys that you should be aware of, or I am sure you
11 all are. But they really locked horns with Max a lot
12 back in the day, especially in divorce court, quite a
13 few times.

14 So these two guys would have loved to have been
15 here, but they're away. I think Elion is walking the
16 Dingle Peninsula somewhere, and I am not sure where Tony
17 is. I know he had to go out of town.

18 So I want to read this letter, this joint
19 letter.

20 (Whereupon the letter is read into the record,
21 at copy of which is attached to this transcript.)

22 MR. COLLINS: And with that, I would like to
23 call on George Cohen Judge.

24 JUDGE ANDERSON: Mr. Cohen, welcome.

25 MR. COHEN: Thank you, Judge.

1 This is really tough, because Max got so close
2 to so many of us. When I first interviewed at McNerney
3 Page, first time I method Mr. McNerney and then I met Mr.
4 Page and then I met Mr. Vanderlin. But I didn't get to
5 meet Mr. Hall. I came back for a second interview, and
6 again no Mr. Hall. My wife and I decided he must be the
7 office super nerd, they were kind of hiding him, until I
8 got stuck there.

9 It was later I learned that he was in the
10 hospital for a couple weeks with back surgery. And he
11 turned out to be Mr. Personality rather than Mr. Super
12 Nerd.

13 We and our spouses really became close friends
14 very quickly. Regularly went to Tags. Max would--the
15 crowd would be three or four deep, if any of you recall
16 being there, and Max would work the crowd, buy drinks for
17 everyone in the place. He knew everyone. And it's where
18 I began to appreciate how many people he really helped
19 and really affected. And it's where he rapidly started
20 building his practice. There may be a lesson there for
21 some of you younger guys.

22 When we were still young, Max went through some
23 very severe health problems, his kidney disease nearly
24 got him, but they gave him massive doses of Prednisone
25 and eventually got through it.

1 Those of you who were there then can
2 remember what a balloon he appeared to be a good part
3 of the time, a couple years. But he never complained.
4 And it's an interesting vision compared to his more
5 recent times with his salamon diet and his really thin
6 physique. That's what kept him in shape.

7 His practice became focused on divorce,
8 but that extraordinary mind and his logical approach to
9 matters brought clients seeking advice on a broad range
10 of issues. He gave advice on a lot of business
11 transactions, but more importantly on how to live life
12 well.

13 And he really gave good advice on that.
14 I came to realize over the years that I was only one of
15 many, many people that he mentored, but I always
16 continued to think of him as my big brother.

17 Max is gone now, but his lessons will be
18 with me for the rest of my life. Thank you.

19 JUDGE ANDERSON: Thank you Mr. Cohen. Mr.
20 Marshall.

21 MR. MARSHALL: Your Honors, Max's son Max,
22 whom he called Tad is with us. His wife Betty is at a
23 high school graduation for a grandchild.

24 To say Max was a dear friend is an
25 understatement. He was more like a father to me. And as

1 George has mentioned, he was like a brother to many. He
2 cared that much. Max and I were partners at the firm
3 that bears his name, and when I started there in 1991,
4 when I still had some curly hair to speak of, little did
5 I know I would have the privilege of working with the man
6 that would mentor me on the law, relationships, life,
7 business, and friendships.

8 He always attended firm events. Even in later
9 years when he would spend months in Florida, he always
10 made it back for the Christmas party. And this past
11 Christmas party he told the story of how he first came to
12 McNerney Page, he retold the story. And it was, he
13 graduated from law school in 1959. And for lack of
14 another job, he was headed downtown to enlist in the Air
15 Force for four years. He didn't want to pay to park
16 downtown, so he parked on Packer Street up near the
17 Methodist Church and he walked down Market Street. And
18 as he was walking past 433 Market, Joe McNerney came out.
19 And Joe McNerney thought he recognized him, and said "Who
20 are you?" And he said, "I'm Max Hall." And he said
21 "Yeah, you were just admitted to the local Bar. Where
22 are you going? And he said, "I'm going to enlist in the
23 Air Force." And Joe said, "Don't do that, don't do that.
24 Enlist in the reserves. After six months, come see me
25 and I will give you a job for \$75 a week." That was a

1 whole lot of money in 1959. And he said so do that. And
2 that's exactly what Max did.

