

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF LYCOMING COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

IN RE: LLA BAR HISTORY :  
MEMORIAL RESOLUTION : CV-24-0003  
ROBERT C. WISE :

**TRANSCRIPT OF MEMORIAL SERVICE** held

before the Honorable Court of Lycoming County in Courtroom No. 1  
of the Lycoming County Courthouse, 48 West Third Street,  
Williamsport, Pennsylvania, on December 19th, 2024, commencing at  
4:05 p.m. and concluding at 4:55 p.m.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

David C. Raker, Esquire, Chairman  
Honorable William S. Kieser, Retired  
Charles F. Greevy, III, Esquire  
C. Edward S. Mitchell, Esquire

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**P R O C E E D I N G S**

1  
2           **PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS:** Good afternoon, everyone.  
3 Thank you all very much for attending. We are about to call this  
4 Special Session of Court to recognize and acknowledge the loss of  
5 a long-time member of the Law Association, Bob Wise. We  
6 recognize and appreciate the attendance of his family. My  
7 understanding is he has two daughters that are here. I believe  
8 it is Carol and Sandy and their husbands. I believe his sister  
9 is here, sister-in-law, excuse me, Joyce. His niece is here also  
10 and his long-time assistant Sherry. So we thank you all very  
11 much for coming.

12                                 Sometime in October this Court having been  
13 notified of Mr. Wise's passing, appointed a Committee to draft  
14 the appropriate resolutions in this matter. David Raker was  
15 appointed to be the chairperson. Charles Greevy, Judge Kieser,  
16 and Ed Mitchell were also appointed for that Committee. We  
17 scheduled the memorial service here for today. So I would now  
18 recognize Mr. Raker to present the Committee Report and  
19 Resolution.

20           **DAVID RAKER:** Thank you. May it please the Court,  
21 members of the bar, family and friends of the late Robert Wise  
22 and guests. Your Honor did appoint a Committee that you named on  
23 the 16th of October to draft and prepare a Report and Resolutions  
24 memorializing the life of Robert C. Wise for submission at this  
25 public ceremony today on the 19th of December at 4:00.

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1                   Accordingly, your Committee respectfully  
2 submits the following Report and Resolutions:

3                   Robert C. Wise, a member of this bar and  
4 Court from 1949 to 2024, as well as a member of the Lycoming Law  
5 Association and the Pennsylvania Bar Association died peacefully  
6 surrounded by his family on September 3rd, 2024, at Celebration  
7 Villa of Loyalsock.

8                   Services were held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday,  
9 September 21st, 2024, at Trinity Episcopal Church, 844 West  
10 Fourth Street, Williamsport. The family received friends from 10  
11 a.m. until time of service. The church was very well attended by  
12 his many friends, colleagues, and relatives, including, several  
13 Lycoming County Judges and numerous Lycoming County Bar members.

14                   Robert Campbell Wise was born on May 21st,  
15 1925, the son of the late Victor C. Wise and Alice S. (Mahaffey)  
16 Wise and he was born in Williamsport where he lived, except  
17 during his schooling and military service until his death.

18                   Bob married Margaret L. Browne (Peggy) on  
19 January 27th, 1951, with whom he celebrated 70 years of marriage  
20 and who predeceased him on December 2nd, 2021.

21                   Bob and Peggy had three children who, along  
22 with their spouses, survive, David L. Wise and his wife, Leslie,  
23 of Erdenheim; Carol Kirol and her husband, Thomas, of  
24 Williamsport; and Sandra Stoner and her husband, Herbert, of  
25 Harrisburg. Bob is also survived by eight grandchildren, fifteen

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1 great grandchildren, his sister-in-law, Joyce Henninger Wise, of  
2 Williamsport and his niece and three nephews.

3 In addition to his wife, Bob was predeceased  
4 by his brother, Victor E. Wise, and his grandson, Nathan W.  
5 Stoner.

6 Bob graduated from Williamsport High School  
7 in 1943 and then enlisted in the U.S. Navy Officer Training  
8 Program, University of Notre Dame. He later transferred to the  
9 California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, where  
10 he graduated with a meteorology degree.

11 Following graduation Bob was commissioned as  
12 an ensign and served as the weather officer on an arctic  
13 icebreaker.

