

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF LYCOMING COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: :

APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE : NO. 21-0096

TO DRAFT RESOLUTIONS IN THE :

DEATH OF JOSEPH L. RIDER :

MEMORIAL SERVICE OF JOSEPH L. RIDER, ESQUIRE  
 held via Zoom on Monday, April 19th, 2021, with the Honorable  
 Nancy L. Butts, President Judge, Presiding, commencing at  
 4:05 p.m. and concluding at 5:12 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Paul A. Roman, Esquire, Chairman  
 Clifford A. Reiders, Esquire  
 Fred A. Holland, Esquire  
 C. Edward Mitchell, Esquire  
 Thomas B. Burkholder, Esquire

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**SPECIAL SESSION OF COURT**

1  
2           **JUDGE BUTTS:** Okay. Welcome everyone. This  
3 afternoon I have the privilege of holding a memorial service for  
4 Joseph L. Rider, a 58-year member of the Lycoming Law  
5 Association, a former president of the law association, as well  
6 as most recently a trustee of the Lycoming Law Foundation.

7           We recognize and appreciate the attendance of  
8 family, friends, and members of the Bar and Bench here today who  
9 are here to join us for the memorial service. I did recognize at  
10 least one family member that's here. Mr. Roman, I'm not sure if  
11 there are other family members or friends, specifically, to  
12 Mr. Rider that are here as a part of this call; but I would  
13 welcome all of you here today.

14           Back in January I appointed a committee to  
15 prepare a report and resolution recognizing the life and  
16 accomplishments of Joe Rider. The chairman of the committee is  
17 Paul Roman and the members of the committee are the Cliff  
18 Reiders, Fred Holland, Ed Mitchell, and Thomas Burkholder, who  
19 was a local attorney for the trust department of Woodland's Bank.  
20 I now call upon Paul Roman, as the chair of the committee to  
21 present the committee report and resolution.

22           **PAUL ROMAN:** Thank you, Your Honor. May it please  
23 the Court. Ladies and gentlemen, Barbara Rider, Mark Rider,  
24 Margaret, fellow members of the Bar and other family and friends  
25 who are joining us today via Zoom. The committee was asked to

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1 draft a resolution memorializing the life of Joseph L. Rider,  
2 Esquire and submitted it today to this service. The following  
3 resolution is submitted for consideration by this Court.

4           Joseph Leo Rider, Esquire, a member of the  
5 Bar of this Court since 1961 died unexpectedly at his home in  
6 Fairfield Township, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania on May 3rd,  
7 2020. He was the husband of Barbara Winters Rider, with whom he  
8 shared 53 years of marriage. In addition to his wife, Joe is  
9 survived by his daughter, Margaret, of Georgia and son, Mark, of  
10 Montoursville. Joe was born on May 19th, 1935 in Williamsport  
11 Pennsylvania and was the eldest son of Leo and Anna Statts Rider.  
12 Joe was raised in Williamsport, along with his brothers, John,  
13 Eugene, Thomas and David, and his sister, Marilyn Neyhart. At  
14 age 4 Joe was afflicted with Polio which handicapped him, in name  
15 only, for the balance of his life. The need for crutches did not  
16 hinder him from working at the family business, Faxon Lumber  
17 Company unloading rail cars laden with lumber as well as  
18 performing other tasks at the business.

19           Joe graduated from St. Mary's High School, a  
20 predecessor of St. John Neumann Regional Academy in 1953 and then  
21 from Lycoming College in 1957. While in college he was active in  
22 his fraternity, Alpha Gamma Epsilon, serving as its president  
23 during his senior year and was also assistant editor of Lycoming  
24 College's yearbook. Joe completed his undergraduate degree from  
25 Lycoming College in 1957. Thereafter, he graduated from

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1 Georgetown University School of Law in 1961. He was admitted to  
2 the Bar of the District of Columbia as well as the Commonwealth  
3 of Pennsylvania, the United States District Court, Middle  
4 District of Pennsylvania, US District Court, District of Columbia  
5 and the US Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit.

6           Shortly thereafter, Joe joined the law firm  
7 of Furst, McCormick, Muir & Lynn. As a typical young associate  
8 Joe was relegated to handling family law matters, real estate and  
9 estate administration as well as a variety of other matters.

10 During his fledgling years he was taken under the wing of Malcolm  
11 Muir and began to focus on estate administration and estate  
12 planning. The two left the firm in 1968 and formed the Law  
13 Office of Malcolm Muir of which Joe was an associate. The  
14 association was relatively short lived as Malcolm Muir was  
15 appointed as the US District Judge for the Middle District of  
16 Pennsylvania on November 6, 1970. At that time the Law Office of  
17 Joseph L. Rider was formed. Paul A. Roman became an associate of  
18 Mr. Rider's in 1984 and the two continued to practice until  
19 Mr. Rider's death. While a capable speaker Joe avoided appearing  
20 in court whenever possible. He felt much more comfortable behind  
21 his desk surrounded by a wall of files or with a client reviewing  
22 and explaining their estate planning documents or the  
23 administration of an ongoing estate with an executor. It was a  
24 rare client who would leave these sessions without feeling that  
25 they had a thorough grasp of their situation and confident that

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1 their matter was in the very capable hands of Mr. Rider.

2 Joe was well recognized by his peers for his  
3 expertise in estate administration. This administration was not  
4 exclusive to Lycoming County, but to the surrounding counties as  
5 well as his reputation was known far and wide. He would  
6 frequently field questions from other attorneys regarding  
7 technical administration questions, but he felt particular  
8 satisfaction if a younger attorney would call upon him,  
9 especially those that did not focus their practice on estate  
10 administration. Many times Joe would bring these attorneys into  
11 his office to take them step by step through the administration  
12 of an estate that they were handling. He enjoyed the  
13 satisfaction that he received by mentoring the young attorney,  
14 but just as importantly he knew that the estate was going to be  
15 handled correctly. He played no favorites with regard to his  
16 clients. He would meticulously analyze an estate of \$10,000 as  
17 much as he would a multi-million dollar estate. Efficiency was  
18 not his strong suit. He would repeatedly take on small estates  
19 that no other attorney would accept due to the fact that they  
20 were financially losing propositions. Joe was often times  
21 referred to as a workaholic due to his 80-hour work week, but the  
22 term is somewhat a misnomer because Joe found time to serve his  
23 community, the courts, his church and his family.

