

**A RESOLUTION OF THE
FRANKLIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
IN MEMORY OF DAVID W. "Dave" RAHAUSER**

WHEREAS the members of the Franklin County Bar Association met in a Special Meeting this **1st day of April 2026** to celebrate the life and honor the memory of our colleague and fellow member, **DAVID W. "Dave" RAHAUSER** who was called home by his Almighty God March 11, 2026, and

WHEREAS, although saddened by his death, it is our desire, and the tradition of the Franklin County Bar Association, to share our recollections of Dave and honor him with a Memorial Resolution at this Special Meeting; and

WHEREAS, before offering this Resolution, the members of the Franklin County Bar Association desire to offer a brief record of his life and career.

Dave was born May 30, 1949, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the son of the late Dr. David M. Rahauer and Janet Cunningham Rahauer. He is survived by his wife Cassandra and son Marcus and his brothers Charles "Chuck" and Thomas "Tom" as well as many nieces and nephews.

Dave spent his summers at his family's summer home in Caledonia, spending time in the mountains, caddying at the Caledonia Golf Course and generally being an active young man.

Dave graduated from Mercersburg Academy class of 1967, Dickinson College, class of 1971, where he was a member of the basketball team, and the John Marshall School of Law, J.D. 1977.

Following graduation from Dickinson, Dave taught Latin and American History in the Cumberland Valley School District from 1971 until 1974.

Following his graduation from law school, Dave was admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and returned to Franklin County in 1977 to begin the practice of law. Dave practiced as a solo practitioner his entire career. Dave also served as an Assistant District Attorney in the office of the District Attorney of Franklin County from 1979 until 2016. Additionally, he served as a Custody Mediator for Franklin County. He was a member of the Pennsylvania and Franklin County Bar Associations.

Dave was an avid golfer and enjoyed attending the Kentucky Derby and annually attended the Preakness. He was a fan of the Washington Capitals. Dave enjoyed traveling, visiting monuments and museums, and was enthusiastic about music, enjoying all genres and bands.

Dave loved spending time with his wife and son and was especially proud of Marcus's accomplishments as a musician and supported him in all his endeavors.

The following are memories and observations submitted by his fellow members of the Franklin County Bar Association:

I fondly remember sharing a day at the Preakness with Dave and Ed Killian as Smarty Jones won the second leg of the Triple Crown, and many other Preakness's that followed. One never knew if Dave had more than \$2 wagered to win on a horse, but he loved horse racing's biggest events.

As for his courtroom acumen, I recall watching him getting a rapist to take the alleged weapon, a butterfly knife in his hand while on the stand, so the jury could get a visual of how he was able to deftly handle the blade while threatening the victim. I thought defense counsel was going to cry seeing his client fall into Dave's trap, as Dave was fumbling around exasperated that he couldn't make the knife work quite right, so the defendant offered to help. Genius.

I also remember when he and Cassie brought Marcus home. Every conversation after that started with a brief update about his progress at the piano, soccer, or school.

As Nancy observed, Dave was sort of a "preppy hippie." He hated the authoritarian rules of Mercersburg Academy when it was an all-boys school and students attended mandatory daily chapel services, but was frequently seen in button down shirts, rep ties, khakis, and penny loafers. He seemed to embody a bohemia aura throughout his life. There was only one Dave.

Shawn D. Meyers
President Judge
39th Judicial District

David was truly "the man, the myth, the legend." He wasn't flashy when it came to practicing law, but he just had a way about him - he cut through the nonsense and got to the heart of a matter. This allowed him to resolve cases with little to no fuss. I'll never forget his story of negotiating a plea agreement with a defendant he ran into while waiting in line at the grocery store. If Dave could not resolve a case, everyone in the DA's Office just accepted it wasn't resolvable. "This case needs Dave's touch" was not an uncommon utterance among the ADAs. He was a good colleague, prosecutor, conciliator, and friend. He will be greatly missed!

Jeremiah D. Zook, Judge
39th Judicial District

As a new to the area criminal defense attorney, Dave was always the prosecutor that I enjoyed dealing with. He was a real straight shooter, who could always acknowledge the strengths or weaknesses of the Commonwealth's case or a particular defense. A real pleasure to negotiate with, however, I never had the opportunity to face him at trial.

As an attorney practicing at custody, I would enjoy walking my conciliation memorandums down to his office on Washington Street instead of emailing or posting them. If Dave was available, I would enjoy stopping for a chat. He had an affable, professorial air about him that I enjoyed. It was during one such chat, when we were discussing our weekend plans, that he told

me that he and Cassie were traveling to Vladivostok, Russia to bring home their son Marcus, whom they were adopting.

As a judge I always appreciated seeing Dave turn up in court, especially to help untie some hopelessly complicated factual and legal knot, like trying to obtain a judicial title of a mobile home which had remained in place for forty years and whose owners had died twenty years prior. Sometimes, Dave could just make it look so easy.