14 After discharge from active duty Bob enrolled  
15 in the Dickinson School of Law in Carlisle and graduated in 1948  
16 and began to practice law.

17 Bob was admitted to the Court of Common Pleas  
18 of Lycoming County in 1949, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in  
19 1950, the United States District Court for the Middle District of  
20 Pennsylvania in 1951, and the United States Supreme Court in  
21 1954.

22 Bob was recalled to active duty during the  
23 Korean War from 1952 to 1954, serving as a lieutenant in the  
24 United States Navy at the Fleet Weather Central in Washington, DC  
25 where he lived then in Silver Spring, Maryland for the time.

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1                   Upon return to civilian life, he began  
2 practice again in private practice. He served as assistant  
3 district attorney for Lycoming County from 1956 to 1960 working  
4 under then District Attorney George Hess.

5                   During his time in private practice Bob  
6 associated with George Hess, Michael J. Casale, Sr., practicing  
7 as Hess, Casale & Wise and maintained offices at 18 West Third  
8 Street in Williamsport. He later maintained offices with Nathan  
9 Stuart at 25 West Third Street in Williamsport until Nate's  
10 death.

11                   In 1964 Bob was elected as Representative in  
12 the Pennsylvania General Assembly for the 83rd Legislative  
13 District in Lycoming County as a Democrat, a position to which he  
14 was re-elected four more times before choosing not to run in  
15 1974. After leaving the House of Representatives in 1975, his  
16 legislative talents were further recognized when he was elected  
17 by the General Assembly to serve as director of the Pennsylvania  
18 Legislative Reference Bureau from 1975 to 1976.

19                   Bob's work was concentrated in general  
20 practice and was a municipal solicitor as well, including for the  
21 South Williamsport Borough for many years and for the South  
22 Williamsport School District from January 11th, 1984 through  
23 June 30th, 2006. Bob served his clients well with his keen legal  
24 mind and professionalism.

25                   Bob was active in the Lycoming Law

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1 Association and served as its President in 1969.

2 Bob was a faithful, active lifetime member of  
3 Trinity Episcopal Church where he was baptized some 99 years  
4 before his September 21st memorial service.

5 Bob was an active Mason, having received his  
6 Master Mason degree on June 20th, 1963, as a member of Lodge No.  
7 755. Then he joined the Williamsport Scottish Rite as a 32nd  
8 degree Mason on November 22nd, 1963. He was awarded with the  
9 33rd degree, an honorary degree in Scottish Rite Masonry on  
10 September 29th, 1998, and that is a degree which only a select  
11 few are given.

12 Bob was an active member of many other  
13 community organizations, including the American Legion for over  
14 70 years, the West Branch Boat Club, the Ross Club, Williamsport  
15 Rotary Club, and Williamsport Kiwanis Club.

16 Bob had a wide variety of interests, which  
17 included reading, performing music, golfing, boating, skiing,  
18 playing chess, and watching sports. He had a particular love and  
19 talent for music and played in many bands in the Williamsport  
20 area, including the Repasz Band, the New Horizons and Teteque  
21 Bands and other ensembles and did so as recently as May 2024.

22 Bob always sought ways to engage with the  
23 world around him. He kept busy and was highly service oriented.  
24 He was known for his loving nature, his kindness and generosity  
25 and devotion to his family, which he demonstrated through his

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1 constant acts of giving, doing, and involvement with others,  
2 particularly, in the community.

3 Your Committee recommends the following  
4 adoption of the following Resolutions:

5 Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the  
6 undersigned Committee appointed by the Court, joined in by the  
7 Lycoming County Bar, do recognize the passing of Robert C. Wise,  
8 Esquire, and in his death we remember his many contributions to  
9 the citizens of Lycoming County and to this Bar.

10 Resolved further, that these Resolutions and  
11 statements be spread at length upon the minutes of Your Honorable  
12 Court with copies sent to Robert C. Wise's children and be  
13 published in the Lycoming Reporter.

14 Finally, resolved that this Court and  
15 Lycoming County Bar extend to Robert C. Wise's children,  
16 grandchildren and great grandchildren and other family members,  
17 our deep and heartfelt expression of sympathy and prayers.  
18 Respectfully submitted, William S. Kieser, Charles F. Greevy,  
19 III, C. Edward S. Mitchell and David C. Raker.

