1 IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF LYCOMING COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA 2 3 IN RE: : NO.25-00003 4 RESOLUTIONS IN MEMORY 5 OF PAUL "WILL" WERTMAN, ESQUIRE: 6 7 8 9 10 TRANSCRIPT OF MEMORIAL SERVICE 11 taken on Thursday, October 23rd, 2025, before the Honorable Court of Lycoming County, 48 West Third Street, Williamsport, 12 13 Pennsylvania, commencing at 4:05 p.m. and concluding at 4:38 p.m. 14 15 16 COMMITTEE MEMBERS: 17 : Scott A. Williams, Esquire 18 Chairman 19 Members : C. Edward Mitchell, Esquire 20 Retired Judge William Kieser 21 Howard Langdon, Esquire 22 23 24 25

1 MEMORIAL SERVICE

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afternoon we have the privilege of holding a memorial service for a 63-year member of our Bar Association, Paul Wertman, who passed away on July 23rd of this year. Unfortunately, it appears that we don't have any family members that are here for this memorial service, but I would like to recognize everyone here to share in their thoughts and memories of Mr. Wertman.

The Court appointed a Committee to prepare a Report and Resolution recognizing the life and accomplishments of Mr. Wertman and the members of the Committee who are here are Scott A. Williams, the Chair; Retired Judge Kieser; and Ed Mitchell. Howard Langdon was part of the Committee and, I believe, shared some thoughts with Mr. Mitchell that he will share as part of this proceeding. So I will, without further ado, direct the matters over to Mr. Williams.

ATTORNEY SCOTT A. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Your Honor.

PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS: You're welcome.

ATTORNEY SCOTT A. WILLIAMS: I'll use this. I need something to hold myself up. Anyway. This is a Report of the Committee of which I've been asked to chair and we're going to be making motions, resolutions.

To the Honorable Judges of this Court. By Order of August 1, 2025, the Honorable Nancy L. Butts, President

Judge of the 29th Judicial District of the Commonwealth of
Pennsylvania appointed the undersigned Committee to prepare a
Report and Resolutions memorializing the life of Paul "Will"
Wertman, Esquire. The Committee, as the Court has pointed out
who we are, for submission to the Court at a public ceremony to
be held today.

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Accordingly, your Committee submits the following Report and Resolutions.

Paul "Will" Wertman, a proud lifelong member of the Eastern Lycoming County, Montgomery/Muncy area passed away peacefully on Wednesday, July 23rd of this year.

Will was born on September 18th, 1934, in Muncy, Pennsylvania, the son of William and Charlotte Wertman.

Will graduated from Muncy High School in 1952 and Penn State University 1956 and Dickinson Law School in 1959.

Will served in the Army National Guard from 1959 through 1962.

Will married Lois Wertman, maybe you remember she was a clerk downstairs in the Recorder's Office, on November 17, 1962, and shared 57 years of marriage until her passing in 2019.

Will practiced law as a solo practitioner in Muncy for 40 years specializing in wills, estate law, and real estate. Will was particularly proud of the work he did with seniors through the loss of a spouse and challenging legal

challenges that those persons experienced.

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Will was an active member of the St. Andrew's Lutheran Church of Muncy and for the last five years attended Mt. Pisgah Wesley Church in East Smithfield, Pennsylvania. He especially enjoyed singing hymns and fellowship with fellow Christians.

Will was community minded, volunteering for many years, including a life-long membership of the Muncy Lions Club. Will was in charge of the Montgomery -- the Montgomery Lions Club not Muncy -- Montgomery Lions Club Easter egg hunt for many years, sold gallons of sauerkraut and earned the high mark of the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award, which is the highest form of recognition that Lions Club International offers.

He was a member of the West Branch Hall of Fame Committee and was honored as a Volunteer of the Year Award in 2014.

Will served on the boards of the Lutheran Evangelistic Movement East, Muncy High School Sports Hall of Fame and Montgomery School Board and various other church councils.

Will was also a member of the Williamsport Scottish Rite. Sports were a large part of Will's life. His competitive spirit was reflected when he competed, coached, and cheered his favorite teams. Baseball was his first love whether he was watching the Yankees with his father, coaching Little League and men's softball and supporting the Crosscutters. He

could frequently be seen on the sidelines of local sporting events.

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Will was a lifelong ticket holder for Penn State wrestling and was a dedicated fan of wrestling for 70 years having followed the team all over the country to matches and tournaments.