24 Although he rarely appeared in court, Joe was  
25 well known by the Judiciary of the county. He became the

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1 Lycoming Law Association president in 1976 and together with then  
2 Judge Thomas Raup created the Bench Bar Committee on which he  
3 served as the representative of the Orphans' Court Division until  
4 his passing. Also as president of the association Joe hired the  
5 first full-time secretary for the association, a position which  
6 continues to this day. He was also appointed a member of a  
7 committee charged with the task of determining the necessity for  
8 a fourth judge for Lycoming County. In 1977 Joe was appointed by  
9 the Supreme Court Disciplinary Committee to serve a three-year  
10 term on the State's Disciplinary Board. Beginning in 1978 and  
11 for the ensuing decade he served as a member of the House of  
12 Delegates for the Pennsylvania Bar Association. His devotion to  
13 the county Bar continued until his death as he was the sole  
14 original member of the Lycoming Law Association Foundation of  
15 which he served as president for many years.

16 Mr. Rider's contributions were not limited to  
17 the courts and the local Bar as he was a very active member of a  
18 variety of non-law related community service groups. He was a  
19 founding member of the Loyalsock Kiwanis, subsequently serving as  
20 its president. He also served as president of the Williamsport  
21 Jaycees. While a member of the Jaycees he was a recipient of the  
22 Williamsport Chamber of Commerce Key Man of the Year Award in  
23 1966. In 1967 he was appointed by Governor Shaffer as a member  
24 of the Governor's Committee for employment of the handicapped and  
25 served several terms on the state committee while being a very

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1 active member on the local level as well. He was also a valued  
2 member of the Lycoming County Industrial Properties Corporation  
3 for numerous years and was a board member for the Lycoming  
4 Foundation for several decades, including serving as its  
5 president at the time of his passing. Many years were also  
6 devoted to serving on the boards of the Park Home and the Blind  
7 Association. Joe was also a past member of the Divine Providence  
8 Foundation, the Rider Park Foundation, and in 1977 he was served  
9 as president of the Ross Club where he had the vision to turn  
10 what was a men only club to permitting full membership to women  
11 as well.

12 Joe and his family were founding members of  
13 St. Ann's Catholic Church in Loyalsock and he was a devoted  
14 lifetime member. He was an instrumental member of the school  
15 board for the fledgling St. Ann's Catholic School and  
16 subsequently served on the Bishop Neumann School Board.

17 In spite of all of these activities he was  
18 still able to devote time to his family, especially family  
19 vacations when the children were younger, playing setback and  
20 spending time at his cabin on Loyalsock Creek.

21 Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the  
22 Undersigned Committee, joined in by the Lycoming Law Association  
23 and the Lycoming Bar do hereby recognize and mourn the passing of  
24 Joseph L. Rider, Esquire and recognize and remember him as an  
25 excellent attorney, who devoted his professional life to all of

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1 his clients equally and to the utmost of his ability regardless  
2 of their station in life. As an attorney he represented and  
3 stood for the highest principles of the legal profession. As a  
4 colleague he served as an example and resource to his peers and  
5 young lawyers alike. As a member of the Bar he devoted an  
6 abundance of his limited time to the courts. As a citizen of the  
7 community he was an untiring servant and as a man who had limited  
8 physical abilities he was honored and respected by his family,  
9 his associates, his clients, and all of those that he had an  
10 opportunity to touch.

11 And be it further resolved, that these  
12 resolutions and statements be spread at length upon the minutes  
13 of the Court with copies to the family of Joseph L. Rider,  
14 Esquire, and be published in the Lycoming Reporter and be it  
15 resolved finally, that this Court and Lycoming County Bar and  
16 Lycoming Law Association extend to Joseph L. Rider's wife,  
17 daughter, son and extended family our deep and heartfelt sympathy  
18 and our great respect for Joseph L. Rider, Esquire. Respectfully  
19 submitted by your committee, Paul A. Roman, Chairman; Clifford A.  
20 Reiders, Esquire; Fred A. Holland, Esquire; C. Edward Mitchell,  
21 Esquire; and Thomas B. Burkholder, Esquire.

22 **JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you.

23 **PAUL ROMAN:** I believe, Your Honor, a copy of the  
24 resolution has already been submitted to the Court.

25 **JUDGE BUTTS:** I do have it. Thank you. And I was

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1 wondering if, Mr. Roman, if you would like to say a few words?

2 **PAUL ROMAN:** I will, Your Honor. I'm going to  
3 defer to my colleagues first, if you would, please.

4 **JUDGE BUTTS:** Okay. Sure. Then I will go down  
5 the list in order. Mr. Reiders, I believe I let you in. Yes,  
6 you're there.

7 **CLIFFORD REIDERS:** Yes. Thank you very much. May  
8 it please the Court, fellow members of the Bar. It's always a  
9 great honor to serve on these committees and talk about people  
10 who in my long career I have come to know in one way or another.  
11 In this case not as a litigator, but when I first heard about Joe  
12 Rider was actually not from Joe Rider, it was Judge Muir. Of  
13 course, I came here to work for Judge Muir and Judge Muir liked  
14 to tell stories, he was a great story teller, something I wish I  
15 was better at; but one of the stories he would tell is when  
16 towards the end of his tenure at the firm, as he would call it,  
17 Joe Rider came along and I always had the feeling that I got that  
18 job because of Joe Rider. Joe Rider was a Georgetown graduate  
19 and a member of the same Bar as I was, D.C., and he liked Joe  
20 Rider so much and respected him so much well, he'd give another  
21 Georgetown guy a chance and, of course, as time went on I got to  
22 understand that. He spoke of Joe before while I was still over  
23 there clerking in a way that really made me want to meet this  
24 guy. I mean I just heard such great things about him and Judge  
25 Muir I was surprised when I first met Joe. I had no idea about a

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1 disability. Judge Muir never brought that to my attention and  
2 nobody else ever did. He was just a very highly regarded,  
3 well-spoken attorney in his community and he was somebody that  
4 Judge Muir proudly -- was very proud of his association with and  
5 he would talk about that at some length. What Judge Muir said  
6 about him, it's interesting I have some things that I saved,  
7 inscriptions in books and some other things that Judge Muir gave  
8 to me, some of which, you know, will sort of remain in my  
9 archives until it's proper to show to the people, but I noted  
10 that one of his comments that he wrote about Joe Rider was that  
11 he had the quintessential qualities of promptness, civility,  
12 fairness, decency and cordiality, all the attributes that a fine  
13 and highly respected lawyer should acquire, maintain and promote  
14 and I have a note from him that said that and that's absolutely  
15 the truth, isn't it? And that's why we're here, you know,  
16 celebrating his life. Everything that Judge Muir said about him,  
17 of course, was consistent with my own experience. Now, while I  
18 didn't practice in Joe's field I actually had many occasions to  
19 work with him because in the work that I do in wrongful death and  
20 survival actions, you know, we have many opportunities, many  
21 needs to talk with people with his expertise and in order to  
22 properly maintain the interests of our clients, make sure that  
23 they were -- that whatever funds they came into were properly  
24 handled. There were often Orphans' Court matters that would come  
25 up, but usually it was a handling at times small sums of money,