Dave Rauhauser was a real class act and an outstanding attorney. I will miss him.

Todd M. Sponseller, Judge
39th Judicial District

My fondest memory of Attorney Rahauser comes from him being my junior high Latin teacher. Those of us who took his class wore it as a badge of honor; like a club of kids who survived but were privileged to have learned from such a gifted teacher. He wielded a large stick and during our conjugations he would tap the front desk loudly at a rhythm he expected us to keep up with. Fast forward many years and I become a member of the Franklin County Bar Association. I recall him chuckling when I called him Mr. Rahauser to which he replied, "It's now Dave." But he had been my teacher, and I just couldn't comply with his request. Our areas of practice rarely intersected, but I recall a civil case we had together involving a local restaurant. I thought I had it in the bag until he began cross-examining my client, which felt like that stick coming down again on the desk in rapid succession. I know the Rahauser family supported our community in various ways, as I recall seeing them through the years at events involving the arts, particularly the school of music. He was an involved member of his community and left his mark in meaningful ways. I extend my deepest sympathy to Cassie and Marcus.

Mary Beth Shank, Judge
39th Judicial District

Dave was a wonderful person who also happened to be a good, common-sense attorney that I liked working with as well. His intellectual curiosity, love of music, and sense of humor always made conversations with him interesting and enjoyable. He seemed to find a way to resolve legal matters in a way that brought two opposing sides together with an acceptable resolution, whether it was in his role as a Custody Conciliator or as an Assistant District Attorney. He was able to see the broader picture by looking for solutions to disputes in all areas of the law. Dave also relished the role of "Dad," and I loved hearing him talk of his life with Marcus. He was proud to relate his son's accomplishments in most conversations we had. His approach to facing serious medical challenges for more than thirty years was admirable and allowed him to experience life to its fullest, which serves as an example to emulate.

Carol Van Horn, Senior Judge
39th Judicial District

When I think of Dave, the first thing that comes to mind is how he would giggle when telling stories about the Kentucky Derby. I picture him in his seersucker suit with a glimmer in his eye when he would reminisce about his last Derby experience. Although I haven't made it to the Derby yet, because of Dave, it's on my bucket list.

Annie R. Gomez Shockey, Esq.
Magisterial District Judge

Dave was always one of my favorite people - and beyond custody, we crossed paths more often than I expected over the course of my career. Always available to offer a helping hand, guidance, or a quick chat - and always genuinely interested in what you were up to and how things were going, even if only in passing at the Courthouse. I am so grateful for having my time in the FCBA intersect with his. My sincerest condolences to those who loved him. He will be missed by so many.

Kristen B. Hamilton, Esq.
President, Pennsylvania Bar Association

It was not often in my 50 years of practicing law that I was truly able to say that my opponent in a case was just the nicest, kindest person who made resolving or litigating a case a pleasure. That person was Dave Rahausser. We had many family law cases together. Our paths crossed often, and of course all those years he was one of our Court's custody mediators with whom I had many cases. Sometimes I wished he wasn't such a nice guy but most always he was polite, professional, and keenly interested in achieving a harmonious result for a fractured family.

He was also one of those colleagues with whom you could enjoy a non-legal conversation, whether the topic be children, retirement, health, travel, or sports; he was always interested and engaged. We talked several months ago by phone when I was visiting Jill McCracken and we had a wonderful chat about Jill, his son, his health, and my accident recovery. Even though he was facing medical challenges he was nonetheless upbeat and optimistic about persevering.

It's very hard to lose contemporary friends with whom you practiced for decades. I only wish we had more like him to follow in his footsteps.

Martha "Marty" Walker, Esq.

I am greatly saddened by word of Dave's passing. He fought the good fight! Dave was with me as one of six inductees into the Franklin County Bar Association nearly 50 years ago, the largest class, at that time, ever inducted into our association. I believe Dave is the first to pass away. Dave was a diligent defender of his clients, but always open to reasonable discussions about how to resolve problems. He did his clients a great favor with that reasonable approach. As our state Bar Association President (from Franklin County) urges in her most recent Side Bar column, we most uphold "civility" in our profession and Dave was a leader in that regard. It was a pleasure and an honor to attempt to resolve problems between clients when he was on the other side of those negotiations. He will be missed.

William S. Dick, Esq.

David "Dave" Rahauser was our good neighbor and friend since 2000 as we practiced beside each other. He was one of the original two custody conciliators and maintained that position for over 30 years. Dave always had time to sit and chat as we discussed conciliation issues. His range of practice was broad, from District Attorney's Office to estate administration, not to forget his years as a Latin teacher. Dave was a diligent attorney and well liked. Over the years he had bounced back from multiple health issues, never appearing discouraged. Continuing to practice to his final illness, he died, as they say, with his boots on. I'm saddened by his passing and will miss him as a friend and colleague.

Ed Wenger, Esq.

Try as I might, I never did convince Dave that Greek was better than Latin.

Nancy H. Meyers, Esq.

