

1 **IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF LYCOMING COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

2 IN RE: :

3 MEMORIAL RESOLUTION : NO.

4 KRISTINE L. WALTZ, ESQUIRE :

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11 **TRANSCRIPT OF MEMORIAL SERVICE** held

12 before the Honorable Court of Lycoming County in Courtroom No. 1

13 of the Lycoming County Courthouse, 48 West Third Street,

14 Williamsport, Pennsylvania, on December 14, 2020, commencing at

15 4:05 p.m. and concluding at 5:00 p.m.

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18 **COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

19

20 Michael Dinges, Esquire, Chairman

21 Andrea Bower, Esquire

22 William Carlucci, Esquire

23 Fred Holland, Esquire

24 Nicole Ippolito, Esquire

25

SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS

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2 **HONORABLE JUDGE BUTTS:** Okay. Welcome to this
3 Special Session of Court honoring Kristine Waltz, a long-time
4 member of the Law Association. Before I push the record button I
5 just want to make sure that everybody is aware that this is going
6 to be recorded. So if you are interested in saying a few words
7 when it comes time, when I offer it up to the members of the bar,
8 if you would please give me some kind of an indication by way of
9 the reactions button down at the very bottom, if you want to give
10 me a thumbs up or a smiley face just so I can call upon you.
11 Roni is here in the courtroom and she's taking everything down
12 and we're broadcasting the event on the screen in the courtroom,
13 but I'm just afraid that people might step on other people when
14 they talk. So this way if I could call upon you I can make sure
15 that we can get everybody's words in and we won't be fighting for
16 time to speak. Okay. All right. So I am going to start the
17 recording and then we'll begin.

18 Good afternoon and welcome everyone. This
19 afternoon we will be holding a Special Session of Court and I
20 personally have the privilege of holding this Memorial Service
21 for a long-time member of our Law Association, Kristine Waltz.
22 We recognize and appreciate the attendance of her family members
23 who are here to join us for the Memorial Service. I would like
24 to acknowledge the family members that I have noticed that have
25 called in here today on Zoom, her husband, Steve Sorage; her

1 children, Stephanie is here. I know that Sarah was discussed,
2 I'm not sure if she's here and then two of her family members,
3 Thomas, a brother, Thomas, and a brother, Steve. So thank you
4 all very much for participating here today.

5 On January 16th of this year this Court
6 appointed a Committee to prepare a Report in Resolution
7 recognizing the life and accomplishments of Kristine Waltz. The
8 Chairman of the Committee is Michael Dinges and the Members of
9 the Committee are Andrea Bower, William Carlucci, Fred Holland,
10 Nicole Ippolito and John Pietrovito.

11 So now I call upon and recognize Michael
12 Dinges to present the Committee Report and Resolution.
13 Mr. Dinges.

14 **MICHAEL DINGES:** Thank you. May it please the
15 Court, to the Honorable Judges of the Lycoming County Court of
16 Common Pleas. The Honorable Judge Nancy L. Butts, President
17 Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Lycoming County, 29th
18 Judicial District, by Order dated January 16th, 2020, appointed
19 the undersigned Committee to draft the Resolutions memorializing
20 the life of Kristine L. Waltz, Esquire and to submit the same to
21 this Honorable Court at a session of Court that was previously
22 scheduled for Thursday, March 19th the year 2020. That session
23 of Court was continued due to the Covid-19 restrictions and the
24 Report and Resolutions of this Committee will now be submitted to
25 the Court via teleconferencing today on Monday, December 14th,

1 2020.

2 Kristine L. Waltz was a member of the Bar of
3 this Court since 1982 and she passed away unexpectedly on
4 December 22nd, 2019.

5 Kristine was the wife of Stephen Sorage, the
6 two married in April of 1993 and she was the mother of two
7 children, Stephanie and Sarah.

8 Kristine was born on April 26th, 1957 in
9 Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania, the daughter of Carl and Anita Waltz.

10 Kristine was a member of First United
11 Methodist Church in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

12 Kristine graduated from Lycoming College in
13 1979 and went on to graduate from Temple University School of Law
14 May 27th, 1982. On the motion of Judge Robert James Wollet she
15 was admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar on November 12th, 1982.
16 Kristine practiced law in Lycoming County for 36 years.

17 Kristine had a love for music and was an
18 active member in the music program of Lycoming College. She was
19 also active in the Williamsport Chamber Choir and Orchestra and
20 her church choir.

21 Kristine donated her time to assist the mock
22 trial team of the Montoursville Area High School where she
23 enjoyed volunteering her time with the staff and working with the
24 kids on their presentations and helping them understand the law.

25 Kristine loved to help others and was able to

1 use her professional expertise by bringing a program, Wills for
2 Heroes, to Lycoming County. This program provided estate
3 planning documents to first responders and veterans free of
4 charge.