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1 at times large sums money. It didn't really matter whether it  
2 was large or small, but Joe was always available to answer  
3 questions and to talk to people. I will tell you that as a  
4 fellow member of the Bar he never charged for any of that. He  
5 never sent a bill. He was our own estate planning lawyer and  
6 never billed us and finally my wife just couldn't stand that any  
7 more and she called him up and she said if you don't send us a  
8 bill I'm just going to -- I'm just going to send you money. So  
9 he said, well, you send what's fair. So that made it difficult  
10 and we finally did -- we finally did get it together and sent him  
11 what we thought was fair and we got a very nice thank you note  
12 and that was that. That's how we dealt with people. That's how  
13 you dealt with fellow members of the Bar. Joe also, as many of  
14 you probably know this, would not take a referral fee. He didn't  
15 think it was ethical. Even though he and I had many discussions  
16 about that and I would try to convince him that it was not only  
17 ethical, but it was appropriate, it was a way we all did  
18 business. I never could convince him of that and he would never  
19 take a referral fee. I remember close to the end of his life  
20 being at his office and having a long talk with him about Rider  
21 Park, which he was very proud of. I used to go up there with my  
22 dog. I used to cross country ski up there. Kind of actually a  
23 little bit dangerous, you know, it's very steep if you've been  
24 there you know what it's like and then you have those beautiful  
25 vistas at the top and I would go up there with the dog and the

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1 skis, a few times, you know, wound up on my butt, but it was --  
2 it was always great fun and, of course, in the spring I'd go back  
3 and the summer and he was very proud of that place and I remember  
4 several times hearing the whole history about it from him and I  
5 love history, it was -- it was wonderful. Naturally if I did  
6 have any problems, as I said earlier, you know, estates, trusts,  
7 wills, any of that kind of stuff, you know, he would get right on  
8 the phone and talk about it. The other type of curious thing I  
9 thought you would enjoy hearing about is I once had a contested  
10 matter with Joe. This was early in my career and he did  
11 occasionally do some contested matters and I remember thinking  
12 like there's no way I'm going to win against this guy because the  
13 judges have such great respect for him. It wasn't necessarily  
14 about his position. It wasn't necessarily about his clients. It  
15 was about him and the fact the Court really personally relied  
16 upon his decency and the validity of his opinions. It was  
17 assumed that whatever argument he would make would be a  
18 reasonable one and it was and that kind of respect for a lawyer,  
19 that's what we -- that's what we should all be striving for.  
20 I -- there is -- there's a lot of great lawyers out there and  
21 I've always thought of Joe Rider as one of those who was really a  
22 template for what we should all be like. You know a lot of  
23 lawyers my age like to complain about the younger lawyers, oh,  
24 people aren't as civil as they used to be and blah, blah, blah.  
25 I personally am not -- I personally don't believe that. I think

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1 at every age and any age people can be civil, they can be decent  
2 or they can be rough and tough and crude and regardless of  
3 whether a lawyer is a younger lawyer or a newer lawyer, whatever  
4 it is, we need examples like Joe Rider to think about when we  
5 deal with other lawyers, when we deal with the bench, when we  
6 deal with the Bar because that's really what's best for our  
7 clients and Joe knew that. Joe Rider knew what was best for his  
8 clients was to be the kind of person that he was, the kind of  
9 individual that he was who was informed only by what was fair and  
10 decent and professional. Joe's contributions to the Lycoming  
11 Law Foundation has been mentioned and I remember when that  
12 foundation was set up, Jack Humphrey was very active and would  
13 come and talk to me about how great it was to work with Joe  
14 Rider. He really helped make that happen and it's an  
15 organization that helps legal services and helps the underserved  
16 be served, a very important benefit. I couldn't help reflecting  
17 on the comment about the Ross Club because when I came to town it  
18 was common for lawyers in this law firm to be bought a membership  
19 to the Ross Club but I was not bought a membership in the Ross  
20 Club because I was of the wrong religious background and it  
21 wasn't only women who were not permitted in the Ross Club, it was  
22 also Jews and African-Americans and lots and lots of other  
23 people, it was an exclusive club and Joe was one of the people  
24 who changed that and thereby changed my life and the life of many  
25 other people. So he will be missed greatly by the Bar, by

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1 everyone who benefited from his acumen; his, if I may borrow  
2 Judge Muir's phrase, astute perspicacity. He was a gem, a rarity  
3 among lawyers and an exemplar to all of us. May he rest in peace  
4 and my sympathies to the family. He was a great man. Thank you.

5 **JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you, Mr. Reiders.  
6 Mr. Holland. Don't forget to unmute.

7 **FRED HOLLAND:** Thank you, Your Honor and my  
8 apologies that I'm wearing headphones. Hopefully everybody can  
9 hear me okay.

10 **JUDGE BUTTS:** Yes.

11 **FRED HOLLAND:** When I tried to unplug them I  
12 couldn't hear over my computer. So I have headphones on. Not  
13 the most attractive look, but at least it covers my bald head.  
14 At any rate, may it please the Court, my colleagues from the Bar,  
15 and members of Joe's family. The first phrase that I thought of  
16 as I was writing this was that Joe was the consummate gentleman  
17 and lawyer. He always made me feel comfortable anytime I was  
18 dealing with him. If Joe disagreed with you, and he would  
19 disagree if he felt it was appropriate, he stated what he thought  
20 clearly; but always politely. Unlike what we put in the  
21 resolution, I would like to say that efficiency was Joe's strong  
22 point in many ways. He may have taken on cases that had minimal  
23 value, but he was a very efficient lawyer. If you were working  
24 on a project with Joe and he was drafting something you knew that  
25 you would get it soon and you knew that the quality would be

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1 topnotch. He also did everything he did without losing his sense  
2 of humor. In virtually every telephone call I had with Joe we  
3 found something that we could share a laugh about.