3 So Max showed up, started working there. And
4 Joe McNerney said, "After two years if everything works
5 out, we will make you a partner." Well everything worked
6 out. Max was with the firm for 57 years, 40 of those as
7 managing partner.

8 He was a great leader. He was a listener, he
9 was firm. He made terrific business decisions. He
10 always had an interesting perspective on things, and he
11 had a terrific sense of humor.

12 I had been in town not very long, and I returned
13 from court and Max said, "How did we do?" And I said "We
14 won, but the opposing party called me a bastard." And he
15 said "Well done. There is no greater compliment in our
16 profession."

17 When folks would complain about
18 something not being fair, Max would say "The only fair
19 I know about is in Bloomsburg every year."

20 If someone would be reveling in a past
21 victory, Max would say, "Well that's wonderful, but
22 what have you done for use today?"

23 When a prospect of representing a very
24 difficult client arose, Max would always say, "Everyone
25 deserves competent legal representation," and he meant

1 that, and he lived by that.

2 He led the firm by example. He was a
3 very hard worker. He was an excellent attorney. He
4 successfully tried hundreds of cases. He was a fierce,
5 enthusiastic, and skilled advocate. He always reminded
6 us that the firm has clients, individual attorneys do
7 not. If he ever heard someone saying my client, Max
8 would say "Whose client? And the answer was "Our
9 client." Max was always a team player.

10 He was a loyal and trusted friend, and
11 his character and caring was always evident in his
12 words and in his eyes. And all of you who know him
13 know what I am talking about. He paid attention when
14 people wanted to talk to him.

15 As has already been mentioned, Max's
16 counsel was sought on matters of law, business, or
17 frankly just life. A friend of his noted that he
18 carried many burdens for other people. And I thought
19 that was well put. He was a very trusted confidant for
20 many.

21 He had a knack for being able to quickly
22 sort out and sort through very complex and difficult
23 issues, and make tough decisions or help others make
24 those tough decisions.

25 He was always genuinely interested in

1 others. And it's been noted that he had a gift of
2 relational intelligence, meaning he could talk to
3 anyone about anything and make them feel at home.

4 He treated everyone with respect and he
5 had no concern for positions or titles. A very elderly
6 woman came into the office decades ago and she had very
7 limited resources. And he offered to prepare a Will
8 for her for free. And she insisted that she wanted a
9 bill because she wanted to pay for it. So he prepared
10 the Will and she insisted on a bill, so he gave her an
11 invoice for one dollar. And then she insisted on a
12 receipt, so he gave her a receipt for one dollar. And
13 she dutifully returned every several years to have her
14 Will updated. And they would do it again. And he
15 would give her a bill for one dollar, and she wanted a
16 receipt for one dollar.

17 He loved to help people. As was said,
18 he compassionately and discretely taught adults to read
19 through the Literacy Project.

20 Max--. I will note that since his
21 passing, the price of salmon has really been affected.
22 There is a much greater supply now.

23 He was a great lawyer, a great partner,
24 a great friend, and we all grieve his loss, and will
25 miss him dearly. Thank you.

1 JUDGE ANDERSON: Thank you, Tom.

2 MR. COLLINS: Excuse me, I have got to say one
3 or two things here.

4 THE COURT: The floor is yours.

5 MR. COLLINS: I mentioned in the Resolution
6 about how he played tennis up to February 19th of this
7 year. In fact, I talked to him after that. That's
8 when he knew that--after that match he said he just
9 knew something was wrong, that the valve was going
10 down, and he never felt more tired than that. And I
11 said was it a three set match? He said, yeah I won
12 too. He made sure he told me that.

13 But the one thing I noticed in looking around,
14 the other thing a lot of us might remember way back to
15 see Max driving around, he had a big Mercedes, a few of
16 them over the years. He was known to have a lead foot.
17 And it was maybe the first year that I am thinking of.
18 And he encountered a lot of state police through divorce
19 law or criminal law, and he knew a lot of them, all
20 right, and I knew that.