5 Kristine's desire to help people extended
6 beyond her passing through organ and tissue donation.

7 Kristine was preceded in death by her father,
8 Carl, and her mother, Anita.

9 Kristine is survived by her husband, Stephen;
10 daughters, Stephanie and Sarah; twin brother, Kevin; and two
11 older brothers, Tom and Steve.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that we, the
13 undersigned, joined by the Bar of Lycoming County do recognize
14 the passing of Kristine L. Waltz, Esquire, and recommend the
15 adoption of the following Resolutions:

16 BE IT RESOLVED, that in the passing of
17 Kristine L. Waltz there has been a loss to the Bar of Lycoming
18 County of an outstanding member who represented the best
19 principles of the legal profession; a loss to her family of a
20 loving wife and mother and a loss to her friends.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of these
22 Resolutions be spread upon the records of this Court and a copy
23 of the same be sent to her widower and children.

24 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this Court and
25 its Bar hereby extend to her widower and to her children a deep

1 and heartfelt expression of sympathy.

2 Respectfully submitted, Michael A. Dinges,
3 Esquire, Chairman; Andrea Bower, Esquire; William Carlucci,
4 Esquire; Fred Holland, Esquire; Nicole Ippolito, Esquire and John
5 Pietrovito, Esquire.

6 **HONORABLE JUDGE BUTTS:** Mr. Dinges, did you wish
7 to make any remarks?

8 **MICHAEL DINGES:** I do. Kristine was a partner to
9 my wife and I at our law practice, but she was really much more
10 than that. Kristine and Steve were friends of ours for gosh, 20
11 plus years. She practiced with my wife at Elion Wayne when my
12 wife first started with the law firm there. I worked closely
13 with Steve when I was in the District Attorney's Office. We grew
14 together as friends. I remember we went on vacation one time
15 with our kids to the shore. Our children really grew up
16 together. They had the same babysitter during the week that
17 Kristine kind of introduced us to and, you know, our kids really
18 were around them all the time growing up. It was -- it was kinda
19 like they were kind of, you know, part of our extended family, I
20 guess. It was a -- it was a pleasure to practice with Kristine.
21 She was -- had a great personality and I really will miss her.

22 **HONORABLE JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you. I'll now call
23 upon the Members of the Committee starting with Andrea Bower.

24 **ANDREA BOWER:** Thank you, Judge Butts. Kristine
25 and I first connected when I became an attorney in Lycoming

1 County in 1989. She had clerked for Judge Wollet and I had taken
2 a position with Anderson, Mathers & Wollet. Judge Wollet had
3 told me that he would do his best to introduce me to all the
4 movers and shakers in town, actually, the Members of the Bar and
5 Kristine was the first one -- one of the first people that he
6 introduced me to. I found her very friendly and she would always
7 take the time to say hello and asked me what I'd been up to. She
8 had a wonderful sense of humor and she -- she was also a great
9 lawyer and could be a formidable opponent in the courtroom. She
10 always took the time to field any questions that I might have and
11 she and I started bouncing legal arguments and what do you think
12 about this question to each other many a time over the course of
13 the last few years. In fact, we would use these bounce sessions
14 many times as an excuse to go to lunch, exchange war stories on
15 cases or to just meet up and see a local football game in
16 Montoursville. Her husband and her daughters were very important
17 to her. She was very, very proud of her husband and her
18 daughters. I enjoyed listening to the stories about the girls
19 growing up and things that would happen. Kristine and I started
20 our families a little later than normal, but we would exchange
21 stories about that as well. My last contact with Kristine was at
22 the end of last November while she was adjudicating a meet for
23 tryouts for the Montoursville mock trial high school team, my son
24 was trying out for the team and when they completed the case she
25 took the time to give him some pointers as well. She was always

1 helping someone be it a student, a client, a friend, or a family
2 member. She was very hardworking, very intelligent, caring and a
3 thoughtful person. One of her best traits though was that she
4 lived life to the fullest and she loved to laugh and smile.
5 Whenever I had a problem whether it was a stubborn client or a
6 sticky legal issue on some things she was always there to listen
7 and provide advice to me. She taught me the value of a good
8 friendship, the value of a trusted, professional colleague and
9 she also gave me pointers on how to balance a career and family
10 life together. Kristine was a wonderful, positive influence on
11 anyone that she came into contact with. I will continue to miss
12 her immensely. It was a pleasure to be her friend.

13 **HONORABLE JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you. Mr. Carlucci.
14 I know you are here.

15 **WILLIAM CARLUCCI:** Your Honor, is it now fairly
16 clear to the Court that I spend very little time in Zoom
17 meetings?

18 **HONORABLE JUDGE BUTTS:** That's fine. You're good
19 to go.

20 **WILLIAM CARLUCCI:** Thank you, Your Honor.

21 **HONORABLE JUDGE BUTTS:** What would you like to
22 share?