4 I got to know Joe best in my role as the  
5 solicitor for the Lycoming Foundation, this is not the Lycoming  
6 Law Association Foundation, but the Lycoming Foundation. The  
7 mission of that foundation is to promote economic development by  
8 making low-interest loans available to businesses. President --  
9 Joe was president of that foundation for as long as I can  
10 remember and I started working for that foundation back in the  
11 1990's. In his role as president Joe handled everything from  
12 soup to nuts. He signed and mailed commitment letters. He  
13 scheduled and conducted board meetings. When questions arose  
14 about loan documentation he was always there as a valuable  
15 resource for me. I marveled at his ability to keep on top of  
16 this while maintaining his extremely busy law practice. Later I  
17 joined the Lycoming Law Association Foundation, another  
18 foundation that owes a great deal to Joe's many years of service.  
19 I learned a lot about the practice of law from Joe. I bet if I  
20 played setback with him, I would have been a better card player,  
21 too. But the most valuable lessons that I learned from Joe were  
22 about giving back to the community. Joe illustrated that in so  
23 many ways. His pride in what he did for both foundations that  
24 I've mentioned, his pride about Rider Park, the pride that he had  
25 in his family and his family's business. I consider it a badge

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1 of honor that the front of my building has inscribed in an art  
2 deco thing the Faxon Company. The Faxon Company was part of  
3 Joe's family's business and I actually also helped with  
4 liquidating the Faxon Company and the pride that Joe exhibited in  
5 his family's business was another example of how he achieved,  
6 despite being very busy, a good work balance. It's something we  
7 can all learn from Joe. All lawyers can learn by Joe's example.  
8 I've learned some. I will continue to cherish his memories and  
9 will learn from him even as we miss him greatly. Thank you very  
10 much.

11 **JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you, Mr. Holland.  
12 Mr. Mitchell. Let's get you to unmute. Can you unmute, Mr.  
13 Mitchell? It should be in the bottom left-hand corner. There we  
14 go. Awesome.

15 **C. EDWARD MITCHELL:** Sorry. May it please the  
16 Court, fellow members of the Bar, members of the Rider family. I  
17 guess my longest and most -- most prominent association with Joe  
18 was through the Bench Bar Committee. He was a member of the  
19 Bench Bar Committee from the very beginning and I was a member of  
20 it for a long time and I don't believe Joe Rider ever missed a  
21 meeting and it's interesting because he died the day before a  
22 meeting and it was -- that was the first meeting we had after  
23 Covid so it was done on -- by conference call and in that meeting  
24 when we called the role we had to announce Joe's death. He not  
25 only attended every meeting he participated in every meeting. He



1 was the representative of the Orphans' Court and he always had  
2 something new for us, new legislation, new regulation, new case,  
3 something to add that people who practiced in the Orphans' Court  
4 needed to know. Joe also, as has been said, was a very active  
5 member of the Lycoming Law Association Foundation and a founder  
6 and a president. Also -- also a -- he also was a fundraiser and  
7 I remember when the foundation was celebrating its 35th year Joe  
8 contacted various attorneys and firms and suggested that they  
9 give sizable contributions tied into the amount -- the number of  
10 the years that the foundation had been in existence. Another  
11 thing when he was president Joe also was very, very intent on  
12 having the local rules updated and codified and I know that  
13 because he made me chairman of the rules committee; but that was  
14 also a passion of his to have the local rules not only current;  
15 but codified and available for use. Joe was very -- he loved the  
16 Loyalsock Valley. He loved the Loyalsock Creek. He was  
17 particularly proud of if you went into his office he had various  
18 paintings by local artist Ron Beach that he was proud of and the  
19 one that I think he was the most proud of is a painting of the  
20 former covered bridge over Wallis Run where Wallis Run runs into  
21 Loyalsock Creek. He was very proud of Rider Park, but also very  
22 protective of Rider Park, particularly productive of Rider Park  
23 when the gas companies began attempting to negotiate gas leases.  
24 Joe was absolutely adamant that there would not be able to be any  
25 drilling on Rider Park. As mentioned, he was an officer in the

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1 various family businesses, which included Faxon Lumber Company,  
2 Faxon Construction Company, Faxon Land Company and those of us  
3 can remember the beautiful building at the intersection of East  
4 Third Street and Northway Road, the stone and brick building on  
5 the southeast corner was their headquarters. It's not there any  
6 more, it's now Buffalo Wild Wings; but it was a beautiful  
7 building and it was the entrance and probably one of the  
8 original, if not the first building, in what is now known as the  
9 Golden Strip. Faxon Land Company or the Faxon companies  
10 developed portions of Loyalsock Township, particularly Faxon, and  
11 then later Lymehurst and you may find this -- I find this  
12 interesting in some discussion, it wasn't with Joe; but another  
13 member of the family he told me where the name Faxon actually  
14 originated. The streets of Faxon had been laid out and as you  
15 know Lafayette Parkway and Faxon Parkway cross at Faxon Circle so  
16 they were actually in the shape of an X and then there are long  
17 north/south parallel streets on either side of that -- of Faxon  
18 Circle. So the people who developed -- the people of the Rider  
19 family that developed Faxon decided they needed a word with five  
20 letters and an X in the middle and somebody was traveling out  
21 west and saw a sign for a town called Faxon and that is actually  
22 the origin of the name Faxon. It's not a family name, it's just  
23 a name that fit the design of the land development of Faxon.

24 Joe was a -- Joe was a -- he was an  
25 outdoorsman and this is another example of Joe being handicapped

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1 in name only. He was a deer hunter and this story came directly  
2 from him. He told me one time he was on a deer hunt and they put  
3 him on a watch. The hunt ended, everybody gathered and somebody  
4 eventually said where's Joe? And then they realized that nobody  
5 had gone back to pick Joe up. So it's another example of Joe  
6 participating in activities without regard to his physical  
7 limitations.

8 Joe was also a member of what Judge Muir  
9 called the longest continuous poker game known to man that met at  
10 the Ross Club on Monday night. Every Monday night a group, which  
11 included Judge Muir, Judge Greevy, other local attorneys and  
12 businessmen and they played poker every Monday night and this  
13 game, at least according to Judge Muir, dated back until sometime  
14 in the 1920's and it was by invitation only. You know  
15 professionally Joe was very keen on the rules of professional  
16 responsibility. They governed -- he practiced according to them,  
17 he was very much aware, very much conscious and very much  
18 observant of the rules having to do with the attorney/client  
19 privilege and confidentiality. And I'll wrap this up. I think  
20 in summary Joe Rider is -- is the best example of what a lawyer  
21 ought to be in the way he lived his life, the way he practiced  
22 law, and the example he gave to the rest of us. Thank you.

23 **JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you, Mr. Mitchell.  
24 Mr. Burkholder.