Will was a winsome and friendly person. I can attest to that. He had high qualities of friendship and love for his family and friends.

Will took time to foster relationships, which allowed him to make new friends throughout life as well as enjoying lifelong friendships.

Will cherished the moments with daily coffee at the news stand, monthly luncheons, and friends of the Class of '52 as well as with lawyers and friends.

His greatest joy was moments with his family, especially his grandchildren. He took time to have one-on-one relationships as Grandpa and Lois as Grandma, both of whom were there to show their love and support of their grandchildren.

In addition to his parents and wife, Will was pre-deceased by his brother, Max, in infancy and his cousin Marlin and VanDorn Wertman, Jr., who were like brothers to him.

Will is survived by two children, two sons, William Wertman of Boulevard and Thomas Wertman of Muncy, two daughters and a son-in-law Valerie and Fred Simpson and Vickie

and Gary Ward, all of Troy and eight grandchildren, Leah Ward, Emma Simpson, Trevor Ward, Connor Simpson, Braden Ward, Lou Wertman, Jackson Simpson and Lydia Ward.

Now, therefore, it is resolved by the undersigned Committee members joined by the Bench and Bar of Lycoming County do recognize and mourn the passing of Paul "Will" Wertman and submit the following resolutions:

Be it resolved that as a result of the passing of Will -- Paul "Will" Wertman, the Bar of Lycoming County lost a respective, conscientious, honest, energetic, and valued participant and his family has lost a devoted, kind, and loving father and grandfather; and

Be it further resolved that the Court and the Bar do hereby extend to Will's children and grandchildren our deep and heartfelt sympathy and concern; and

Be it further resolved that these Resolutions be spread at length on the minutes of the Court of Common Pleas of Lycoming County, that copies be provided to the family of Paul "Will" Wertman.

Respectfully submitted, Scott Williams.

I did want to make a few comment about Willie as we called him. We had for a long period of time Charlie Szybist, myself, and Mr. Mussina and other friends of Paul would meet at the Holiday Inn for lunch on Fridays and we talked about sports, we talked about our families and, of course, we had to

hear about all the wrestling and why any man would want to go in the middle of wintertime up to State College and around the country in ice and snow, but he did. He was very much involved in and you'd start talking about sports and he's going to talk the rest of the lunch hour, but he was a very fine man.

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I also was his neighbor for a number of years in Muncy. A lot of times I would stop by his house on my bike and saw him, it's only a block and a half away, so I'd knock on the door and we would sit down for an hour or so and chat. We talked about sports, we talked about our common faith in the Lord, and they were a great couple. They were very down to earth and they were happy about small things. I'll give you an example. I live, as many of you know, I live in Laporte. Now, in Laporte we don't have a lot of exciting things going on there. Something that we have exciting is watching grass grow and watching somebody's hair get cut. So one day Lois and Paul noticed that there was a large tanker coming up 220 so it was a big pipe or something, I don't know what it was, so they called Lois' sister in Laporte and didn't half the town go and watch them come up the big hill into Laporte on 220 and he got a big kick out of that one.

So he was a great man and loved his family so I was so happy to be the Chairman of the Committee. Thank you.

 $$\operatorname{Now}$$, I believe Ed has something and I'm sure the Judge will follow.

PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS: Mr. Williams, could we get the Resolution from you?

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ATTORNEY SCOTT A. WILLIAMS: Oh, sure.

PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS: Thank you. Mr. Mitchell.

ATTORNEY EDWARD MITCHELL: May it please the Court, fellow members of the bar. I'll first read a message from Howard Langdon, who also starts out may it please the Court, Honorable Judges, Members of the Bar, Wertman family members and friends. I apologize for appearing by letter, but I am on a long-planned trip to Canada.

I first met Paul Wertman in 1975 when I appeared in his office in the Muncy Masonic Building to apply for a job as an associate attorney. He informed me that his desire was to remain as a single, sole practitioner, however, we had a long discussion about the practice of law in Lycoming County. In his opinion the Muncy/Hughesville area would welcome another attorney and would provide an excellent opportunity. He also volunteered to provide me with advice upon my request.

I soon learned that his close friends called him Willie, but for over 50 years I continued to call him Paul. He was always open to a friendly conversation. Even before his wife worked in the office of the Register and Recorder I had become friends with Lois. In the practice of law almost all my contacts with Paul concerned real property and estate administration.