23 **WILLIAM CARLUCCI:** Thank you, Your Honor. I do
24 not know if Steve is aware of the fact that Kristine essentially
25 stalked me through much of her career. I went to Lycoming

1 College from Loyalsock High School, Kristine went to Lycoming
2 College from Jersey Shore High School and then we ended up
3 becoming friends because I was working in the DA's Office and she
4 was clerking and I frankly admired how clearly she saw cases for
5 what they were. Then she ended up going to the District
6 Attorney's Office when I left and then she ended up coming here.
7 In fact, I was at a meeting with my partners, they decided they
8 wanted to hire another lawyer to try cases and I made the comment
9 to them if you want to hire a lawyer to try cases hire Kristine
10 Waltz because she knows how and she sees cases for what they are
11 and she would be a great addition to the firm and we did and she
12 was. For all the years Kristine was here, if I had a serious
13 question about a case that I was involved in I would go to her
14 and the reason I would go to her is she had a quality, which in
15 my view is rare in lawyers. I've seen a lot of fine lawyers who
16 do the best job they can with the facts and the law presented to
17 them, but in my view, however jaundiced it may be, relatively few
18 lawyers have the consistent ability to see cases for what they
19 really are, that is, to understand how they could make the
20 opposing argument just as effectively as they could make their
21 own and Kristine had the gift. She could walk into a courtroom,
22 you could flip a coin and she could try either end of the case
23 and there is two reasons why that's true, obviously, she was
24 prepared and everybody told us in law school if you're really
25 prepared for a case you can try your opponent's case; but the

1 truth of the matter is it's a gift and Kristine had that gift and
2 in my view, although I don't think she ever felt a calling for
3 this, at least not that she mentioned to me, in my view Kristine
4 could have been a terrific judge and I say that because she had
5 the gift to understand people, to understand the case, to
6 understand their motivation. Now, I'm going to call this a
7 limitation, but that's only because I have the twist that I have.
8 I make the practice of law my life, which is a great weakness for
9 me and my friends and family will certainly tell you it is my
10 Achilles' heel. Well, Kristine didn't have that problem. She
11 made it very clear to everybody in this law firm that her first
12 priority was her family, that she was going to practice law as
13 effectively as she could; but under no circumstances was she
14 going to sacrifice her relationship with her family and if her
15 family -- if she felt she had an obligation to her family she was
16 out the door because family came first and not only did I admire
17 that in Kristine I was, in fact, jealous of her because she had
18 her priorities so clearly in hand and I so clearly do not. I
19 will, as we all will, miss her greatly.

20 **HONORABLE JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you. Fred Holland.

21 **FRED HOLLAND:** Thank you, Judge Butts. I remember
22 well when I first met Kristine I was Judge Wollet's first law
23 clerk and that was quite an honor for me and when it came time to
24 replace me Judge Wollet put together a team for conducting
25 interviews that included, as I recall, John Pietrovito might

1 confirm this, not only me; but the other law clerks and we did a
2 very thorough job of investigating the candidates and there were
3 quite a few to the point that we actually took photographs of the
4 candidates and Kristine came through that process with flying
5 colors and was selected as Judge Wollet's second law clerk and I
6 had some assignments as law clerk so I got to actually work with
7 Kristine as a law clerk colleague on a limited basis and found
8 her insight to be wonderful as everyone has described. What we
9 also discovered that we had some other interests in common, one
10 of those was tennis, and I can still remember on the Cochran
11 tennis courts a hard-fought tennis match that I played with her;
12 but the most important one was singing. I joined the
13 Williamsport Chamber Choir in 2002 and Kristine, I believe, was a
14 founding singer in that choir. The Williamsport Chamber Choir
15 was a small organization and some choirs always sing with all of
16 the voice parts together, soprano, alto, tenor, and bass; but in
17 the Chamber Choir we often mixed it up. Ironically today as I
18 was in my office earlier I have a slide show of photo memories
19 and some of them involved photos of the choir and there was a
20 photo of me singing and Kristine standing right behind me. So
21 you got to know the quality of the singers in that choir and they
22 got to know your quality. So I'm here to give you the inside
23 scoop of Kristine as a singer. She was reliable. She was always
24 there for rehearsal, always on time, and she was always prepared.
25 She gave all the other members of the choir what we wanted from a

1 colleague who was a singer. She sang the right note. She sang
2 it at the right time. She sang it at the right dynamic level,
3 not too loud, not too soft. That defined Kristine as a singer
4 and as I thought about that, as I thought about what I was going
5 to say, I realized that defined her as a lawyer as well. She was
6 reliable. She was prepared. She was always a pleasure to deal
7 with. As Andrea mentioned, she sang the right note at the right
8 volume. If it was a case that involved a requirement of
9 aggressive advocacy she could provide it. If it was a case that
10 required reasonable settlement discussions to resolve it, she was
11 there for it. It not only defined her as a lawyer though it also
12 defined her as a mother and as a spouse. I will miss Kristine
13 greatly. She's a great loss to the choir community, to the legal
14 community, and to Lycoming County and Pennsylvania. Thank you.

15 **HONORABLE JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you. Ms. Ippolito.