25 **THOMAS BURKHOLDER:** Thank you, Your Honor. May it

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1 please the Court, members of the Bar as well as members of the  
2 Rider family. I am pleased to be a part of these proceedings  
3 today in honor of or in memory of Joe Rider. I had the privilege  
4 of working with Joe for nearly 35 years. My professional  
5 relationship with Joe is maybe somewhat different than with most  
6 attorneys in that we were always working together on the same  
7 side, so to speak, as opposed to being on opposite sides of the  
8 table or opposite sides of an issue. I worked for a bank trust  
9 department and most of my work with Joe was in the area of estate  
10 administration. We did quite a few estates together over the  
11 years, large to small, some of it relatively easy, some of them  
12 very difficult and I learned a lot from working with Joe, a lot,  
13 extremely a lot. He was always generous with his time and always  
14 available to discuss various issues or explain how things should  
15 be, but the main thing I learned from working with Joe was that  
16 he did it right. Everything was to be done right and correctly  
17 and it was every one every time by the books straight down the  
18 line no matter what the size of the estate, no matter who or what  
19 was involved, you did it right. That was -- that was just the  
20 big thing that I learned from Joe in working with Joe. And then  
21 in observation with Joe in working with his clients Joe always  
22 exhibited the highest degree of professionalism along with being  
23 kind and very considerate of his clients and he was dedicated to  
24 representing his interests. Some other firsthand observations it  
25 kind of echoes what Ed, Cliff and Fred have said, I worked with

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1 Joe in relation to the law -- the Lycoming Law Association  
2 Foundation, which Joe was very dedicated to the operation of that  
3 foundation and right up until the time of his death he was acting  
4 as president of that organization and Joe was committed to the  
5 enhancement of the legal profession through the foundation in  
6 providing grants for needed services or programs related to the  
7 legal profession. Also I had the privilege of working with Joe  
8 on the Lycoming Economic Development Foundation or the Lycoming  
9 Foundation, which Joe was very involved in and involved to the  
10 extent of being very interested in the economic vitality and  
11 well-being of the community. That was kind of his baby. As Ed  
12 said, he did everything -- or Fred may have said -- he did  
13 everything from soup to nuts on the foundation. He wanted me to  
14 become the president of that foundation, well, he got his  
15 ultimate wish with his death I acceded to the office of  
16 president. Other words that come to mind in thinking of Joe were  
17 courage, perseverance, and determination. As we know Joe was  
18 disabled, but that never held him back. He always -- he never  
19 used that as an excuse or wanted you to make any kind of  
20 concessions or special treatment to him. He would come to your  
21 office. He would go to a client's house. He just didn't use  
22 that as any kind of impediment to him serving his clients or his  
23 profession. The one thing that astounded me in relation to his  
24 disability was as you may recall in his old office, previous  
25 office with Joe and with Paul was on the third floor of the PNC

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1 building and within the past 10 or 12 years on two occasions that  
2 I can recall the elevator went out. That didn't stop Joe from  
3 going to the office. He went up those steps one by one. Just  
4 amazing. I just came to the conclusion it was probably not a  
5 good bet to challenge Joe to an arm wrestling contest. He must  
6 have had just incredible upper body strength, but it's just  
7 amazing that he went -- and I've been on those steps and they're  
8 not great steps for a normal person; but for him to just go up  
9 and down twice a day, he made a concession he didn't go out to  
10 lunch; but it was just truly amazing.

11 I could go on, but I know just echo what  
12 other folks have said, but in summary I just found -- found Joe  
13 to be a remarkable person and a remarkable attorney. I would  
14 describe it as an impact person in that in reflecting on your own  
15 life who would have an impact on your family or your professional  
16 life and Joe Rider would definitely be on my list as an impact  
17 person in my life. So with that I'll close and I thank you, Your  
18 Honor.

19 **JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you, Mr. Burkholder.  
20 Mr. Roman, I'm going to have to ask you to unmute, okay. There  
21 you go.

22 **PAUL ROMAN:** Now?

23 **JUDGE BUTTS:** There it is. Perfect.

24 **PAUL ROMAN:** Thank you, Judge.

25 **JUDGE BUTTS:** You're welcome.

1                   **PAUL ROMAN:** I see that I made the critical  
2 mistake of placing myself behind my far more eloquent colleagues  
3 and trying to follow them may not be the easiest task, but I'll  
4 do what I can. I first met Joe in March of 1984. I was a third  
5 year law student at Temple and after having spent three years in  
6 Philadelphia I knew I did not want to spend a fourth there. So I  
7 started sending out resumes to law offices in Lycoming County and  
8 surrounding areas and Joe was the first one to respond. So we  
9 set up an interview and I didn't know -- I knew of Joe and I  
10 think he knew of me because we both belonged to St. Ann's Church,  
11 but I didn't -- we had not formally met. There's often times  
12 it's said first impressions are lasting impressions, but what I  
13 made of Joe that first meeting was what he remained for the next  
14 36 years that we were together. He was a no nonsense attorney  
15 who had, I guess, particular ideas is what an attorney should be,  
16 how they should conform themselves and how an office should be  
17 run. Cliff Reiders mentioned those things, some of those  
18 qualities Judge Muir had cited as well. I felt very comfortable  
19 with Joe during that first interview, but I was somewhat  
20 intimidated as well. On my second day in the office Joe  
21 instructed me to call Ed Mitchell on a matter and I didn't know  
22 Ed and I called him, introduced myself and told him who I was and  
23 then I referred to him as Mr. Mitchell and he made it very clear  
24 he said, you need to learn one thing now. He said, we're  
25 colleagues you call me Ed. I called Mr. Rider Mr. Rider for the

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1 first five years we practiced together and finally about the  
2 fifth year he said you can call me Joe. So, again, that was just  
3 one of the -- he was a little bit of a throwback in some ways.

4 Prior to our interview I had heard of his  
5 reputation as a tireless worker and during the course of that  
6 interview I was able to kind of put the pieces together of what  
7 his weekly schedule was. It was typically be in the office by  
8 6:45 a.m., stay until 5:30, he would then go home, Barbara would  
9 have dinner for he and his family and he would back in the office  
10 by 6:30 and stay until about 9:00. He did slack off on Friday  
11 evenings, he didn't go back after dinner; but he was back in  
12 there first thing on Saturday morning and would stay until 5:00.  
13 Then on Sundays he would always go to early mass at St. Ann's,  
14 take his family out to breakfast and then be in the office by 10  
15 and stay again until five. I think during that interview he saw  
16 the look of I don't know if it was terror or distress in my face  
17 when kinda him realizing that I kind of figured this out, but he  
18 put me at ease when he told me I don't ever expect you to work  
19 the same kind of hours that I do and I was forever grateful for  
20 that. When he was talking about, you know, his work ethic and  
21 how much time he spent living like that, it wasn't a case of him  
22 bragging because that was the last thing he would do. He would  
23 always try to deflect anything away from himself, any kind of  
24 attention. He just didn't like the spotlight on him.

25 As I mentioned, he was a very capable speaker

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1 really, but even in matters like this, a memorial service, he was  
2 on numerous committees; but he would always keep his comments  
3 very, very brief, two to three minutes and that was the extent of  
4 it. He just felt much more comfortable that way. Honestly I  
5 think if it were up to him today's session would last about 15  
6 minutes in total, but he doesn't have a call on this one.