21 So it's in first my first year or year and a
22 half, and we were going down to Danville to see this
23 attorney that we have got a case with. So I am riding
24 along with him. And we are going down 147, four lanes
25 there, and he is doing his typical 85 or something like

1 that. And I am sitting there kind of going I can't
2 believe it. And we are coming up on a car. And I am
3 thinking to myself God, that looks like an unmarked car,
4 you know, I think it is. And he pulls out to go around
5 him. And we got up next to the unmarked car and I look
6 and see Pennsylvania State Police. And I looked at the
7 guy, and I am going oh boy, we are in trouble. And the
8 guy looks right past me and he goes "Hey Max," and we
9 just keep flying right on by. And that was the end of
10 it.

11 So like you said, that's when I realized he
12 knows a lot of people, and it really helped him and his
13 clients. I had to throw that funny story in.

14 JUDGE ANDERSON: I wanted to mention that our
15 President Judge Nancy Butts is engaged in a case, some
16 cases which she could not postpone. And if she manages
17 to finish them, she will join us. I know she was
18 conflicted about it, but I think it was difficult to
19 push back. And I was only notified about a minute
20 before I walked in here that I would be taking over as
21 the host of this ceremony. And as such, I am sort of
22 feeling my way as to how to proceed with this, because
23 we do have the unusual position of having two Judges
24 being on the Committee.

25 So what I think I will do is I will turn it over

1 to Judge McCoy to speak as a member of the Committee, and
2 then I will speak as a member of the Committee. And I
3 will defer Judge Lovecchio and Judge Gray's remarks until
4 the end, and we will take any remarks from the audience
5 or from the assembly here in between.

6 So Judge McCoy, would you like to say anything
7 about your former partner Max Hall?

8 JUDGE MCCOY: Yes, I would.

9 I know there have been a lot of individuals over
10 the years who have influenced me and impacted my life,
11 but if I had to pick one individual who had the most
12 impact on my career, I wasn't going to do this either
13 Mike, it would have to be Max.

14 Recently after his death I was talking with
15 someone about Max and how much he influenced me. And the
16 person I was speaking with said, well did he know? And I
17 said well you know, I really would hope that he would
18 know, I never actually spoke those words to him. But I
19 somehow highly doubt that it ever entered his mind how
20 much he impacted me and influenced me or how much he
21 impacted and influenced the lives of the other people
22 that he touched. He was far too humble for that.

23 I met Max in 1988 when I was an intern at
24 McNerney, Page, Vanderlin and Hall. I was in college at
25 that time, and I continued to intern there every summer

1 through college, through law school, and was lucky enough
2 to have my associates position before I went back to my
3 third year of law school.

4 I want to share with you--and through
5 that entire time he was he managing partner. I want to
6 share with you just a few stories about Max.

7 By that time, I actually started to
8 practice law in 1993, he was significantly winding down
9 his family law practice. In fact he really had no
10 desire to step foot in court again. There were,
11 however, those clients that insisted on Max being
12 there. And Max being Max, he was not going to let
13 those clients down. So I would handle the hearings and
14 Max would tag along with me.

15 He always had feedback for me after
16 every hearing. I remember the first time after the
17 very first hearing we went to, I was a little nervous
18 about the feedback because he told me, hey, I want to
19 talk to you about a couple of things. Now I knew that
20 I probably knew the law better than he did at that
21 point because he had had--really didn't care about
22 keeping up with the law anymore, and frankly he and
23 Tony and them didn't do it that way. They worked
24 things out.

25 So the very first hearing we are in the

1 car and his feedback was to me, you need to sit up
2 straight. I was--I mean I was expecting you didn't
3 argue this point, you didn't do that. But his feedback
4 to me was always practical and was always about how I
5 presented myself to others and how I treated other
6 people.

7 So to give you some examples of his
8 noteworthy advice over the years. Sit up straight,
9 make eye contact, walk up and introduce yourself to
10 anyone in the room that you don't know, shake hands
11 with the opposing counsel, and never been intimidated
12 by the fact that your are younger and newer to the
13 game. You most likely are no worse than your opponent.
14 Us old guys don't worry about the rules or case law
15 anymore. Answer every question your client has, and
16 don't leave until you know that your client is
17 comfortable with what just happened.