16 **NICOLE IPPOLITO:** Thank you, Judge. Well, I know
17 Kristine in a slightly different prospective than everybody else
18 because I first learned about her through Steve when I worked at
19 the DA's office. It was funny Steve was always called my work
20 husband because we were together and working so hard together so
21 I got to hear a lot about their relationship through him rather
22 than learning through Kristine and I was just always deeply
23 impressed at the level of love and respect that they had for each
24 other, the level of respect that Steve had for Kristine as a
25 lawyer. He would give me examples all the time about how great

1 she was because I was learning how to be an Assistant District
2 Attorney at the time that I met Steve and he was telling me how
3 he met Kristine when she was an Assistant District Attorney. So
4 it was just -- it was a beautiful relationship to learn about, to
5 hear about, and I know that it still deeply affects Steve and I
6 just -- I'm sad for him because she was a great woman and he had
7 so much love and respect for her. I had so much respect for her
8 because I've participated in the Wills for Heroes now for years
9 and I'm so thankful that she brought it to this community. I
10 think it's so important. I love to be a part of it every year
11 and it will continue on. She also let me take over that
12 Montoursville mock trial team and I just love doing that. She
13 taught me how to do it for my first year and then sent me out on
14 my own and it's just a great pleasure to be dealing with the
15 children every day and feeling like I'm part of that community
16 and without Kristine I would never have even known about it. So
17 I really appreciated her level of work in the community. I hope
18 to follow in her footsteps in that way. It is definitely a great
19 loss for everyone not having her here anymore to go to for help
20 and it just saddens me that she's gone, but I'm very happy that I
21 had the opportunity to meet her and I'm very happy that I get to
22 continue my relationship with Steve.

23 **HONORABLE JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you very much. Mr.
24 Pietrovito.

25 **JOHN PIETROVITO:** Thank you, Judge Butts. I

1 can -- I can confirm what Fred mentioned about the law clerk
2 search. I had forgotten about the taking pictures and posting
3 them up, but when he mentioned it it brought that back to mind.
4 I got to know Kristine at the beginning of her clerkship for
5 Judge Wollet and at the end of my clerkship for Judge Smith. Our
6 relationship got off to a rocky start and I'm going to explain
7 that, not because she wasn't a good person and I hope I was a
8 good person; but one of the first things I remember is Kristine
9 and Deb and I decided to go out to dinner together. I drove, Deb
10 was in the front seat of the car, Kristine was in the back seat.
11 We went to the Columbia Restaurant or maybe the New Columbia
12 Restaurant. We arrived in the parking lot, Deb and I got out of
13 the car, Kristine was unable to get out of the back seat of the
14 car. We spent about five minutes trying to figure out how she
15 could get out unlocking the doors, relocking them, opening the
16 windows, closing the windows. By sheer accident we were able to
17 get her out of the rear of the car and I discovered a couple days
18 later after reading the manual that it was because the child
19 safety locks were on and none of us had any idea that that device
20 existed. Later on I had on a number of occasions offered
21 Kristine a ride somewhere and she would tell me -- she would say
22 yes as long as I don't have to sit in the back seat of your car.
23 So, another thing that I remember from Kristine and, again, this
24 involves my wife, Deb. We happened to go to the Styer Farm in
25 Muncy to pick strawberries and when we got there Kristine was

1 there with Sarah and Stephanie and we were kinda close with each
2 other for a while picking strawberries on a warm, late
3 spring/summer evening, I'm not sure which; and the one thing that
4 I noticed is Kristine was constantly involved with her daughters.
5 Kristine, as I recall, was doing most of the picking; Sarah and
6 Stephanie, I think, were doing more sampling than picking; but in
7 any event they got there before us, we finished, filled up our
8 containers and left before they did; but I think that's just an
9 example of what people have said about her being dedicated to her
10 family. There's a number of things that I could tell you, but
11 I'm going to tell you about one other story that had to do with
12 Kristine's representation of a client. In between her DA days
13 and her Fisher Rice days with Mr. Carlucci and company I had the
14 pleasure of working with her at Candor, Youngman, Gibson & Gault
15 for about a little over two years or so and I remember this one
16 case that Kristine got assigned, it came in from an insurance
17 company. A lady was involved in a motor vehicle accident, I
18 believe she was coming out of a veterinarian's parking lot on 220
19 in between Williamsport and Jersey Shore. She pulled up to 220
20 and according to what the lady told Kristine when she interviewed
21 her for the first time that was the last thing she remembered
22 until she woke up in the hospital and, you know, that didn't make
23 sense to anyone except Kristine. She believed this lady to be
24 telling the truth that she had no recollection of proceeding into
25 the road and striking another vehicle. Kristine diligently

1 obtained all of this lady's medical records from the hospital
2 when she was admitted after the accident. There was no
3 indication in there of any problem that would explain why she
4 blacked out, but Kristine didn't stop there because she believed
5 what this lady said to be true. She went to her family doctor.
6 I believe, I may be exaggerating; but I believe she got her
7 medical records back to the date of birth in order to try to
8 figure out if this lady had a health problem that caused her to
9 black out and pull out in front of this other vehicle. Much to
10 her dismay, she did not find that information; but on many
11 occasions we would sit and talk about it. I would give her ideas
12 or try to, but at the end of the day I know it bothered Kristine
13 that she could never find that answer for that lady and I think
14 that just speaks volumes as to the kind of person she was and the
15 kind of lawyer that she was. I am grateful for the time that I
16 got to spend with Kristine.

17 **HONORABLE JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you, Mr. Pietrovito.

18 **JOHN PIETROVITO:** Thank you.