7 I remember one particular incident he and I  
8 were at an American Business Women's Association banquet and they  
9 were honoring the boss of the year and Joe didn't know that he  
10 was going to be receiving it because we had been to several prior  
11 to it; but that particular night he was the recipient and he was  
12 expected to give a short acceptance speech and, well, he got up  
13 and he said thank you very much ladies and then he went on to say  
14 that you probably never met an attorney who was at a loss for  
15 words, now you have. Thank you very much. Well, that was Joe.  
16 That was the extent of the speech for him. When we were in  
17 smaller groups he would get a little bit more less reserved.

18 I always enjoyed having lunch with him at the  
19 Ross Club, we would sit in the back of the room at a larger table  
20 with a lot of older attorneys and businessmen and there was a lot  
21 of banter back and forth between these guys telling stories and  
22 there would be multiple conversations going on at once. But if  
23 you older members remember the old E.F. Hutton commercials when  
24 Joe talked people listened. When he would say something the  
25 whole table would get quiet because everybody wanted to hear what

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1 he had to say. If we lingered a little bit longer some days, if  
2 we started lunch a little bit late and got there and there was  
3 only a few people left at the table he would even become a little  
4 bit more relaxed and especially if John Youngman, Jr. were one of  
5 the people at the table still. Those of you who remember John,  
6 Jr. he had a very unique outlook on life and certain issues and  
7 he would sit there and pontificate about them and just to get  
8 John going Joe would always take the opposite point of view of  
9 whatever John said whether he agreed with it or not he would take  
10 the opposite side and that would always provide us with some  
11 comedic relief then for the rest of the day.

12 It's already been mentioned about Joe's  
13 relationship with Judge Muir, but I would be remiss, I think, if  
14 I didn't mention it a little bit. I think Joe simply idolized  
15 the way Judge Muir conducted himself as an attorney. He  
16 patterned his office policies and his practice the way that Judge  
17 Muir had started -- he had learned it from Judge Muir. If you  
18 would ever see Joe's desk it often time looked like a hurricane  
19 had gone through it. He -- every square inch of his desk was  
20 covered with files and I don't mean just an individual file they  
21 were stacked two to three feet high and they were surrounding him  
22 and there would be multiple pink phone slips strewn about the  
23 table as well -- the desk as well. Some of them would have burn  
24 marks through them as a result of his pipe, which was always in  
25 his mouth or in his ashtray next to him; but it was always a

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1 special occasion if Judge Muir was going to be stopping in the  
2 office because that was the one thing that Joe was a little bit  
3 different than Judge Muir. Judge Muir -- Joe would have his  
4 secretary clean off his entire desk and have to take everything  
5 off the desk and put into another room and clean off the desk so  
6 it was immaculate so that Judge Muir wouldn't be disappointed in  
7 what Joe's desk looked like. I don't think Joe had many regrets  
8 in his life, but that was the one thing I think he did have was  
9 that he didn't die like Judge Muir did. He expressed that he  
10 wanted to die at his desk. He came very close because when he  
11 passed away he was getting dressed at home ready to come into the  
12 office that day.

13 Joe is really a relatively simple man when it  
14 came to his lifestyle. He would buy the same cars year after  
15 year. He would buy every so couple years he would buy a Chevy  
16 Caprice year after year. He was very disappointed when they  
17 stopped making them and he had to get a different kind of model  
18 in which he then bought three or four of those as well at the  
19 time. He always wore white shirt, a tie and a sport coat, but  
20 every once in a while you had known that Barbara had gone  
21 shopping for him because he might show up in a colored shirt once  
22 in a blue moon. He always ordered a peanut butter and jelly  
23 sandwich at the Ross Club, which was somewhat of a standing joke  
24 as well. To call Joe thrifty might be a little bit of an  
25 understatement, but he was extremely generous in a lot of manners

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1 that people didn't know about. He -- it wasn't until I did his  
2 final income tax returns for him that I went back and saw all the  
3 charitable contributions to so many different organizations over  
4 the years that he had made even when charitable contributions  
5 were not deductible any longer. As many times I was with him on  
6 the street when he would be approached by people who were maybe  
7 down on their luck and it was nothing for him to just give them a  
8 20 dollar bill. He really cared for the people he worked with,  
9 too. Many secretaries over the years would go to him with their  
10 problems. He was a second father to them. They would go in and  
11 talk to him about their personal issues, financial issues, if it  
12 were, whatever it might be. No matter what his schedule was his  
13 door would close, he would spend whatever amounts of time, an  
14 hour, an hour and a half with them if necessary to work with them  
15 through their problems, help them financially, if necessary, and  
16 all of those secretaries over the years would always come to me  
17 and tell me how much they appreciated his guidance and his  
18 thoughtfulness for his help that he provided to them to get  
19 through their own difficult situations.

20 Joe was always a very guarded man with regard  
21 to his family. If I'd ask him a specific question he would  
22 always answer it, but he would rarely volunteer any information.  
23 I might ask him when we had lunch I would say, well, how is  
24 Margaret doing? Oh, well she loves it in Georgia. She's got her  
25 horses down there and he would go on about that and I didn't even

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1 know -- when did she move to Georgia? Oh, that was about three  
2 years ago. Or he would talk -- I would say on a different  
3 occasion how is Mark doing? Oh, he loves being a state trooper.  
4 Oh, I had no idea that he was even considering being a state  
5 trooper, but that was maybe a year in the past; but he would  
6 never bring up these things; but if you opened the door to them  
7 you could see the pride that he had and the love that he had for  
8 his family and just given the opportunity to talk about them  
9 though he, like I said, was just reserved so much that he didn't  
10 want to volunteer it.

11 I'm going to tell you a secret that Joe never  
12 told anybody, although it's been referenced a little bit today;  
13 but Joe did have a disability. He needed the crutches to get  
14 around, but he never used the handicap as a crutch. He never  
15 expected nor wanted anybody to treat him any different than  
16 anybody else would be. Even -- he didn't even care for if  
17 somebody opened the door for him he could do it himself, but he  
18 would never make somebody feel badly if they did. At our old  
19 office our coffee maker was down the hall a considerable distance  
20 from his office, but every morning he would go down to his --  
21 down there with his coffee cup, fill it up and bring it back down  
22 the hall, banging it against his crutches all the way.  
23 Fortunately the floor was tiled because it would make a trail of  
24 coffee the whole way back to his office and he'd end up with only  
25 half a cup, but better that than to have somebody wait on him.

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1                   After Joe passed I had an opportunity -- I've  
2 had an opportunity over this last year to meet with a lot of his  
3 clients and I think to a person, every one of them, would take  
4 time talking to me about him how much they admired him, not just  
5 for his ability as an attorney, which was remarkable; but how he  
6 related to them on a personal level, how he -- whatever he did  
7 with them their case or their matter, their simple documents, he  
8 made them feel that they were the most important thing that he  
9 was handling at that time and those same people always commented  
10 about his disability, how -- what an inspiration he was to so  
11 many people because he was able to overcome his and that they  
12 would look at themselves and say I've got nothing to complain  
13 about considering what he has.