20 **PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you. Would you like  
21 to say a few words?

22 **DAVID RAKER:** I would like to say a few words,  
23 yes.

24 **PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS:** Okay.

25 **DAVID RAKER:** So I knew Bob Wise in several

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1 different capacities, I had that good fortune, in addition to the  
2 law. One of them -- the first one, I guess was, in the political  
3 realm. I knew of him before I got to meet him because he was our  
4 state representative. He was somebody, I think, many of us in  
5 the political world aspired to be like, especially in his  
6 political instincts and his political appeal. We sought his  
7 advice and we looked up to him in so many ways. I also knew him  
8 through the Kiwanis organization, where he was a long-time member  
9 and where I was and I knew him well there; but also in particular  
10 I knew him from the Masonic organizations, especially the  
11 Williamsport Scottish Rite where he was an active member,  
12 constant presence, and active member in the Teteque Band and just  
13 a general leader. It was said to me one time that if you meet a  
14 person who has got the 33rd degree in Freemasonry, Scottish Rite  
15 Freemasonry, which, of course, Bob did have, you're meeting a  
16 very good person. Now, I don't know, I'm sure that's like  
17 anything, it's not universally true in every case; but in Bob  
18 Wise's case it was very much true. He was a man of integrity.  
19 He was a man of great professionalism. He was a very good  
20 leader, a good example, all the things that a person should be  
21 that receives the 33rd degree and a person should be generally.  
22 He was a man of class, first class, I must say; and his presence  
23 is very much missed among our organization. I would give, Your  
24 Honor, this Resolution and Order.

25 **PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS:** Great. Thank you.

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1           **DAVID RAKER:** Move that it be signed.

2           **PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you very much.

3           **DAVID RAKER:** Thank you.

4           **PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS:** Judge Kieser, would you  
5 like to say a few words?

6           **JUDGE KIESER:** May it please the Court. Carol and  
7 Sandra and the rest of the guests. Bob Wise had a special place  
8 in my life for a couple different reasons. Now, when he became a  
9 member of the bar I was only five-years-old, okay, and now I'm  
10 still one of the oldest -- now, I'm one of the oldest people in  
11 the bar that is still here. The interesting thing was I didn't  
12 know of Bob until really in 1964 when I was at Lycoming College  
13 and he ran for the state legislature. My dad was one of the few  
14 other Democrats that I knew at the time in this county and he  
15 commended Bob Wise to me and I enjoyed following Bob's work while  
16 I was going to law school and I think, you know, this guy is a  
17 pretty good fella. I didn't know a lot about his being the DA or  
18 assistant DA and municipal solicitor and all that kind of stuff  
19 at that point, to me he was our legislature and the impressive  
20 thing was he got things done and he -- you never -- I never  
21 crossed paths with anyone during the time that he was in the  
22 legislature, even after I got admitted to the bar and was  
23 practicing law, who had a bad word to say about the way Bob  
24 handled himself in the legislature. Of course, you know, I have  
25 said things that I shouldn't say about legislatures myself and I

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1 think probably all of us have, but I really never crossed paths  
2 with anyone on that and the amazing thing was this was definitely  
3 a Republican community and yet Bob held that respect throughout  
4 and always did. Always did.

5           The next significant thing about Bob and I, I  
6 was an assistant DA and he did very little criminal defense work  
7 and in my second year as an assistant DA I had a trial and Bob  
8 Wise was the defense counsel, which kind of surprised me because  
9 I knew Bob and I talked to him and the charge was solicitation to  
10 commit sodomy arising out of the famous look-out and roadside  
11 rest over at the top of the U.S. Route 15 and Bob came into the  
12 office to talk about the case and his client that was charged  
13 with that offense and tried to convince me that, you know, as a  
14 matter of law, you know, he just couldn't be guilty of the  
15 offense of what he did, it just would not pass muster and, you  
16 know, I was like no way Bob. So we went to trial and for those  
17 of you Bob didn't do a lot of courtroom work; but let me tell you  
18 that Bob was a terrific trial attorney and he just put me through  
19 the paces in that case; but I got a jury verdict and so Bob said,  
20 you're wrong and I'll show you and he took an appeal to the  
21 Superior Court. Well, you know, it was interesting for me to  
22 have a case in the Superior Court at that young age, although, I  
23 had a couple others; but I didn't have any problems with the  
24 Superior Court and the Superior Court saw it my way, too, and so,  
25 okay, Bob, that's the way it is. He took an appeal to the