19 **HONORABLE JUDGE BUTTS:** You are welcome. The
20 Court approves the Report and Resolution of the Committee and
21 enters the following order:

22 And now this 14th day of December, 2020, in
23 consideration of the Resolutions presented by the Committee
24 appointed to draft Resolutions in the death of Kristine L. Waltz,
25 the said Resolutions are adopted and it is ORDERED AND DIRECTED

1 that the Resolutions herewith submitted and attached be adopted
2 as an official expression of the Lycoming Law Association and
3 this Court and that the same be spread upon the Records of the
4 Court and the copies of this Resolution be delivered to the
5 family of Kristine Waltz; and it is further ORDERED AND DIRECTED
6 that said Resolution be entered at large upon the Record of the
7 Court and that it be printed in the Lycoming Reporter. By the
8 Court.

9 I now call upon the President of the Law
10 Association, Angela Lovecchio, for a Special Resolution.

11 **ANGELA LOVECCHIO:** Hello everybody. May it please
12 the Court. You've heard a lot about Wills for Heroes and how
13 Kristine basically spearheaded it and brought it to our community
14 and because of that the Lycoming Law Association has issued a
15 Proclamation, which I'm going to read. Whereas, the Lycoming Law
16 Association as part of its mission advances the public image of
17 the profession for providing pro bono legal assistance through
18 community involvement; and whereas, Kristine Waltz, a member of
19 the LLA from 1982 until her passing, organized an initiative to
20 assist the LLA with accomplishing its mission by coordinating a
21 Wills for Heroes event in 2015 to provide estate planning
22 documents for military and first responders at no cost; and
23 whereas, Kristine Waltz coordinated subsequent LLA Wills for
24 Heroes events in 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019; and whereas, at the
25 LLA's Wills for Heroes events nearly 200 estate plans were

1 prepared by lawyer volunteers; and whereas, Kristine Waltz passed
2 away unexpectedly in 2019; and whereas, future LLA Wills for
3 Heroes events will include recognition of Kristine Waltz's hard
4 work and dedication for accomplishing the LLA's mission by naming
5 the program after her; and now, THEREFORE, the LLA's Wills for
6 Heroes events will hereafter be known as Wills for Heroes in
7 Memory of Attorney Kristine Waltz. Lycoming Law Association.
8 Thank you.

9 **HONORABLE JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you very much. I
10 know we do have someone from the PBA here who worked with
11 Kristine in the course of the Wills for Heroes. I would call
12 upon him if he would like to speak. Mr. Trevaskis.

13 **DAVID TREVASKIS:** Thank you, Judge and I do want
14 to say how special we thought Kristine was for the work that she
15 did for Wills for Heroes. My colleague, Gabrielle Miller-Wagner,
16 who actually worked hand in hand with her is also on the call and
17 I don't know if Gabrielle would like to say a word or two. We
18 had made a special honor for Kristine with a special recognition
19 from the Pennsylvania Bar that Gabrielle will be presenting to
20 her husband at some point in the future when it's safer to
21 travel, but I don't know if Gabrielle would like to speak. It's
22 not her normal thing, but she definitely is the person who knew
23 Kristine best.

24 **HONORABLE JUDGE BUTTS:** You said that she's here
25 today on the call?

1 **DAVID TREVASKIS:** She's on the call.

2 **HONORABLE JUDGE BUTTS:** Okay. Well, I would call
3 upon her if she wants to unmute and share a few words.

4 **GABRIELLE WAGNER-MILLER:** Hi everybody. This is
5 Gabrielle.

6 **HONORABLE JUDGE BUTTS:** Could you state your last
7 name for us, too, please.

8 **GABRIELLE WAGNER-MILLER:** Miller-Wagner.

9 **THE COURT:** Okay. Thank you.

10 **GABRIELLE WAGNER-MILLER:** Sure. When I met
11 Kristine she was -- she just -- she just brings a smile to
12 everybody's face. She brings such happiness to everything that
13 she does and it was such a privilege for me to meet her, work
14 with her, and have the chance to meet Steve and both of her
15 daughters. It was always great that when I would come up I would
16 stay at Kristine and Steve's and they were the best host and they
17 were the funniest and most fun people to also be around. The
18 only thing I can keep saying, that I can always say about her is
19 that she just always could bring a smile to everybody. Thank
20 you.

21 **HONORABLE JUDGE BUTTS:** You're very welcome.
22 Thank you both very much for sharing your kind words about
23 Kristine here today.

24 I would like to ask my colleagues now to say
25 a few words about Kristine. I believe that Judge Tira was unable

1 to join us here today so I would next call upon Judge Linhardt if
2 he wanted to share a few words.

3 **HONORABLE JUDGE LINHARDT:** Yes. Thank you, Judge
4 Butts. The passing of a loved one, obviously, is always
5 difficult; but what's been made very clear to me as I'm listening
6 to people talk and as I've spoken to Steve about this is that
7 when the loss of a loved one is so unexpected and untimely and
8 comes too soon it's particularly difficult. I had the privilege,
9 really, of having Kristine appear before me a number of times
10 after I took the bench and she struck me as incredibly smart and
11 knowledgeable and always professional and always well prepared
12 and always respected by her colleagues; and clearly, Kristine
13 will be missed by me and everyone who knew her and I just wanted
14 to take this opportunity to extend my deepest, personal
15 sympathies to Steve and his daughters.

16 **HONORABLE JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you very much.
17 Judge McCoy.

