

NBA Memorial Resolution for Robert L. Sullivan

Honorable Chancellors and Judges, ladies and gentlemen, I am here to pay honor to Robert Lee Sullivan, who was known by family and friends as “Bob.” He passed away at home surrounded by loved ones on September 15, 2011, after a courageous fourteen-month battle with Acute Myeloid Leukemia. Bob was a partner at Loeb and Loeb, where his practice focused on transactions, litigation and mediation in entertainment and intellectual property. Bob left an enduring imprint and legacy on his family, friends, and colleagues. His skills as a lawyer, both in the courtroom and in the transactional side of the practice, were widely recognized; his love for teaching made him a mentor to others in our profession; and his honesty, integrity and work ethic were well-known.

Bob was born on December 18, 1951, in the small farming town of Anna, Illinois. Bob learned about hard work while growing up in his early years on the family farm. But early on he also developed a keen interest in the pursuit of knowledge and truth. His grandmother on his mother’s side read to him from the time he was a small boy, especially books about history. Bob remained a voracious reader throughout his life, and he especially loved to read historical books about people and events.

When Bob was a teenager, his father was working as a manager overseeing construction of the Texas eastern pipeline, a job which required that Bob move from Illinois to upstate New York, where he spent his high school years. While in high school, Bob joined his school’s quiz bowl team. Given his inquisitive mind and passion for reading about people and events, Bob became a highly effective quiz bowl participant; indeed, his team won the league championship. The quiz bowl experience also unleashed a competitive spirit in Bob that undoubtedly served him well as a trial lawyer. In fact, one of his prized possessions was a travel alarm clock that he won as a quiz bowl champion. And although Bob was generally not known to be a superstitious man, he carried that alarm clock with him for every significant out-of-town trip and for every trial during his entire legal career.

As a young boy, Bob also developed a love for music and performing it. While attending high school in upstate New York, Bob formed a band for which he was the rhythm guitarist and lead singer. Bob’s high school band became somewhat of a favorite in his area and so was invited to perform at parties and other weekend events. Over the years, of course, the bands and band members changed, but Bob continued performing as a rhythm guitarist and lead singer in

various musical groups for the rest of his life. It was truly one of his life's greatest passions.

Bob graduated magna cum laude from Vanderbilt University in 1974. Never one to shy away from hard work, Bob helped pay for his Vanderbilt education by working during the summers on the assembly line at the Ford Glass plant and also at a local brass foundry. Bob later went on to earn his J.D. at Vanderbilt, graduating in 1977.

After working for Percy Wilkins as a real estate attorney, Bob joined the law firm of Neal & Harwell, where he practiced for 18 years. Bob counted the opportunity to work for Jim Neal and Aubrey Harwell as one of the great blessings in his life. Bob was so influenced by the mentoring he received from Jim and Aubrey that he committed himself to pass that legacy on both as a teacher and mentor.

In fact, Bob would later teach Intellectual Property and Copyright Law to both undergraduates at Belmont University and law students at Nashville School of Law. But beyond the formal classroom, Bob served as a mentor to countless practicing and aspiring lawyers, freely sharing his wisdom and counsel on matters of law and life. This was a role that he selflessly played with friends and strangers alike. A number of lawyers and law students have said that when they came to Nashville without any connections and made "cold calls" to Bob seeking guidance, Bob would always call them back, arrange to meet and offer ideas and encouragement.

During his association with Neal & Harwell, Bob was introduced to Johnny and June Cash. The experience of representing the Cashes helped Bob develop his multi-faceted understanding of the music business, which, when combined with his other talents, made him such a highly respected entertainment lawyer. Bob would say that working for John and June was one of his most valued client relationships; he described it as the "best gig in town."

Bob's relationship with the Cash family also happened to be how he was introduced to his future wife, Cathy, who at the time was working for Gary Baker and what was then Ernst and Ernst, the outside accountants for the Cash family. Many things were important to Bob, but those who knew him best remember him first and foremost as a devoted husband to his wife of 19 years, Catherine Cate Sullivan. Partners in both life and work, Bob and Cathy were a fun-loving and

gracious couple who always enjoyed hosting friends and family in their welcoming home.

Their shared giving spirit also spilled beyond their home and into the Nashville community. Bob selflessly gave his time to a number of non-profit causes in our community. Among other contributions, Bob served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Aid Society. He was also a founding member of Tennessee Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts, which would later become the Nashville Arts and Business Council.

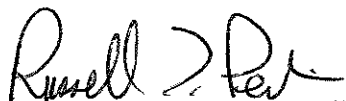
Throughout his life, Bob never strayed very far from his roots. He was proud of his family heritage and loved his mother Wilma; his brother Terry Sullivan, his sister-in-law, Barbara; and his nieces, nephews and their children. Bob spoke often about his family and relished frequent weekend trips with Cathy to the farm in southern Illinois.

Despite all of his professional accomplishments, there was one other trait central to Bob's spirit that survived to the end – his great humility. So many have simply described Bob as a “great guy,” probably because Bob was so highly intelligent and skilled and yet was never pretentious or showy. Until the end, Bob lived a life full of love and humble service: he loved his wife, work and music, and he was a valued servant to the legal profession, the arts and the Nashville community. His tireless devotion to his family, friends and clients left our community a brighter and better place, and he is greatly missed.

Therefore, be it RESOLVED by the Nashville Bar Association, that we honor the life and work of Robert Lee Sullivan and mourn in his passing the loss of our friend, mentor, musician, caring spirit and person of high integrity.

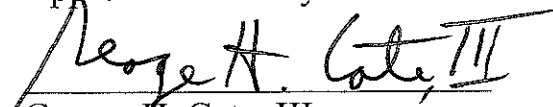
Be it further RESOLVED that this memorial resolution be placed in the permanent records of the Association and entered in the “In Memoriam” Minute Book of the Chancery Court of Davidson County, Tennessee, and that copies thereof be furnished to his wife and family.

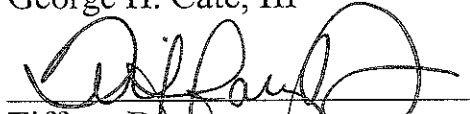
This 24th day of May, 2012.

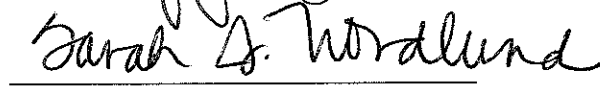


Chancellor

Approved for Entry:


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