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1 Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Well, you know this was a real  
2 great opportunity for me because I think I was one of the first  
3 people in our law school class to get a chance to argue before  
4 the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and we went down there together  
5 and we were supposed to start our argument at 11:00 and I think  
6 we finally got to -- Bob got up because he was arguing first, the  
7 appellant, and he started, you know, maybe around 12 and you  
8 have -- I think we had 20 minutes at the time, whatever; but so I  
9 got up to give my rebuttal to his argument and the presiding  
10 Supreme Court Justice, Chief Justice Bell, was presiding that day  
11 as he usually does when he was around and behind Justice Bell  
12 there was a clock and that clock was one of those that the minute  
13 hand would swing back and forth. Well, I had gotten my name, I  
14 introduced myself and I started to say about the jury, obviously,  
15 had made a very correct decision and the minute swung to 12:30,  
16 Justice Bell reached over, lunch recess be back in an hour and  
17 slammed the gavel. Okay. I'm back so Bob and I milled around  
18 and we, okay, so this is good and that made me a little bit more  
19 nervous. I mean I thought I did good getting my name out and so  
20 we get back up and I get up to the podium and I said, Your Honor,  
21 as I introduced myself I'm William Kieser from Lycoming County  
22 DA's Office and Justice Bell looked at me and said, young man I  
23 thought you had finished your argument before lunch? And I said  
24 well, yes, sir, I just wanted to iterate that the jury made a  
25 very great decision in this case, thank you, and I sat down and

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1 we got outside the courtroom and Bob just laughed and smiled and  
2 chuckled and, you know; but we came home. The Supreme Court saw  
3 it Bob's way. He was good. He was good at all he did. I did  
4 some solicitor work in my practice and Bob was the gold standard  
5 for how to be a solicitor and he really was. There was just so  
6 many things.

7                   Then I ran for retention in 2001 and I needed  
8 to have a chairperson for my retention committee and I kinda  
9 meagerly went to Bob and said, Bob, you know, you beat me around  
10 a couple times and everything else; but we had crossed paths  
11 seeing him either perform the Repasz and his church work and  
12 other areas, Kiwanis, what have you, just crossed a lot of paths  
13 and when I asked him if he would chair he did. You know one of  
14 the first things he did, he went up to Newberry to sit down with  
15 my mother and talk to my mother to assure her that this was a  
16 good thing that I was doing and he just wanted to make sure  
17 that -- he knew my sister and all, but he just felt that he had  
18 to go meet my mother. That was the kind of guy that Bob was. He  
19 was wonderful. What a great guy.

20                   **PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you. Mr. Greevy.

21                   **CHARLES GREEVY, III:** David and Bill have filled  
22 in a lot of the details and certainly have given a good picture  
23 of Bob as I recall him, too. Bob was one of the first persons I  
24 met after I came back to Lycoming County in the late 60's and I  
25 think he was, quite frankly, one of the first gentlemen lawyers

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1 that I had really had any contact with and offered his  
2 congratulations and we remained friends through the years. It's  
3 stated in Bob's obituary he's looked upon as having an unwavering  
4 dedication to his community, his country, and his loved ones. He  
5 had been known for his loving nature and certainly his  
6 friendliness, as Bill has already noted to, his kindness and his  
7 generosity, and certainly he was family oriented. I have been --  
8 he is one of the first gentlemen lawyers I got to know and we  
9 remained friends throughout the years. I agree with Bill I don't  
10 know that there was a lot of court work that Bob did, but  
11 certainly when there would be a question Bob was one that I felt  
12 free to talk to once in awhile. It's also been noted certainly  
13 his years and his dedication to the Scottish Rite, his musical  
14 talent and so on showed a real devotion that he had. Bob and I  
15 were in particular Masonic degrees together for consistory  
16 matters and he was often there also on the band, the orchestra  
17 and certainly making efforts that way and showing his style,  
18 always very good. He had a very deep musical talent. In fact, I  
19 had been made aware that even after he and Peggy had moved up to  
20 the Williamsport Home, the group led by Judy Shellenberger known  
21 as New Horizons, they planned a couple of rehearsals and  
22 certainly concerts up there at the home and Bob was a part of it,  
23 very strongly a part of it at that point.