18 Probably the best part of my travels
19 with Max were that if we were anywhere near Lewisburg
20 on a trip, we always went to Mays Drive-In for a
21 milkshake.

22 Another specific memory I have of Max is
23 that the Williamsport National Bank Christmas Party.
24 And probably many of you remember that every year there
25 was a gathering at the bank over here on Pine Street.

1 They would shut down the bank, there was food, there
2 was drinks, lots of people around. And it was unspoken
3 in the office that as associates you were going to be
4 at that Christmas party. It was probably only my first
5 or second year. And I remember standing in the group
6 with others associates at that time, Robin Read, Peter
7 Facey, Tom Marshall. We were standing there talking to
8 each other. And Max came up to us and very politely
9 told us that we were not there to talk to each other,
10 and we should separate and start talking to everyone in
11 the room.

12 Another example of something that Max,
13 and you heard people talk about the fact he did a lot
14 of things for a lot of people, and never wanted credit
15 for it and never even told anyone about it.

16 I had a paralegal who was getting
17 married. I believe it was one of the magistrates, one
18 of the judges was marrying her. She was a mom, getting
19 married, working for me full time, for the firm full
20 time, working, going to school full time. Clearly she
21 didn't have a lot of finances. He caught wind that she
22 was getting married, so he made sure her and her
23 husband had a night at the Inn at Turkey Hill, which is
24 one of the establishments that he was involved with.

25 Since max's death I have heard lots of

1 stories from lots of people about how he touched their
2 lives, how he influenced them, how he mentored them and
3 made an impact. And many of those stories are very,
4 very similar to my own as I hear people talk.

5 I think one of Max's greatest gifts was
6 being able to do these type of things for hundreds of
7 people, yet make you feel like you were special, and he
8 was doing something just for you that he wouldn't do
9 for anyone else. He will truly be missed by me.

10 JUDGE ANDERSON: Thank you. As a new lawyer,
11 I knew about Max Hall before I ever met him. He had a
12 reputation of being the gold standard for domestic
13 representation.

14 I arrived at the Bar about the same time Tony
15 Grieco did, and we engaged in numerous cases with Max.
16 We were adversaries on many, many cases. And the
17 opposite of Bob Elion, I had perhaps the uncomfortable
18 position for a little of representing Max's--or opposing
19 Max as an adversary in his own divorce. So I saw it in
20 that respect.

21 I would like to make some observations. The one
22 word that I think describes Max's the best, and I was
23 hesitant to use this word, is the word charm. And I
24 think charm has kind of taken on in some ways a negative
25 connotation because of the way it's been used. But he

1 was a genuine charming person. And he was charming to
2 the point where it was disarming if you were his
3 adversary. And these are some things that I said about
4 him, and I mean all of these.

5 I never saw him deal from anger. I never heard
6 him raise his voice. He was always an extremely capable
7 lawyer that gave his clients excellent representation.
8 Sometimes too excellent for me. And he was an excellent
9 advocate.

10 He was always open to resolution by agreement.
11 Something that I think maybe, and I am a civil lawyer
12 now, I try to tell sometimes advocates that come in, his
13 proposals were never game stoppers. In other words, he
14 never made a proposal that you would say what, and reject
15 it out of hand. I mean it might have been on the high
16 side of what you might have considered fair, but it was
17 such, it was couched such that it always compelled
18 results or a reply and negotiations.

19 He always returned calls, at least mine he did.
20 He was extremely busy, but when he talked to you, you
21 were the focus of his conversation. No matter how busy
22 he was, it wasn't like he was looking at his watch, it
23 wasn't like he was itching to get by you. You were
24 always the central focus of his attention.

25 He was always very gracious to the adverse

1 party, even when confronted with hostility. And
2 sometimes I would have a client that couldn't bear to be
3 in the same room as Max Hall, not because they knew Max
4 personally, but because Max was the enemy, and he always
5 handled it with a great deal of I thought grace. I think
6 he was a true gentleman of the Bar.