18 **HONORABLE JUDGE MCCOY:** Thank you, Judge Butts.
19 When I started practicing law Kristine had been an attorney in
20 Lycoming County for about 10 years and one thing that I initially
21 did, because I did practice in all kinds of areas when I first
22 started, was to look to individuals as mentors in the County,
23 especially, female mentors that I could mold myself after and
24 make myself a better attorney and Kristine was one of those
25 individuals. I was impressed with her demeanor, her character,

1 and her knowledge as an attorney. I did not have the opportunity
2 to practice with her a lot, but sometime in early 2019 she had
3 the chance to appear before me, which also didn't happen very
4 often because she didn't do a lot of family law; but it was a
5 very ugly estate case that I inherited because everyone else had
6 a conflict with, it was full of hate and disdain, probably uglier
7 than most of the family law that I handle and I was so overly
8 impressed with how well she handled that case with complete grace
9 and complete character and it was just a testament to who she was
10 as an attorney. I also was lucky enough to know her in a social
11 setting, mostly before becoming a Judge. Our husbands both were
12 detectives in the District Attorney's Office. We got to go out
13 socially, spend some time together over the years and the last
14 time I got to spend time with her was at our annual banquet,
15 which happened late in 2019 over at the winery and got to sit
16 with her and have some conversations with her and just get caught
17 up with everything that had been going on in everyone's lives.
18 So she's truly missed. Steve, my heart aches for you. I know
19 it's not easy. I can't even imagine. Thank you.

20 **HONORABLE JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you, Judge McCoy.
21 Judge Lovecchio.

22 **HONORABLE JUDGE LOVECCHIO:** All right. Thank you,
23 Judge Butts. Obviously this is, from what I've heard at this
24 point, it's a tremendous tribute to Kristine; but certainly well
25 deserved. It's kind of tough. Those of you who have been around

1 for a while may remember years ago at one of these events Tony
2 Miele spoke and he said one of the prices we have to pay for
3 getting older and staying around is the love -- is the loss of
4 loved ones and friends and what a high price it is to pay and
5 I'll never forget him saying that and I thought boy, it's so
6 true. You know, this -- this hit me pretty hard because not only
7 was it just so quick; but that Kristine and Judge Butts and
8 myself and I think Gary Weber, we're all the same -- we're all
9 approximately the same age and I remember and Angela and -- I
10 just remember us all coming to the area approximately the same
11 time and getting to know her and some of the others who were of
12 our same age and our same experience and what's interesting is,
13 is I knew her, we had some cases together, as I think someone
14 said, you do everything, did all sorts of different types of
15 cases and -- but I had known Steve separately. Kristine was kind
16 of like a colleague. Steve was kind of like the enemy because I
17 was a criminal defense attorney and Steve was, you know, part of
18 law enforcement and I'm sure he considered me the same; but it
19 was funny because it was somewhere around, I want to say, the
20 late 90's that I saw Kristine and Steve together and I was with
21 Angela and I said, when did they start going out and she goes,
22 you know, you're so stupid they're married and I said they're
23 married? I said, how did they get together? I was just like how
24 do they know each other because in my mind they were from
25 completely different worlds and they might have even had kids at

1 the time. I don't know how old Sarah and Stephanie are, but they
2 might have even had kids; but it was -- it was just -- it struck
3 me as something that I would never have expected because it was
4 just so foreign in my experience. I have to echo what everyone
5 had said, what Judge Linhardt said struck me as well because when
6 I became a Judge I did some estate work, some estate and will
7 work and I forget what we call it, Judge Butts, whoever is
8 assigned to that.

9 **HONORABLE JUDGE BUTTS:** Orphans Court.

10 **JUDGE LOVECCHIO:** Orphans Court. That's right.
11 I'm just recovering so give me a chance here. Orphans Court.
12 And I can tell you it was a real pleasure and I know I had cases
13 against her, but where I really got to see her and really get to
14 know her was in Orphans Court because we would talk before and
15 after the cases and we -- and then I would obviously see her in
16 chambers and see her out in the courtroom; but she was always, as
17 everyone said, prepared, intelligent. She was engaging. She had
18 the utmost professionalism. I think what Mr. Carlucci said was
19 great, she could have argued either case, half the time she would
20 argue the other case at the same time in order to get that one up
21 so to speak; but what I really found interesting was, I guess the
22 best word to say, is the whimsical -- she had a whimsical nature
23 about her. She would laugh and she would get engaging and when
24 we started talking about her kids, when we started talking about
25 her husband, when we started talking about her other family

1 members, when we started talking about non-legal stuff she just
2 lit up and I was always surprised at how much she knew. Like she
3 knew about sports. I mean, you know, I guess it's old-style me
4 and except for you, Judge Butts, and except for Judge McCoy who
5 hunts, women didn't do that stuff and I was like how does she
6 know so much about sports? How does she know so much about this
7 and that and it just really -- it really struck me. I've coached
8 for a long time and in thinking about Kristine one of the axioms
9 or adages for my team was always in the end it's character and
10 that reminds me more of her than anything. She just had a
11 character about her and, you know, she had integrity. She had
12 honesty. She was practical. She was loyal and she was of the
13 utmost character and class and it's really -- we really took a
14 hit on this one, the community, the family, the legal community,
15 the stuff that she did with moot court was incredible; but, you
16 know, in thinking the best way I can describe it is she was --
17 she was a woman of character and class. She was a wife of
18 character and class. She was a mother of character and class.
19 She was a sibling of character and class. And all those things
20 meant more to her than being an attorney, but you would never
21 know it because she was such an outstanding attorney; but she was
22 certainly an attorney of character and class. I'm -- I miss her
23 and I'm really going to miss her and my condolences go out to her
24 family. I can't -- no words can say what you're going through,
25 but know that you're in our prayers and in our thoughts and, you

1 know, the fact that she just touched our lives is -- thank you
2 for sharing her with us.