24 I've had a number of personal contacts with  
25 Bob also in the recent years. We were members of Kiwanis as

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1 David had noted, even rang the Salvation bells together for a  
2 year or two when that was being done, particularly, downtown. But  
3 after he had moved up to Ravine Road I would often see him coming  
4 up Walnut Street past our home, he would stop and we would chat a  
5 little bit. He would have memories of things that had been done  
6 and certainly I enjoyed hearing his stories. Other times he just  
7 honked and waved as so many would. When he lived on Ravine Road,  
8 he and Peggy, they lived at the home right next door to my son  
9 and his family. I've known from my granddaughter that she can  
10 remember times when he would be outside -- now, he was usually  
11 one to be very formally dressed -- although she said she did see  
12 him once or twice in his bathrobe and out, in fact, they  
13 remembered, both she and my son remembered a time when they were  
14 out at his home at Ravine Road and some deer came along and Bob  
15 was shooing them away and was in his bathrobe at that point. He  
16 was very devoted and certainly he was a fun gentleman to be  
17 around.

18                   When Peggy was then up at the home, my  
19 understanding was that Bob would walk up Ravine Road to visit  
20 with her. As I said, he was always quite friendly to my son's  
21 family also. Don't know when it was that he was chasing deer  
22 about, maybe they were eating some of the flowers that he had  
23 there at Ravine Road, but he was -- he was after them quite a  
24 bit.

25                   Personal representation, personal contacts, I

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1 had a couple of hearings over at South Side that he would be  
2 handling. Quite directly his political life is known. In 1991,  
3 Bob and I both ran for judge against two of the past esteemed  
4 judicial persons, Jim Wollet and Clint Smith. We were the  
5 Democrats, the other two were the Republicans and as often  
6 happens in this county, both of the Republicans won the primaries  
7 and so Bob and I had the summer alone and we chatted at various  
8 points at that time and both happy of the gentlemen that were  
9 going on, but certainly disappointed that we ourselves had not.  
10 I was the young candidate, Bob certainly was the experienced one  
11 and knew what was going on.

12 Bob kept busy and was highly service area  
13 oriented in everything that he would be doing. His pastor from  
14 Trinity is here, Pastor Wagner, and certainly the service that  
15 was held there at the church was phenomenal with the music that  
16 was played, the music dedication that was shown. We were talking  
17 a little bit earlier that quite often the -- this resolutions  
18 group would often get together even before the funeral would be  
19 held and I can remember, certainly, that has changed a great deal  
20 with the schedule that everybody is under; but there was a  
21 certain intensity to that that certainly Bob as a member of his  
22 generation was very, very fine. Bob certainly kept himself busy  
23 throughout not only his practice, but certainly after he had  
24 retired.

25 Bob in my mind certainly was a gentleman and

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1 a very dedicated lawyer and solicitor in this county. He will be  
2 long remembered, I would hope, and certainly one of the keys is  
3 Bob's intensity and friendliness to everyone that he would meet.  
4 So I'm honored to have been part of this group and certainly have  
5 noted his service to the county and certainly his service to his  
6 profession. Thank you.

7 **PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you. Mr. Mitchell,  
8 did you wish to speak?

9 **C. EDWARD MITCHELL:** May it please the Court,  
10 family members, Carol, Sandy, and other family members, members  
11 of the Bar. There is -- I started to write down words that I  
12 think of when I think of Bob Wise and they're all very  
13 complimentary and this is the ones that I wrote down in just a  
14 short period of time, congenial, always smiling, well dressed,  
15 physically fit, upright, friendly, happy, professional, a true  
16 gentleman. He was all of that. When you think of Bob Wise you  
17 think of what a lawyer really should be and he was all of those  
18 things.