7 I am going to say something that may be a little
8 bit politically inappropriate, but about 25 years ago
9 there was a domestic practice, and it really was
10 predominately represented by about six different lawyers
11 in town. There was me, Tony Grieco, and Max and Jamie
12 Casale, a couple of others. And about 25 years ago there
13 was sea change, and I think if you look today, you would
14 find that the practice has had a significant gender
15 change. But I recall being accused of being part of the
16 good old boys club. And you know, I never really
17 responded to that. But I think that both Max and I and
18 Jim and Tony and Gary Harris and a number of us, we were
19 accused of being the good old boys club.

20 Well I am going to admit to you today that, and
21 I am going to plead guilty, and this is the way it
22 worked. We would get a divorce case and I would
23 recognize that Max was on the other side, and one would
24 call the other. And we would go ahead and we would have
25 what we would call a discovery conference. And it was

1 usually--mine were usually in that front office of Max
2 where there was that round table. And we would sit there
3 and we would bring all of our paperwork. And we would
4 exchange all the paperwork that we had.

5 Now we had been around the horn a lot of times,
6 both of us, and we kind of knew the domestic practice in
7 Williamsport. So we would talk about what is the
8 proposal, what is likely to happen. I'd know what my
9 client wants, Max knew what his client wanted. But we
10 talked about what was the realistic result of all of
11 this. Sometimes we would write it down and exchange it
12 just in handwriting, and sometimes we'd just sit there
13 and talk about it. And usually because of the fact that
14 we were both pretty well acquainted with the system, we'd
15 find that our view of where things were going to turn out
16 was pretty close. And sometimes we would sit there and
17 negotiate without a client. We'd each recognize that the
18 other did not have any authority to bind anything that
19 was said in that meeting. And sometimes we would walk
20 out of that meeting, a good number of times, with at
21 least an idea of what we could recommend to our clients
22 to get the matter resolved. And many times it was very
23 successful.

24 That was, by a couple of lawyers that started
25 practicing later, that practice was subject to criticism.

1 And I recognized today that doing it in that fashion
2 certainly deprived one spouse from causing the other
3 suppose to spend untold sums that far exceeded the issue
4 that was at hand, and get the pressure of using up all of
5 their resources. I recognize that. I recognize that it
6 deprived my client of the vitriolic katharsis that they
7 get from going through litigation hearing after hearing
8 and litigation after litigation. And I also recognize
9 that we were depriving the children of having to choose
10 one side or the other after constant prompting from the
11 opponents. But it was the system which I think, and I
12 appreciate today, promotes judicial economy, I am all for
13 that.

14 So with that in mind, I thank you for your
15 attention, and I am going to ask if there are any
16 comments from the members of the Bar. And speaking of
17 another one of those fellas that was part of that good
18 old boys club I believe, Mr. Langdon.

19 MR. LANGDON: I didn't know Max as well as his
20 partners, as well as some members of the Court. But I
21 first met him in 1975. I was new to town, new to the
22 area. Max had been here. And our first hearing that
23 we had against each other was actually in front of a
24 district justice, so it was not a big case. But my
25 1972 Bronco with a hundred thousand miles on it needed

1 repair, so I had borrowed a car from a fraternity
2 brother. And it happened to be a Cadillac that was
3 four feet longer than Max's Mercedes.

4 So when we pulled into the district justice's
5 office, which at that time was outside of Hughesville,
6 you know, Max kind of looked at me kind of suspiciously
7 and made a comment like, "Well I guess you're
8 independently wealthy, and you just opened an office."

9 And when I would not recommend to my client what
10 Max wanted to settle a case for, he actually called me a
11 young pup. So I reminded him of that over the years, and
12 he denied remembering it. But it was clear in my mind.

13 And over the years we probably talked more about
14 our--we both had hobbies of raising steers, and so we
15 probably talked more about that than domestic law,
16 because that wasn't my field.

17 But in a real estate closing at Muncy Bank, I
18 represented a young couple buying their first home. So
19 they're scared to death. They're buying their first
20 home, signing a mortgage, and then the sellers were a
21 husband and wife separating and getting a divorce. Max
22 represented the wife, and a member of the boys club,
23 another member who I won't mention, represented the
24 husband. And what hasn't been mentioned today is Max did
25 an Oscar winning performance. I mean this guy could

1 really act.