14                   Just over the last year I've lost my mother,  
15 Joe, and most recently my father, three most influential people  
16 in my life. Almost single handedly Joe has formed me into the  
17 attorney that I am today and he's provided for my family over all  
18 these years from which I'm eternally grateful.

19                   Many years ago, Patty Bowman, a member of our  
20 Bar said to me you know Paul, you're the luckiest attorney in  
21 Lycoming County. You get to practice in real estate and estate  
22 administration things that you really enjoyed doing and you don't  
23 have to worry about the rest of the stuff and you get to practice  
24 with Joe Rider. Over the years I thought about many times what  
25 Patty said and she was wrong. I wasn't just the luckiest

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1 attorney in Lycoming County, in my opinion, I'm the luckiest  
2 attorney in the world to be able to practice with Joe Rider.  
3 Thank you.

4 **JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you, Mr. Roman, and thank you  
5 all to the members of the committee. The Court approves the  
6 report and resolution of the committee and enters the following  
7 order: Now, April 19th, 2021, in consideration of the  
8 resolutions presented by the committee appointed to draft  
9 resolutions in the death of Joseph L. Rider, the said resolutions  
10 are adopted and it is ORDERED AND DIRECTED that the resolutions  
11 herewith submitted and attached to this order be adopted as an  
12 official expression of the Lycoming County Law Association and  
13 this Court and that the same be spread upon the records of the  
14 Court and copies of this resolution be delivered to the family of  
15 Joseph L. Rider and it is further ORDERED AND DIRECTED that said  
16 resolution be entered at large upon the record of the Court and  
17 that it be printed in the Lycoming Reporter.

18 I'd now like to ask my colleagues to say a  
19 few words about Joe Rider. Judge Tira? I think he was here.

20 **JUDGE MCCOY:** Judge Butts, Judge Tira had to  
21 leave. He sends his apologies.

22 **JUDGE BUTTS:** Okay. Thank you. Then I'll move up  
23 in seniority to Judge Linhardt. Thank you, Judge McCoy.

24 **JUDGE LINHARDT:** Thank you, Judge Butts. I never  
25 had the opportunity to get to know Mr. Rider on either a personal

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1 or professional basis, but I certainly knew of Mr. Rider and I  
2 knew of his reputation as an exceptional attorney and I always  
3 enjoy these memorial services because it gives me and others who  
4 are participating an opportunity to learn so much about members  
5 of our Bar that we may not have known before and what is clear  
6 from what everybody has said today is not only was Mr. Rider an  
7 exceptional and respected attorney, but to hear those describe  
8 how he treated others, how he carried himself personally and  
9 professionally, how he cared about his community and his clients.  
10 What a special way to have lived his life and what a special way  
11 to be remembered. My condolences and sympathy to his family.

12 **JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you, Judge Linhardt. Judge  
13 McCoy.

14 **JUDGE MCCOY:** Paul, Cliff, Fred, Ed and Tom I have  
15 to say that the resolution that you prepared for today was  
16 probably one of the best that I have sat and been a part of. I  
17 also your comments were so heartfelt and detailed I just  
18 congratulate you on doing such an incredible job honoring and  
19 memorializing Joe Rider. I, like Judge Linhardt, did not really  
20 know him on a professional or personal level. I, too, knew of  
21 him and I clearly feel a little cheated that I didn't get to know  
22 him based on what everyone had to say today. I also pass on my  
23 condolences to the family as well as to you, Paul. Obviously  
24 it's a huge loss for you, too, as well in your day-to-day life.

25 **JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you, Judge McCoy. Judge

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1 Lovecchio.

2           **JUDGE LOVECCHIO:** Thank you. I'm sorry for coming  
3 in late although I have to admit that when I tuned in or got on  
4 however you say it, Ed was finishing his remarks and I was just  
5 stunned at just how accurate and eloquent and wonderful he said  
6 it and then I was equally impressed, I think as Judge McCoy said,  
7 with Mr. Burkholder and Mr. Roman. Paul, I'm so sorry for your  
8 losses with your parents, that's devastating, and Joe I know it's  
9 very, very, difficult. I'll keep this real simple. Years ago I  
10 was arguing before and I knew Joe very well, of course, because  
11 he helped me whenever I needed it because he helped everybody  
12 else and if I needed to know an estate and trust question, tax  
13 question, real estate question, he answered it and probably spent  
14 15 minutes when he could have spent two minutes with me. But I  
15 remember arguing before the Supreme Court decades ago and telling  
16 Judge Nix, Chief Justice Nix at the time that something was the  
17 quintessential tool of tyranny and he said let's not get out of  
18 control counsel, but Joe was. It's not a hyperbole to say he was  
19 the quintessential attorney and the quintessential person and I  
20 thank everybody for such an eloquent and articulate way in which  
21 you described it.

22           **JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you, Judge Lovecchio. I think  
23 one of the things that I've discovered as the person who prepares  
24 all the orders for these memorial services is what a significant  
25 impact that many people -- many of the long-standing members of

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1 the Law Association have had that influence in our every day life  
2 and just being a part of the memorial service you learn so much  
3 about the history of the Law Association and its membership and  
4 when Cliff Reiders spoke it reminded me of the big round table at  
5 the back of the Ross Club because maybe people don't remember  
6 that I was Judge Smith's law clerk for two years so it was  
7 through that association that I got to meet all of the senior  
8 members of the Law Association because they were sitting in the  
9 back round table and I remember when Mr. Rider would come in he  
10 was the kindest man and Judge Smith would say now, you know,  
11 because he was the Orphans' Court Judge if you have any questions  
12 you need to call Joe and I would be so intimidated to call him  
13 because I would think oh, this is something I should know. I  
14 mean I've been through all these hearings with Judge Smith, but  
15 he never, ever said a negative word. He was just now, you know,  
16 just explain to me what your problem is and he would walk me  
17 through it and I would feel -- and he would help me come to the  
18 understanding of what was happening so it wasn't as though he  
19 said now this is what you need to do. He was just very kind and  
20 I can't imagine what it would have been like to have worked with  
21 him as Paul did for so many years to be able to learn at the  
22 right hand of Mr. Rider because he was just such a kind person  
23 and then when you're sitting at the round table, as I did once,  
24 because you know women weren't supposed to be at that round  
25 table, the day they were -- Judge Smith brought me there to