19 I can't remember when I first met him or  
20 under what circumstances, but I know I knew him when I was  
21 13-years-old and this is -- this is the type of activity in which  
22 I got to know him. A group of men, including Bob Wise, Judge Tom  
23 Wood, and Ralph Clinger, who was a claims adjuster in  
24 Williamsport, they were all avid skiers and there were no ski  
25 areas around here when I was 13. They would get together and

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1 take groups of kids, including myself, early Saturday morning.  
2 They'd get together, drive to Eagles Mere and set up a homemade  
3 rope tow on -- from going from the top of Laporte Avenue down to  
4 the lake. They carried up there a -- it looked like a lawnmower  
5 mower mounted on a skid and they put it down and would string  
6 pulleys up from the top of the hill down to the bottom of the  
7 hill and this, you know, it takes an hour to drive there and then  
8 they would put this contraption together and then they had all of  
9 us kids compact the snow by, you know with our skis going up and  
10 down the hill sideways and we'd ski all day, take it all down,  
11 and drive home and that's how I got -- that's not -- I don't  
12 think that's when I met him; but those -- that's an activity that  
13 I remember that we did for a couple years on Saturday mornings  
14 and, you know, it was a lot of fun and it introduced us to  
15 skiing, but it showed what kind of a guy he was. He was  
16 interested in -- he was very physically active and very  
17 energetic, but also willing to share his skills and his  
18 opportunities with other people and particularly young people.  
19 So that was -- that's my first and great memory of Bob Wise. He  
20 was what a lawyer should be and a good example for all of us.  
21 Thank you.

22 **PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS:** Okay. Thank you. The  
23 Court will approve the Resolution and Report and will enter the  
24 Order that's attached. Now this 19th day of December, 2024, in  
25 consideration of the Resolutions presented by the Committee, who

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1 drafted the Resolutions in the death of Robert C. Wise, the said  
2 Resolutions are adopted and it is ORDERED AND DIRECTED that the  
3 Resolutions herewith submitted and attached be adopted as the  
4 official expression of the Lycoming County Law Association and  
5 this Court, that the same be spread upon the records of the Court  
6 and the copies of these Resolutions be delivered to the family of  
7 the Robert C. Wise, Esquire. It is further ORDERED AND DIRECTED  
8 that said Resolutions be entered at large upon the record of the  
9 Court and that they be printed in the Lycoming Reporter.

10 At this time we usually begin with statements  
11 from the Judges and I would inquire. Okay. So then, Judge  
12 Carlucci.

13 **JUDGE CARLUCCI:** Thank you. I had the privilege  
14 of attending Attorney Wise's memorial service and I happen to be  
15 a big fan of Charles Dickens Christmas Carol. I find the story  
16 charming that someone would have an opportunity to watch their  
17 life from afar and realize how misspent their life was and I had  
18 a similar experience at Bob's memorial service; but arguably  
19 backwards. I had to a large extent devoted my life to the  
20 practice of law, a little bit of volunteer work; but to the  
21 extent that my family and my personal life have suffered a great  
22 deal and nobody will ever accuse me of being a successful family  
23 man. As I watched Bob's memorial service, the whole memorial  
24 service was not about his practice of law, it was about all of  
25 the time he devoted to his family, the skiing, the music, the

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1 swimming, that is, what a fabulous life he had and it was kind of  
2 like Christmas Carol in reverse, that is, I'm sitting there and  
3 it's as if Bob's family is telling me, Bill, this is how your  
4 life should have been and, of course, my life was not like that;  
5 but the fact that his family came together at a memorial service  
6 to celebrate what a fabulous life he had, his dedication to his  
7 family and then the joy with which he embraced life was really,  
8 really touching and just underlined for me what a lousy job I've  
9 done; but his life -- his was a life really well led. Thank you,  
10 Your Honor.

11 **PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you. Judge  
12 Linhardt.

13 **JUDGE LINHARDT:** Thank you. As I was listening to  
14 the remarks today, I was hearing a constant and consistent theme  
15 and it's completely consistent with Bob's reputation in the  
16 community and completely consistent with how I knew and remember  
17 Bob. He is well described as a man who was sweet, gentle and  
18 kind, which are rare attributes for a man involved in politics;  
19 but that's one of the many things, I think, that made him  
20 special. I have often said that I am grateful that as a Bar we  
21 get together to remember those who have passed after spending  
22 their professional careers with us. I'm particularly grateful  
23 that Bob's family is here today because I know that you know why  
24 you loved Bob, but it's important that you understand how he  
25 impacted those who knew him professionally because you don't

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1 often get the opportunity to know that. So thank you for being  
2 here.