Dave was a mix of classical scholar, prosecutor, and practicing attorney, all of which he did calmly and well. He was an excellent lunch companion and bravely faced his physical challenges with a sense of humor. I am glad to have known him.

Donald Kornfield, Esq.

I have been practicing law in Franklin County for 36 years, and I can, without hesitation, say that Dave Rahauser was, unequivocally, the most amicable attorney with whom I have ever worked. Dave was always cordial at every interaction. However, he went beyond that. He understood that engagements with opposing attorneys, whether in his role as a prosecutor or in his private practice, did not mandate confrontation, disrespect, or gamesmanship.

As a prosecutor, Dave was always prepared for trial, but he was also willing to negotiate a plea on fair terms when appropriate. His style in the courtroom was never a show or a contrived performance. It was pure Dave; simple, precise and with no frills, which is what a Franklin County jury wanted and appreciated, as proven by Dave's enduring level of success.

Dave was also always interested in how my family was doing, but I must concede that interest was surpassed only by his inquiries about how my racehorses were faring on the track. We shared many discussions on this topic, which was always a joy, and a wanted distraction from legal talk.

I will surely miss Dave, as a person; how he stood as a man of integrity and humility – and as a lawyer that I always respected for both his legal skills and, more notably, for his gentlemanly approach to the profession; all while regaled in his calling-card turtlenecked shirt.

Come May 2nd, I am sure Dave's spirit will be sitting in the grandstand at Churchill Downs rooting on his favorite 3-year-old thoroughbred.

Vale interim amice - (Latin for "goodbye for now, my friend")

Steve Kulla, Esq.

David was a distinguished member of this bar whose counsel was sought and trusted, and whose integrity was beyond question. As a custody conciliator, he brought steadiness and humanity to families navigating difficult situations. I appreciated David's humor, his love of lively conversation, and the occasions spent together at the Preakness — always good

company, always quick with a joke. His kindness was as much a part of him as his professionalism, and it earned him the respect of colleagues and clients alike. David will be deeply missed and long remembered.

Clint Barkdoll, Esq.

Dave was a fine private attorney and Assistant DA who I had the pleasure of interacting with over many years. He was always very practical in his approach to resolving any issue. He was also an excellent teacher. Dave had my daughter, Jessica, as a student in his Latin class at Faust Junior high for two years. I never spoke to Dave that he didn't ask how Jessica was doing and he was delighted when I told him she had tested out of a foreign language requirement in college due to her Latin skills. While Dave was her teacher, he was very supportive of my daughter as our family struggled with her mother's illness—not that I asked him to give her any special consideration, but that's the kind of person he was.

Joel Zullinger, Esq.

I got to know Dave when we were Assistant DAs, along with Jack Nelson, in John Walker's District Attorney's Office in the late 70s. He was a good, eminently fair prosecutor, and a delight to work with. In the following years I've known him as an excellent lawyer with a wide-ranging practice, and as a good friend.

Dave steadfastly battled cancer for decades while maintaining a great sense of humor. It should also be noted that he was a fine athlete, serving as a sharpshooting point guard for the Dickinson College varsity basketball team.

Dave Rahauer will be missed.

John N. Keller, Esq.

Dave Rahauer served 37 years as a prosecutor in the Franklin County District Attorney's Office. I was lucky enough to share ten of them with him.

He and I talked about the most eclectic things: Longaberger baskets. How Jack Nelson could recite any criminal law statute, word for word, on cue. Local politics. Jacques Pepin's paintings of goofy looking chickens. The investigation of Pov Shrun. Tips on how to display a firearm to a jury.

Then later, when we both retired from the D.A.'s Office, I would chit chat with Dave after Custody Conciliations. The topic of conversation was almost always Marcus and his art career. Dave's eyes literally sparkled when he talked about how proud he was of his son.

Dave taught me so much about art, law, politics, literature, family, and the "good" life. But most importantly, how to be a good prosecutor – one who is fair and not vindictive.

Dave was my husband Jerrold's Latin teacher in Junior High School. He and I attended Dave's service at Geisel a couple of weeks ago. Afterward, Jerrold sighed and said, "Vale, Magister." Having virtually no knowledge of Latin, I said, "what does that mean?" He said, "Goodbye, Teacher." To that I add, "Vale, Amice," Goodbye Friend.

Lauren Sulcove, Esq.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Franklin County Bar Association assembled at a Special Meeting held the **April 1, 2026**, express our sympathy on the occasion of the loss of David W. “Dave” Rahouser husband, father and friend and colleague of the members of the Franklin County Bar Association. We will strive to keep his memory alive, for the strength, dedication, and wisdom of those who have gone before us represent the foundation of the future generations of our profession.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Memorial Resolution Committee
Franklin County Bar Association**

Shawn D. Meyers, President Judge
39th Judicial District of Pennsylvania

Cayla Amsley-Mummert, Esquire
President, Franklin County Bar Association

Forest N Myers, Esquire, Chair

George S. Glen, Esquire, Member