Please grant me several minutes to inform you of one real estate transaction that may be a chapter in my future book. Paul represented an estate that was selling a house in Muncy to my clients, the buyers. A realtor was not involved. Paul and I negotiated an agreement of sale. My clients requested permission to move into the house prior to closing while their financing was pending. Paul agreed if the 5,000-dollar down payment was non-refundable. The buyers agreed. The final settlement was to be within 30 days. Two weeks after they moved into the house, my clients appeared in my office, husband, wife, and a teenage daughter. They were requesting the return of their down payment and the termination of the agreement of sale. I asked them why. The wife and daughter told me the house was haunted. There were ghosts. I asked them for additional information and I was informed that every night they smelled fresh cut roses in the bedrooms. The daughter at night heard chattering false teeth. I told them the judges of Lycoming County would not accept their explanation as a violation of the agreement of sale. I asked the husband for his position. He said, quote, Langdon, I have not witnessed any paranormal activity and I'm here only to save my marriage. I asked for additional reasons that I could share with opposing counsel. There were none. The wife and daughter refused to sleep in the I informed the family that Paul Wertman was a reasonable person, but I could not persuade him to terminate the transaction

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and return the down payment based upon the reasons given. My
clients decided that even if they lost \$5,000 they would not
purchase the house. I informed them that I would contact
Attorney Wertman, but I did not think that the down payment would
be returned. I consider myself a good lawyer, but the claim of
ghosts would not be successful. I called Paul and told him my
clients were requesting the return of the \$5,000 and the
cancellation of the transaction. My clients were in the process
of moving out. Paul was polite and friendly, but made it clear
that I had not persuaded him with any legal reason for the
reversal of the purchase. I acknowledged that I had a very steep
incline to climb to have any success. In my mind I could hear
either Judge Greevy or Judge Raup laughing at the request.
Therefore, I explained to Paul that once the community learned
that the house was haunted, his client would never be able to
sell the property, that the best avenue to resolve the matter was
to grant the buyers their request. After several minutes of
silent thought Paul granted my request if my clients would leave
the house without ever mentioning the ghosts. The down payment
held in escrow by Paul was returned. The rest of the story the
new and different buyers completed the purchase and moved in.
They never complained of ghosts, the smell of roses, or
chattering of teeth.
Paul Wertman was a gentleman and a very

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active member of his church and community. I will miss him

stopping by my office on a regular basis to sell raffle tickets or sauerkraut for the Montgomery Lions. His visits resulted in conversations concerning local issues.

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Thank you. J. Howard Langdon.

Briefly on behalf of myself, I think these two paragraphs that Scott put in the Resolution and which were not from the obituary, this is Scott's work, say it all. Will was a winsome and friendly person and had quality friendship and love for his family and friends. Will took time to foster relationships, which allowed him to make new friends throughout life as well as enjoying lifelong friendships. That is in my relationship with Paul Wertman that says it all.

I don't think that I ever had a legal transaction with Paul Wertman, but I knew him and he knew me and I knew him from almost the first day that I started practicing here and every time I saw him he went out of his way to not just say hello, but to get into a conversation. I think I first met him at the Bar picnic right after I was admitted and he introduced himself to me, but he didn't just introduce himself to me we got into a conversation. We went for a walk. He wanted to know about me, what I had done before I came back to Williamsport and so forth and every time after that that I saw him wherever—wherever it was, he would go out of his way to, again, not just say hello; but to get into a conversation. He was a neat guy. He really enjoyed friendships and he went out of his way to meet

young lawyers when they were admitted to the Bar and to not just meet them, but to learn about them. You know, it's a shame that there aren't more people here because there is a lot to the learn about the way Paul Wertman conducted his relationship with other members of the Bar and we all could benefit by emulating him. Thank you.

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PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS: Thank you. Judge Kieser.

RETIRED JUDGE WILLIAM KIESER: Thank you. May it please the Court, members of the Bar and others that are here.

You know, I can't top much more than what Scott and Howard have said. I actually had more contact with Willie outside the courthouse, outside of legal stuff crossing paths with him in the community. We were both involved actively in Lions' work. The other legal thing we had in common, I believe I first met Willie in the Recorder's Office doing title searches with those old big heavy dusty books and he was always a handy source of referral to tell me, well, you got to go look here and look there, whatever it is that you were doing. I mean he knew that office -- well, of course, he knew Lois; but at the same time he knew the ins and outs of that office as well as anybody ever did.