3 **PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS:** Absolutely. I agree with  
4 that. As a young lawyer when I first moved here I started in the  
5 Public Defender's Office, but I would say my formative years were  
6 the two years that I spent working with Judge Smith and I've said  
7 this before that the number of elder statesmen lawyers who would  
8 come in through his office and sometimes just come in to talk,  
9 but other times because they had a matter in front of him and  
10 Judge Smith was known as a civil judge and I was -- my background  
11 was criminal so it was just kind of an interesting combination  
12 that we had. I remember when Mr. Raker was talking about George  
13 Hess and Nate Stuart and just these names of gentlemen who would  
14 take the time, as your father would, take the time to talk with a  
15 new lawyer, to this young girl, who was working as Judge Smith's  
16 law clerk to just see how are you, what are you doing, what are  
17 you interested in, and I think that's the image that I always had  
18 in my mind of a lawyer, you know, he knew how to do his business,  
19 he knew when he needed, you know, to press the point; but he also  
20 knew how to be a person with compassion and respect and  
21 understanding and support. I think sometimes we lose sight of  
22 that and I'm only grateful that I had the opportunity to grow up  
23 in this community as a lawyer to have seen that progression and I  
24 know that just by being him he made a significant contribution to  
25 the legal practice in this community. I'm very grateful to have

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1 had the opportunity to have known him and met him and spoken  
2 about music with him because I want to say he played trumpet or  
3 trombone. It was a brass instrument because I played french horn  
4 and so there you go, good taste, for many, many years and I still  
5 have my french horn with me and so it was nice to be able to see  
6 that people had a life outside of the law because that's what I  
7 have tried to cultivate myself with music club, with the theater,  
8 and so it was just -- it has been an honor and a privilege to  
9 have gotten to know him. In your mind you think of a politician  
10 and then hearing all about that he had done, when I was probably  
11 in high school, before -- well before I even imagined being a  
12 lawyer -- but here's this person and, you know, you have an  
13 image; but then you get to meet the real thing and he was just a  
14 true gentleman and I'm just so grateful to have had the  
15 experience and privilege to have known him and worked with him.

16 Now, we also open this proceeding up to any  
17 members of this group here, members of the Bar, members of the  
18 community that may be here to celebrate and recognize Mr. Wise's  
19 life. So if anyone would like to say a few words. All I would  
20 ask you to do is stand and I'll recognize you by name so that the  
21 record reflects who you are when you're speaking. We've got  
22 quite a cross section of people here. Ms. Taylor.

23 **TAMMY TAYLOR:** Yes. I'm Tammy Taylor for those of  
24 you who don't know me and I first met Bob because I also was a  
25 clerk with Judge Smith and Marie Shollenberger came to work with

1 Judge Smith and that's how I got to know Bob and he was the  
2 president of the Bar Association when I was only a year old, but  
3 I was very pleased that when we were working on the book for our  
4 150th anniversary we got as many prior presidents in this room  
5 that we could and Bob actually came and we had our picture taken  
6 right up there and then when we got the book finished I was  
7 privileged to take it to him and I was very glad to have been  
8 able to give that to him.

9 I have one other story to tell just because  
10 it's kind of Bob. My dad was at the Divine Providence Hospital  
11 one day and Bob pulled up. I was in the lobby with my father and  
12 Bob pulled up with Peggy and he was getting her out of the car  
13 and I went out and thought I could help and I said, Bob, if you  
14 want to go in with Peggy I'll park your car. He said, no, you go  
15 in with Peggy, I'll park my car. But he was a wonderful  
16 gentleman and I'm glad to have known him.

17 **PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you.