2 So during, you know, we're in the closing, and
3 they're still negotiating who is going to get how much.
4 And my position was I am writing one check, to either
5 both the attorneys for the husband and wife, or both the
6 husband and wife and then you guys decide. Well Max
7 didn't want that, because he was negotiating what he
8 thought his client's share of that check should be.

9 So I bet during that, you know, hour, it was an
10 hour closing instead of a half hour, Max put on his coat
11 four or five times to leave. And the only one that knew
12 that he was not really leaving, it was a negotiating
13 ploy, was me. And how did I know that? Because he
14 winked. He would say "All right, that's it, I am
15 leaving, closing is off." And my clients are scared to
16 death, and then he would wink at me. Then finally, you
17 know, because of all those winks and putting on his coat
18 four times, he even told his client to put on her coat,
19 they got it worked out and, you know, we went ahead and
20 had the closing.

21 But he was just a--that performance really
22 impressed me. I have never used it myself. And then
23 afterwards when we talked about it, it was with humor.
24 And of course it was usually over a few cocktails at the
25 same time.

1 Now in recent years where I ran into him most
2 often was at Orlies. And if you're from Muncy, that's
3 where you run into everybody sooner or later. And he was
4 always friendly. I didn't notice salmon on his plate,
5 but we always used to have a good time rehearsing old
6 times.

7 And I think Judge Anderson hit it right on the
8 head, he had charm. He was a schmoozer, which I have
9 accused Judge Anderson of being also. You know, he could
10 talk to anybody, and he would use that I am convinced as
11 a bargaining tool, to get you over to his position,
12 besides just putting on his coat.

13 THE COURT: Yes, Mr. Carlucci.

14 MR. CARLUCCI: Your Honor, in my 36 years of
15 practicing law, knowing that Max did family law and
16 criminal defense work, I did my very best to stay out
17 of his way, and I was successful in all but two cases.

18 He and Judge Greevy got along famously. Kevin
19 Way told me one day that I was going to prosecute a DUI
20 case. I was an Assistant District Attorney in a prior
21 life. And I was prosecuting a DUI case. This was a time
22 when there was no point one oh law, so the prosecution
23 had to prove that the Defendant was incapable of safe
24 driving, which was usually not a problem if it was a
25 serious motor vehicle accident, but if it wasn't, it was

1 a tough road to hoe for the prosecution.

2 Kevin told me I was trying the case at
3 Judge Greevy, and the defense attorney was Max Hall,
4 and good luck.

5 So I went down and the case was okay,
6 not great, but again I had to prove incapable of safe
7 driving. And so I marshaled my evidence and I
8 presented it to the jury, and then Max stood up and
9 turned on the charm. And I think I kept the jury out
10 for about 30 seconds before they acquitted this
11 Defendant of DUI. And throughout the entire process
12 Max was pleasant, and respectful, and kind, because he
13 knew he was going to hand me my head, so there was
14 really no point of being nasty about it. And then
15 rather than turning to me and doing some victory lap,
16 he picked up the verdict slip from the jury, and he
17 walked up to Judge Greevy, because it was Judge
18 Greevy's last jury trial. And he handed the verdict
19 slip to Judge Greevy, and he said "Your Honor, could I
20 ask you please, could you autograph this, may I have it
21 please? I don't know where he kept it, but I bet you
22 that Max had that from that day forward.

23 My second experience in this 36 years
24 was I married Bill Vanderlin's middle daughter. And
25 after 12 years of marriage, she wised up and left me.

1 And I went to her house, and she actually ended up
2 buying Bill and Phyllis' home. And so I had to run
3 some errand over to her. And she came out, and she
4 said Bill, I want you to know I spoke to Max, and Max
5 thinks that I shouldn't touch, ask anything out of you
6 or your law firm. And that I shouldn't ask for any--.
7 I will do whatever I can to try to preserve your
8 relationship with Ben. And I shouldn't ask for any
9 alimony. But under those circumstances, he said maybe
10 I should ask you to consider 60 percent of our jointly
11 held property. What do you think? And I said how do
12 you want the check made out?

13 So as a result of Max or in part of a
14 result of Max's influence, my divorce negotiations
15 lasted about 30 seconds. And of course, as you know my
16 wife Christine and I, we are still married today,
17 because Max was focused on get by what you have to get
18 by, and don't create any scar tissue for no reason.
19 And we didn't, and we are still happily married,
20 although she did keep the money.