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1 celebrate the end of my clerkship, Mr. Rider -- where everybody  
2 would harass me and pick on me and Judge Smith would be laughing,  
3 Mr. Rider would just say something that would kind of calm  
4 everybody down and let's be respectful, you know, let's be --  
5 don't be dismissive because, you know, she is an attorney, she's  
6 more than just a woman. So it was just those kind of classic  
7 times that at this occasion remind me of what a privilege and an  
8 honor it has been to work with him and to work with so many  
9 people who devoted their life to the practice of law and it  
10 wasn't just about working in the office, it was not just thinking  
11 about who I am in my office; but who I am as a lawyer in the  
12 community and the reputation, the concern about how people  
13 perceive us as lawyers. That was something that he lived and I  
14 just think that it's a -- it's just been an honor to be  
15 associated with him and I can't imagine the loss that, Paul, you  
16 have shared and that his family is enduring at this time because  
17 it's a hole. It's a hole that we will never be able to fill and  
18 I appreciate the members of the committee, also, for your stories  
19 and your words of kindness about Joe. So I'd now be happy to  
20 hear any comments that any members of the Bar would like to make  
21 about Mr. Rider. I'd ask you to just unmute yourself if you  
22 would like to add anything here today.

23 **WILLIAM CARLUCCI:** Your Honor, this is Bill  
24 Carlucci if I may speak briefly, please. May it please the Court  
25 I'll direct my remarks to the Rider family. Fred Holland was

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1 absolutely right the word that comes to mind is gentleman and  
2 Mr. Roman was absolutely right the word that comes -- a phrase  
3 that comes to mind is throwback. Some members of the Bar have  
4 heard me say before about 20 years ago the dean of Yale Law  
5 School wrote a book called The Lost Lawyer and the gravamen of  
6 the book is this, that for about a hundred years in our culture  
7 lawyers were people who helped their clients find their way.  
8 More recently lawyers have become people who help their clients  
9 get their way and the theory of the book is that lawyers have  
10 lost their status in the community because they stopped being the  
11 kind of people you look to to find your way and that's exactly  
12 what Joe was. That was somebody you looked to to find your way.  
13 I had the great honor to be invited to be a member of the  
14 nominating committee, which Joe chaired. The Lycoming Law  
15 Association nominating committee, which as far as I could tell in  
16 those days was Bill Askey, Joe Rider, and me and Joe called me  
17 once a year and told me the day he was buying me lunch at the  
18 Ross Club and please be on time, which meant be early because you  
19 don't want to walk in after Joe is already in his seat. So at  
20 five minutes of 12 I found my way in and as soon as I walked in  
21 someone would tell me which table was reserved for Mr. Rider and  
22 I would sit down, he would come in sit down, Bill would sit down,  
23 there would be pleasant hello for a minute or two and then Joe  
24 would open up the manila folder he was carrying that had every  
25 conceivable note about every member of the Lycoming Law

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1 Association, when they came in and everything he had learned  
2 about them. He even prepared for this meeting and had an  
3 exhaustive knowledge of the members of the association. He would  
4 ask me about what I knew about members, about their practice, if  
5 I believed they would be willing to serve and what was -- apart  
6 from his preparation -- what was most remarkable is Joe was  
7 always pushing for diversity, that is, he wanted women, he wanted  
8 young people, he wanted different voices. He didn't want the  
9 Lycoming Law Association Board to be a bunch of middle-age white  
10 guys who all saw the world the same way. He wanted a diverse  
11 board and he was pushing for that.

12 I will mention quickly though, in addition to  
13 knowing him as an attorney I know him because Paul and I are  
14 members of the congregation at the Church of St. Ann. I have, as  
15 Paul has, occasionally been invited to serve on committees at the  
16 Church of St. Ann. You know when the church has a problem  
17 because you get a phone call from the rectory asking you to  
18 attend a committee meeting. A phone call from the rectory always  
19 means there is a problem at the church and so you show up at the  
20 appointed time, Joe was always on the committee, there was always  
21 light-hearted talk for about five or ten minutes and then the  
22 pastor, and we've had a number of them, of course, the pastor  
23 would explain we have a little problem, ladies and gentlemen, and  
24 the pastor would explain the problem and then there would be  
25 jawboning, there would be different people offering their point

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1 of view and everybody would listen politely and then sooner or  
2 later Joe would ask to speak and then, of course, you'd be  
3 recognized and then he would tell us what we were going to do and  
4 we would all nod and that became the plan over and over and over.  
5 You would jawbone and then Joe would tell us what we were going  
6 to do to solve the problem and I'm sure he will be missed by his  
7 family, he will be certainly be missed by the court, he will  
8 certainly be missed by the Bar association; but I can guarantee  
9 you he will be deeply missed by the congregation of the Church of  
10 St. Ann.

11 **JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you, Mr. Carlucci. Anyone  
12 else?

13 **MICHELLE FREY:** Judge, I have remarks that our  
14 Federal Magistrate Judge Skip Arbuckle sent.

15 **JUDGE BUTTS:** Oh, he must have had to go. Go  
16 ahead.

17 **MICHELLE FREY:** He was here and he gives his  
18 regrets. He actually composed these short remarks last week, but  
19 he was really eager to attend the service himself and I got an  
20 excited message from him this morning that he moved his 4:00  
21 hearing to 5:00 so that he could attend, but we've gone too long  
22 and he didn't want to keep his 5:00 appointment waiting so he's  
23 asked me to read this for him.

24 To the Court, members of the Bar, and the  
25 family of Joseph L. Rider. In the likely event that court duties

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1 prevent me from being able to attend this memorial service, I  
2 have asked our law association executive director to share these  
3 brief thoughts about the passing of Joe Rider. I only knew Joe  
4 as the president of the Lycoming Law Association Foundation.  
5 Moving here late in my career I never had a case with him, but I  
6 did have the privilege of attending LLA Foundation meetings where  
7 he presided. He was always the picture of modesty and decorum.  
8 He did not serve for the publicity or for the chance to be in  
9 charge. It was obvious to me and I suspect to the rest of the  
10 board that he genuinely believed in the goodness of lawyers and  
11 the obligation that we all share to help the less fortunate.  
12 When he did speak about himself or his clients it was always with  
13 a sense of wanting to help simply for the sake of being a helper.  
14 Joe Rider was a good man who helped others and he is missed.  
15 Thank you, Joe, for your service to the Bar and thank you to the  
16 Court for allowing me this opportunity to speak.

17 **JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you. Is there anyone else who  
18 would like to share? Okay. Hearing none. Ladies and gentlemen,  
19 this now would conclude the memorial service for Joseph L. Rider.  
20 I'd like to again thank the family, members of the law  
21 association and friends for attending today's service. This  
22 special session of court is hereby adjourned.

23 (Whereupon, the Special Session was concluded at 5:12 p.m.)  
24  
25

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

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