I mean this as a sincere compliment to Willie. To me Willie was the Happy of the Seven Dwarfs. I mean talk about winsome, I mean, never saw him without a smile on his face. Nothing has been mentioned about Willie's singing except a

little reference to him enjoying the music up at his last church,
but I have a recollection that he sang in the church choir at the
Lutheran church and my sister is the musician in the family she
often dragged me to and she was a close friend of Lois, she
would often drag me to music events and Willie and Lois would
always be there and if you went to the Community Arts Center for
a musical-type thing you would cross paths with them, you go to
the ballpark you cross paths with him and wherever you saw him, I
mean, here's this jolly face just overrunning with joy. He lived
his Christian life by living a joyous life and he had a real joy
and he would tell you when you asked him the source of that joy
that was his Lord and they were just wonderful. He always wanted
to know about me, about the kids and everything and just, you
know, there is a lot of things you think you might do when you
enter the practice of law and things that you might mark your
accomplishments when it comes to a time like this, but I think
that this is one of the most significant achievements that a
person who is in the business of law could ask for is to be
regarded the way these Resolutions have presented him. So,
Mr. Willie Wertman, a real tribute to the Bar of Lycoming County.
PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS: Thank you. The Court will
accept and approve the Report and Resolution of the Committee and
I'll enter the following order:

And now this 23rd day of October, 2025, in consideration of the Resolutions presented by the Committee

appointed to draft Resolutions in the death of Paul "Will" Wertman, Esquire, the said Resolutions are adopted and it is ORDERED AND DIRECTED that the Resolutions herewith submitted and attached be adopted as an official expression of the Lycoming County Law Association and this Court and that the same be spread upon the records of the Court and copies of this Resolution be delivered to the family of Paul Wertman and it is further ORDERED AND DIRECTED that said Resolution be entered at large upon the record of the Court and that it be printed in the Lycoming Reporter.

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I'm going to direct my remarks now to my colleagues.

I would note that Judge Gardner would have loved to have been here, he had another conflict; but he did prepare something. So I'll just take a moment to read it now.

I apologize for my inability to be present at the memorial service. Unfortunately, I never had the occasion to meet Attorney Wertman and after I read his obituary it's clear that never meeting him is my loss. It appears that we both share a passion for the Nittany Lion Wrestling Program and if he attended any matches at either the Bryce Jordan Center or Rec Hall over the last 10 years, I can confidently say that we were at least in the same building at the same time.

It is further very clear that he adored his family and cherished quality time with them. If the opportunity

had presented I would have asked him to share some words of wisdom regarding how to better balance the competing interest of love for quality time with family and the obligations associated with work. I continue to struggle in this area and always enjoy hearing how my learned peers deal with this intricately woven wrestling match between family and work. My sincere condolences to the family for their loss. Judge Carlucci.

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JUDGE WILLIAM CARLUCCI: Thank you, Judge Butts. Attorney Wertman was an expert on estate planning and on real estate and on organized sports and on sauerkraut and these are things about which I know very little or nothing. I cannot, therefore, add much to the thorough analysis performed by the Committee. I will make this observation and for those of us who did not have the privilege of knowing him, I'm deeply grateful to the Committee for the energy you invested in bringing his life alive for us and in addition to the fact that these proceedings allow us to finally remember a member of our association. Ιt also gives those of us who didn't know the Counsel so well a window into their life and I'm deeply grateful that the Committee gave us that opportunity for Mr. Wertman and assuming that Judge Gardner knows what he's talking about, it may be that Paul understood worklife balance and assuming that to be true, that's the fifth thing that he was an expert on that I know absolutely nothing about. My thanks to the Committee.

PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS: Thank you. Judge Tira.

my thanks and gratitude to the Committee because I did not have the benefit of knowing Paul at all and I did not have an opportunity to work with him, but I do feel now I have a better sense of who this man was and what a hidden treasure he was to our Law Association and the long time he spent supporting our community and it's pleasure for me now to be able to know that and I thank you again for taking the time to share that with us.

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PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS: Judge Linhardt.

JUDGE ERIC LINHARDT: Thank you. I did not have the pleasure of knowing Attorney Wertman, but I've so enjoyed hearing you talk about him so thank you for sharing your stories. It's clear to me that Paul Wertman was a man who was well loved, which is not a small thing to say about a person, and it's obvious he will be deeply missed by his friends and family. So thank you.

PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS: In my experience one of the most wonderful parts about this community is the ability to have a day job and to be able to spend your time at a really -- at some different activities at nighttime, where you get to meet different people in different circumstances and where I first met Paul "Willie" was through Lois in the Register & Recorder's Office. I spent a lot of time down there when I worked for Judge Smith. I spent a lot of time down there with Mary Mosser and when I was in the District Attorney's Office. So I had gotten

first to know Lois, but then I would see Willie and Lois at the Community Theater League because they would come to see shows and he would always be very welcoming and friendly even though I was in the District Attorney's Office and would never have crossed paths with him. I would have known Lois from music club with Judge Kieser's sister and spent time with them there, but really the conversations we had were actually at the theater and his love of community activities and his willingness to support all of these wonderful performers and wonderful opportunities for the community and that's, like I started out by saying, that's what I love about this community where you can get to know somebody fairly well and get to see their support of their family and we talk about grandchildren and we talk about Lois and their children and it was just a really nice opportunity to get to know somebody without the law having been mentioned at all, that we could be regular people and for that I appreciate the opportunity to be a part of those activities. Also, I wonder what it would have been like to work with him because I'm sure he was just as thorough and as accomplished as an attorney as he was as a father and a spouse and a grandfather and a member of the community supporting very worthwhile activities. So, it's unfortunate that we don't have any family here to be able to express that to them, but once again, as all of my colleagues have said, it's unfortunate that it's under these circumstances that we learn about an exceptional contributing member of our Law Association

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who leaves us and is there a way to fill that gap? Probably not. And that's very unfortunate.

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So, would anyone else like to share some memories or a few words about Willie? I know we have a couple of Muncy lawyers in the room. I don't know if anybody wants to share anything. Not putting any pressure on you. All right. Mr. Smay.

ATTORNEY JOHN SMAY: I knew him from the time, well, I quess, 42 years ago I met him and everything that was said I can't add anything more to it because it's so true about I would see him more often at football games at Muncy and he would come in and we'd chat for a little bit and he'd talk about his favorite, Penn State wrestling, and he would say oh, I'm going to this place out of state to follow them, to watch this wrestling match; but, yeah, and I knew Lois, I met her and I probably talked, like you said, downstairs talked to her more than I would see him; but he was always a happy gentleman, always kind. If you had a question he would be more than willing to sit down and talk to you. Yeah, I'll miss him because he was a nice gentleman, very kind, very polite, and he was a good Christian I knew him from and I do believe he was in the choir because I remember, even though I didn't attend the Lutheran Church, but I was there numerous times as a kid and I remember him in that choir. So.

PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS: Tammy.

ATTORNEY TAMMY TAYLOR: I remember Paul, as I knew him, I didn't know him as Willie because when I first -- well, I was born and raised in Williamsport; but in 1990 I graduated from college and I didn't get into law school right away and Scott Williams hired me to be a, I don't know, a legal assistant in the office; but he thought it important that I learn how to title search and so Patty Smay whisked me over to the Register and Recorder's Office with the help of Deb Pietrovito and Dana Strunk and a whole bunch of people that really knew how to title search, I learned how to title search; but, of course, that's when I met Lois and Lois was a help to me and whoever said about him dusting off the big dusty books, I mean, that's how I also learned to title search and Paul was there and I met Paul very early on and he always did have a smile on his face. He, you know, greeted me and was always available when I was over there trying to make sure I did the right thing in a title to have him and Lois both to help me out.

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PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS: Thank you. Anyone else? Mr. Greevy.

ATTORNEY CHARLES GREEVY, III: I knew Paul, I think, even before I came back to practice because of our association with a lot of the Bar at that point. I always found him very comfortable. I can't remember ever having anything directly with him as Ed mentioned also that he did, but I had occasion to call him time and again a couple times, some title

searching, sometime estate work; but I concur with what has been said as far as his interest in sports. Gloria and I quite often would be up at some of the ball games at Bowman Field and he and Lois would be up there. I don't know if they ever missed a ball game because it would seem that back in the many years in that stage he and Lois were often there.

I enjoyed also a talk with him when I would run into him casually any place, but he truly was a very likeable, a wonderful and certainly very friendly gentleman to know and always there to chat about something.

PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS: Thank you.

ATTORNEY SCOTT A. WILLIAMS: A good man.

PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS: Anyone else? Okay. Well, ladies and gentlemen, this would now conclude our Memorial Service for Paul "Will" Wertman. Thank you all very much for coming and sharing your memories and your experiences with him. I would now order that this Special Session of Court be adjourned. Thank you again.

(Whereupon, the Special Session concluded at 4:38 p.m.)

CERTIFICATE

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