

RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF

NOEL FRANCIS STAHL

On August 11, 2016, Nashville lost one of its finest trial lawyers at the early age of 68. Noel Stahl grew up in Detroit, Michigan, where he was an athlete and excelled in football, providing him the opportunity to come to Vanderbilt on a football scholarship. As he was as a lawyer, Noel was a fierce competitor on the football field, starting at defensive end for the Commodores where he played from 1966 through 1969. After graduating from Vanderbilt in 1970, he went to the Vanderbilt School of Law where he graduated in 1973. Noel served his country in the Marine Corps from 1973 to 1977 where he served as a Captain in the Office of the Judge Advocate General before returning to Nashville to practice law at the firm of Cornelius & Collins (then Cornelius, Collins, Higgins, and White). After practicing law with Cornelius & Collins from 1977-2000, he practiced as a partner with Miller & Martin and concluded his practice as a partner with Butler Snow. He was a proud member of the Tennessee Bar for 43 years.

As a trial lawyer, Noel Stahl primarily represented the interests of physicians and other healthcare professionals in medical malpractice cases. He believed in the rule of law and in particular the rules of civil procedure. He expected his adversaries to abide by the rules as he did. In short, Noel “suffered no fools” but developed close relationships with like-minded adversaries. He was fair and always ethical. He loved the law and his fellow lawyers. One of Noel’s long time adversaries put it best:

Noel was a superior defense lawyer. Before trial against him, I’d tell my clients, “You are not going to win this case because the defense lawyer makes a mistake.”

Noel and I were extreme competitors. But we both enjoyed the fair combat. He never lied to me. And if he said so and so, you could book it. No need for formality with Noel. His word was good enough.

We often joked outside the courtroom. And we shared stories. One of his favorite movies was the Big Lebowski. Noel was as “big” a lawyer as Jeff Bridges was an actor.

I miss Noel.

Noel’s tough advocacy endeared himself to the medical profession in this town. When faced with a medical malpractice case many physicians would insist on Noel Stahl as their counsel. His abilities were recognized by his induction into the American College of Trial Lawyers, an exclusive and elite organization where membership comes by invitation only. He tried numerous jury trials over his career, winning most of them. His counsel and advice was sought by many of his peers, including those signing below.

While at Vanderbilt, Noel met Sandy Page. Noel and Sandy were married in 1972. During the summer of 1970, when Noel was in Platoon Leaders training at Quantico, Sandy, a Russian major at Vanderbilt, was studying in the then Soviet Union. Noel’s legal career might

not have gotten off the ground had the reason for the numerous letters he was receiving at Quantico from the Soviet Union (from Sandy) during the Cold War not been appropriately explained.

Noel Stahl's competitiveness was also evidenced by his love for hockey. Growing up in Detroit, he was truly a "Wing Nut," as he followed the Detroit Red Wings for his entire life. In fact, he even wore a "wingnut" to show his enthusiasm for his favorite team, with the Predators being his second favorite team. Noel's love for hockey led him into coaching hockey and becoming the president of the Nashville Youth Hockey League. In that role, Noel molded the lives of many young boys, as well as significantly advancing the League. The League continues to thrive today and Noel is a big reason for its present success.

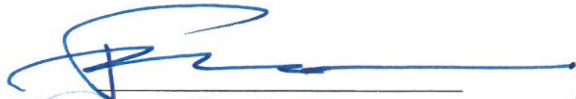
Noel's passion for practicing law and representing his physician clients was only eclipsed by his passion for his family. Noel and Sandy raised three boys, two of whom are now attorneys. The middle son earned an MBA and works with radiologists. The success and character of Noel's sons is truly a reflection of Noel and Sandy's character. At the time of Noel's death, he had seven grandchildren, to whom he was devoted and who in turn adored him. Noel will be missed, and has been missed, by many, but none more so than his family.

Noel was not always serious. He had a great wit, and was even an amateur magician. He had one particular trick that he liked to play on waiters at restaurants in order to gain a free dessert. He would inform the waiter that he could put a cork in the empty bottle of wine that had been consumed by the table, and could remove the cork from the wine bottle without breaking the bottle and without using any other tools than what was on the table. How he did this will not be published in this resolution because, after all, it is magic. However, he could successfully perform this feat and gained many free desserts for his companions.


While Noel Stahl was larger than life, the way he handled the diagnosis of an aggressive brain tumor that ultimately took his life was perhaps the greatest evidence of his strength of character. It was a true demonstration of courage that inspired all those who witnessed it. As one of his legal assistants remarked when learning of his passing, it was "like a large tree falling in the woods." Noel Stahl was a large tree in the forest of lawyers but more importantly he was a great person. He will be missed by this Bar Association, but will be remembered by all those who were fortunate enough to have crossed his path.

Therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Nashville Bar Association that in the life of Noel Francis Stahl we were blessed with a man of exceptional legal talent, personality and character and with his passing we have suffered a great loss; that this 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 be furnished to the Stahl family.

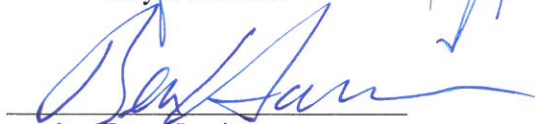
Respectfully Submitted,



Tom Lawrence



Gayle Malone




Ben Harrison



Randy Kinnard



Bob Trentham



Travis Swearingen

This 16th day of November, 2017.



William E. Gentry
Chancellor