3 **HONORABLE JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you. Just briefly
4 to the members of the family. I got to know Kristine when I
5 first started here as a Public Defender almost 35 years ago. She
6 was in the District Attorney's Office, there was a huge trial and
7 it was like pitting the District Attorney's Office versus the
8 Public Defender's Office and she was the lead prosecutor and I
9 can remember sitting in the back of the courtroom thinking that's
10 the kind of attorney I want to be, steady, calm, patient, totally
11 prepared, anticipating the other side, and I think Judge McCoy
12 alluded to this you want to look to when you're a beginning
13 attorney, you want to look to the people in the community of
14 lawyers that best emulate the kind of person that you want to be,
15 the kind of practicing attorney you want to be, and that's what I
16 can recall first meeting her. But I mean you can talk about the
17 fact that she was a law clerk and I know what that was like
18 working for a Judge who came on at the exact same time as Judge
19 Wollet did and when I appeared in front of Judge Wollet and
20 getting to understand the kind of person that he was and why he
21 was so beloved as a Judge because he was just so down to earth
22 and approachable and then not just her work in the District
23 Attorney's Office, but then her work as a private attorney. But
24 I think what most has impacted me about my life and I think that
25 the choices that I've made kind of have paralleled hers, just in

1 the ability to take your talent and your expertise as a lawyer
2 and show the world that you have this love for the rest of the
3 community. That I was in the Chamber Choir and so was she so we
4 have this love of music and the arts, that she dedicated so much
5 to the mock trial team and to the Wills for Heroes and I just
6 know that when I would go to the fire hall that people would just
7 be so impressed that all these lawyers would come together and
8 they wanted to help them and it was Kristine's idea to bring that
9 program to Lycoming County. So I see it as a memory of what two
10 weeks ago when we swore in the new attorneys and each of the
11 Judges that participated talked about their commitment to the
12 community and we talked about Judge McCoy's commitment through
13 Big Brother/Big Sister and that's what she did. She showed that
14 being a lawyer wasn't stuck in a pigeon hole that you could bring
15 that talent, that expertise, and that caring and be an incredible
16 member of the community and that's the thing that I admired about
17 her and the thing that I will miss as a great role model for
18 those of us in the profession because so much is said about
19 lawyers and the negatives; but not enough is said about the
20 positives, the people that go above and beyond to contribute
21 their free time and their pro bono work. I mean the amount of
22 pro bono work that Kristine did that most people aren't aware of
23 was just -- it's just a phenomenal thing to support her
24 commitment to the law and what it meant to her and what she
25 believed her role was in the community. So, just as Judge

1 Lovecchio just said, we really took a hit on this one because we
2 can't afford to lose good people and she was good people and I
3 just hope that her memory be a blessing to you and your daughters
4 and her brothers and the rest of her family because she certainly
5 was a blessing to us.

6 So I now would be happy to hear any comments
7 that anyone would like to make. First, I would offer to any
8 member of the family if they wish to speak up and then if after
9 that we would have members of the Law Association. Okay.
10 Remember to hit your reactions button if you want to give me a
11 symbol and I can call upon you if you would like to speak. I
12 call upon Steve Sorage.

13 **STEVE SORAGE:** Hi, Judge. Can you hear me?

14 **HONORABLE JUDGE BUTTS:** Yes, I can.

15 **STEVE SORAGE:** Everyone has been so gracious and
16 kind and it made me remember seeing Kristine first in the
17 courthouse some 30 plus years ago and what initially attracted me
18 to her was she had a great set of legs and Fred reminded me how
19 she had loved to play tennis and we played tennis together and I
20 tended to drive her crazy because she was a baseline player and I
21 would bring her to the net as much as possible. She loved sports
22 as Judge Lovecchio commented on. She knew sports. She was a big
23 football fan and she was an Eagles fan, which we would both use
24 to drive her brother, Tom, in Virginia, who was a Redskins fan,
25 crazy. She loved her family. Her daughters are 22 and 25. We

1 had those late in life. We were both older when we had children
2 and we wanted them so very badly. She loved her work and her
3 clients. We would go on vacations and I would be driving and she
4 would be sitting in the passenger seat working on -- working on a
5 case or working on doing billing and if she was working on a case
6 I'd say well these are billable hours, right? And she would
7 frequently comment that some cases, no, she was not going to be
8 able to bill the client, the person couldn't afford that. So she
9 loved her clients. She loved the unusual cases and to her it was
10 more than making a dollar. She was trying to do right by her
11 clients and that was always a big consideration with her and she
12 loved helping in the community. With her children she used to
13 say that she had three children and I feel this loss greatly and
14 I just want to thank everyone, Lycoming Law Association and you,
15 Judge Butts, and Michelle Frey and the Lycoming Law Association
16 and the Committee that worked on this today. Everyone on the
17 Committee she spoke highly of and she enjoyed you all very, very,
18 much. Thank you.