21 It was a privilege to work with him in
22 both cases, and even though I think that his client
23 made out real well in both cases.

24 THE COURT: Anyone else? Judge Lovecchio.

25 JUDGE LOVECCHIO: I knew Max as an adversary.

1 I was younger, not part of the good old boys club.
2 But I probably in the last 10 years of his practice, we
3 had cases. And I guess what saddens me more than
4 anything is that I see a passing of a generation of
5 lawyers. I see a passing of lawyers who, and this is
6 not meant to insult anybody, but who did it the right
7 way like him, the noble lawyers.

8 You know with Max, and some of these things have
9 already been said, but with Max, his word was his word.
10 You didn't need to follow it up--. I don't think they
11 had email then, but you didn't need to follow it up with
12 a letter, you didn't need to follow it up with some sort
13 of written documentation. He meant what he said. With
14 Max he never took it personally. He never disrespected
15 you. Maybe sometimes in humor. And when I was a younger
16 lawyer, that impressed me beyond belief to the extent
17 that he would treat you with such respect.

18 And I guess, you know, what struck me more than
19 anything, and these are words people have used, but he
20 had a polish and professionalism about him and character
21 and integrity that I think we are losing as a profession.
22 And you know, it is sad because we will miss guys like
23 him, and we will miss lawyers like him. And it's a shame
24 he's not around to teach other lawyers that that is the
25 way it really should be done.

1 JUDGE ANDERSON: Thank you. Judge Gray.

2 JUDGE GRAY: Picking up on Judge Lovecchio's
3 comments. I didn't practice divorce law, thank
4 goodness for me, until I got here and did it as a
5 judge. So I didn't have that perspective on Max, but I
6 did deal with him quite frankly with his clients on
7 routine civil matters, real estate closings, where I
8 suspect that George probably did the title search, and
9 Max showed up to schmooze the client. In all of the
10 dealings it was cordial, he was well done, and things
11 that have already been said, like Judge Lovecchio said,
12 you didn't have to ask him to give you something in
13 writing. If he said it, you could depend on it. He
14 was a man of his word.

15 He was polite in every dealing I ever had with
16 him, including at the bar at Taggs or in some other court
17 matter.

18 And finally I think the word, and I think Judge
19 Anderson may have said, gentleman. Gentleman is a word
20 that isn't used very much anymore. And it's a very
21 appropriate term. He acted like a gentleman at all
22 times. I wish there were more young lawyers in the room
23 so I could beat on that theme a little bit more, because
24 we need more lawyers who are gentleman, not zealous
25 advocates to the detriment of politeness and gentlemanly.

1 So I will always remember Max as a gentleman, a man of
2 his word, and somebody who was polite to all he ran into.

3 JUDGE ANDERSON: Mr. Collins.

4 MR. COLLINS: I want the record to reflect
5 something there. The Court sits up there, and we have
6 the Committee. I want the record to reflect, we heard
7 about Max's dying and I called Annie. And she right
8 away asked to make sure she could come in from her
9 retirement days and take the testimony and take this
10 proceeding. Because I know, and I speak for you and
11 Dawn, we talked about the young attorneys, but the
12 young court reporters, when you came to town, Max was
13 one of--really treated them extremely well. And they
14 became quite close. So I want the record to reflect
15 please that you had asked to do this.

16 THE COURT: Well thank you. This concludes
17 the Special Session of Court. I want to thank the Bar
18 members for their attendance, and again, on behalf of
19 the entire Court, and on behalf of the Lycoming County
20 Bar Association, we offer our deepest condolences to
21 the family. Max, and I don't say this lightly, he was
22 an icon in this community, and he will be long
23 remembered. Thank you all.

24 (Whereupon the proceedings are adjourned at
25 4:24 p.m.)

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C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-I-O-N

I hereby certify the proceedings and evidence upon the hearing of the above and foregoing cause are contained fully and accurately in the notes taken by me and that this is a true and correct copy of the same to the best of my ability.

Ann E. Diggan
Official Reporter
Lycoming County, PA