

MEMEMORIAL RESOLUTION

ROE ELLEN COLEMAN

Roe Ellen Coleman, a former assistant District Attorney for Davidson County, passed away in her home on Monday, July 9th of this year, 2018.

Roe Ellen was a native Tennessean. She was born in Knoxville to A. Roe Coleman and Adelaide Marks Coleman. She grew up riding the ponies her father bred on his farm, Roefields. She attended Sequoya Elementary School, Fairfax Hall in Virginia and the University of Tennessee. She earned a BA degree in special education from Peabody College. In 1965 she married Thomas Spencer Leek and made her home in Nashville. After raising her two children, Tiffany and Spencer, she decided to enroll in what was then called the YMCA School of Law, now known as the Nashville School of Law. While attending law school, she was hired by Tom Shriver, the District Attorney for Davidson County, as a student assistant law clerk. After graduation from law school, she passed the bar and received her license to practice law on October 3, 1981. She was then appointed as a criminal investigator in the DA's office and was assigned to the Special Prosecutions Unit. She was sworn in as an assistant District Attorney on September 1, 1982. There were only two other women working in DA's office as prosecutors at the time (Mary Rubin now Hausman and Judge Cheryl Blackburn).

After working with the Special Prosecution Unit, Roe Ellen was assigned to the team staffing the Fifth Circuit court. Judge Walter Kurtz had agreed to hear criminal cases in his court, thus creating a fourth court to handle criminal cases. Eventually, Roe Ellen was named as team leader of Division III with Judge Ann Lacey Johns. She was a gifted prosecutor who successfully tried many cases. Jurors appreciated her cheerful and easy personality which made them comfortable in responding to voir dire questions. She had an ability to explain the law in simple words so that juries were not intimidated by their often daunting task. She was sympathetic to victims and treated them all with respect and dignity.

After a long career in public service, Roe Ellen retired from the District Attorneys office in June of 1995. She moved to Beaufort, South Carolina and restored a lovely antebellum home. After selling that house, she remained in Beaufort for some time. She took up painting and at the time of her death had become an accomplished artist as evidenced by the numerous paints exhibited at her memorial service. Even though she loved to travel, she always returned to Nashville where she had many friends.

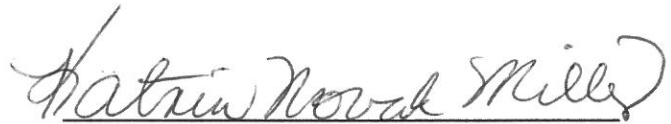
Roe Ellen was a lifelong advocate for women and children, particularly those with special needs. She was an inspiration to a host of professional women and fiercely challenged gender roles in the workplace.

Preceded in death by her parents and brothers, Clayton and Johnny, Roe Ellen is survived by her children and her only grandchild, Tiffany's daughter, Isabella Roe Ellen Leek. She will be greatly missed by them and her many friends.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Nashville Bar Association, solemnly express our profound appreciation and gratitude for the life of Roe Ellen Coleman. We recognize and honor her contributions to her family, her friends, the profession, her community and this great state that she so loved. We mourn her death.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Memorial Resolution be placed in the permanent records of the Nashville Bar Association and entered in the "In Memoriam" Minute Book of the Chancery Court of Davidson County, Tennessee and that copies thereof be furnished to members of her family.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, this 15th day of November, 2018.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katrin Novak Miller". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Katrin Novak Miller

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Russell D. D.". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

CHANCELLOR