19 **HONORABLE JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you. Is there
20 anyone else?

21 **ROBERT ELION:** I do. I just have a couple things
22 to say. Kristine worked with us for, I think, at least 25 years
23 and at no point in that 25 years did I ever see her unraveled,
24 noticeably mad, upset and believe me, believe me there were a lot
25 of times where she could be legitimately upset. She had this

1 great ability to just be calm under all circumstances and
2 Stephanie and Dante, I think Stephanie is the oldest, I think,
3 Stephanie and Dante were the -- are the same age so we talked a
4 lot about our respective kids and when they were in grade school
5 and then going to college. I think they both ended up in
6 graduate school in New York so there is that bond. We never
7 really talked too much about the law because I had no idea, no
8 knowledge at all about the kind of law she was doing; but we
9 talked about a lot of other things and Bill and other people
10 brought this up and she had a very, very terrific balance between
11 her personal life and the legal profession and I think that
12 that's very difficult to do; but I think the reason why she had
13 that was she had such a strong feeling for her family and
14 recognizing that she couldn't do 150 percent at the office
15 because that would take 50 percent from the family and she pulled
16 that off, I think, terrifically. She was an extremely
17 accomplished person and just a delight to be around. Anytime I
18 went into her office or she came into my office it was always
19 fun, it was never personal and, you know, I've been doing this a
20 long time and what I've noticed over the years is sort of an
21 incivility or at least at times an incivility of lawyers with
22 lawyers and that's even carried on to our politics and blah,
23 blah, blah; but this is a tough job and it seems to me that one
24 way to make it better is that if people respect each other and
25 are cordial with each other and treat this profession

1 professionally and Kristine was terrific at that and that's a
2 real, real loss that we have and I think I see it kind of as a
3 fading away. I hope we get back to treating each other cordially
4 and respectfully because you can be a terrific advocate and you
5 don't have to be pugilistic about it. Anyways, Steve, my
6 condolences with you. I can just tell you this because we both
7 lost our wives when they were much younger than they should be.
8 It's not -- it's not the space between A and Z, it's the quality
9 of what you put in there and she put a lot in there. So you
10 don't define someone's life by the quality of how long it was,
11 you define it by the quality of what she put in there and even,
12 you know, when Kris left the firm I'd see you guys out at dinner
13 at Morrone's, Pier 87, and she would always come over and give me
14 a big hug and a kiss and I felt that we didn't lose anything in
15 that friendship at all. It was a good move for her and I respect
16 that. She was terrific person, a great loss.

17 **HONORABLE JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you. Is there
18 anyone else? Oh, Mr. Cronin.

19 **ROBERT CRONIN:** Thank you, Your Honor. John
20 Wooden once said that given the choice between character and
21 reputation I choose character anytime, reputation is merely what
22 others think about you, character is who you truly are. When I
23 was a YLD chair I got to know Kristina or Kristine when she was,
24 of course, the mock trial coordinator and as a young lawyer
25 seeing the impact she had on those youth she also actually made a

1 significant impact on the young attorneys who are watching her.
2 I think that Kristine actually had both the reputation and
3 character. You know when you ask the legal community who is the
4 attorney in this type of area you could go over for estates and
5 real estate and you would ask the people that many people would
6 consider the best attorneys in those areas and each of those
7 attorneys would say Kristine Waltz would be the attorney they
8 would hire if they had that type of issue. You know I saw that
9 firsthand as a co-worker of hers and I saw that firsthand as
10 opposing counsel in court having done estate administration
11 matters in front of Judge Lovecchio, actually, up against
12 Kristine and the one thing I saw was the type of demeanor and the
13 character she had and all I could hope is that one day I would be
14 able to demonstrate that same character she had in court. Thank
15 you, Judge.

16 **HONORABLE JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you, Mr. Cronin. Is
17 there anyone else who would like to share a few words? I am not
18 seeing anyone. I just want to make sure I don't miss anybody. I
19 will scroll through one more time. Okay. Well then, ladies and
20 gentlemen, this would conclude the Memorial Service for Kristine
21 Waltz. I'd like to again thank the family, members of the Law
22 Association and friends for attending here today. This recording
23 probably within a day or so will be posted on the Law Association
24 website. I would also request that the signed Resolution,
25 Mr. Dinges, if you could forward that to my office so we can make

1 certain that it's -- that it's part of the record, I would
2 appreciate that. This would then conclude this Special Session
3 of Court. Thank you all very much. Have a safe holiday.

4 (Whereupon, the special session was concluded at 5:00 p.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the proceedings and the evidence are transcribed fully and accurately from the notes taken by me on the hearing of the above cause to the best of my ability and that this copy is a correct transcript of the same.

Roni Lynn Kreisher
Official Reporter
Lycoming County, PA

The foregoing record of the proceedings upon the hearing of the above cause is hereby approved and directed to be filed.

DATE

JUDGE