18 **PHYLLIS REYNOLDS:** Well, I feel compelled first of  
19 all, Your Honor, to thank you all for your kind words. I am my  
20 Uncle Bob's niece by our -- my father and he were brothers and  
21 growing up in this community I had the privilege of knowing my  
22 grandparents, their parents, and they were lovely people and my  
23 father used to be described as courtly. So these two, they  
24 couldn't have been more different; but they had loving parents in  
25 a community with their parents also. So I'm several generations

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1 of Williamsport and grew up in the community with my cousins and  
2 had the opportunity to see my Uncle Bob serve in the House and we  
3 would go and visit and watch him and it developed a real pride in  
4 me for not only his service, but for my community and made me  
5 politically aware. Now, he forgave me for being -- becoming a  
6 Republican, but he was a wonderful example, as was my father, and  
7 not knowing him professionally, except observing some of the  
8 things that he did, it has been very special for me to hear your  
9 stories and I thank you very much for all of them and I'm so  
10 happy to be here.

11 **PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS:** Could I get your name.

12 **PHYLLIS REYNOLDS:** Phyllis Reynolds.

13 **PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you.

14 **PHYLLIS REYNOLDS:** Thank you very much.

15 **CAROL KIROL:** Well, I've just enjoyed hearing so  
16 many stories about my dad. I had forgotten about the makeshift  
17 rope tow that they used to take up to Eagles Mere. I had heard  
18 that when I was much younger, but I think that was before Sandy  
19 and I started skiing, but on Saturdays he would take us skiing,  
20 ice skating, doing other things. I think a few times my mom  
21 went, but most of the time I think she just was glad to have some  
22 peace and quiet in the house because she had the three of us, who  
23 had a lot of energy, and I think she really appreciated the  
24 break.

25 I would like to say I think because his

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1 parents were service oriented and had this unconditional love, I  
2 think it set him up to be that loving family man and a  
3 professional and a service oriented person and my mom was a  
4 loving, kind, gentle woman and not that she didn't sometimes have  
5 some complaints about the long hours that he spent in Harrisburg  
6 or doing the solicitor work and things, but she was very gracious  
7 and she really was a support and a rock for him and allowed him  
8 to be all that he wanted to be. So I appreciate both my parents  
9 and the example they were to us. Yeah, he encouraged us in  
10 sports, in music, in education. He believed in us. He was very  
11 supportive and wanted us to really follow our dreams and it was a  
12 privilege to have someone that was so busy professionally be such  
13 a strong family man. He wanted to attend, you know, concerts  
14 when he was in town and was able to, sports of not just us, but  
15 grandkids, great grandkids and I think they brought him the most  
16 joy in his life outside of, you know, serving God; but I think he  
17 had a very, very well balanced life and as was said he lived a  
18 life -- he had a life well led and I think that brought him a lot  
19 of peace and joy. So thank you. We appreciate hearing all your  
20 comments and stories.

21 **PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS:** May I have you state your  
22 name for the record.

23 **CAROL KIROL:** Carol Kirol.

24 **PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you. Mr. Flayhart.

25 **MARTIN FLAYHART:** May it please the Court. I'm

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1 Martin Flayhart. I played with Bob in the Repasz Band for many  
2 years and it was always a great pleasure to see him every week.  
3 He was one of our few members, who were in their 90's, that were  
4 still playing in the band; but every week I would see him and we  
5 would have a short conversation; but he was just -- he was just,  
6 as has been noted, such a gentle person and a true gentleman.

7 **PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you. Anyone else?

8 **SANDRA STONER:** If other people wanted to speak I  
9 didn't want to speak, too, but okay. I'm Sandy Stoner, I'm his  
10 youngest daughter, and I want to, too, thank you all so much for  
11 all these wonderful words, all the things that you shared about  
12 him. You know, I grew up with him so I had a version of him, but  
13 I followed in his footsteps, not because he ever suggested that I  
14 should; but I just I saw him, I saw what he did, his desire to  
15 serve people and serve the community and so I thought I could  
16 either become a flute player or a lawyer. I don't think I can  
17 quite make it as a flutist so I'll go for the law. So I became a  
18 lawyer. I actually worked here in this courthouse for four  
19 summers, did title searching for Bill Burd and my father,  
20 obviously, made that happen, helped me get that position when I  
21 was in college, it was my summer job. So I do love the  
22 courthouse, it has fond memories for me.

23 I became a lawyer and went to Dickinson and  
24 then settled in Harrisburg so I didn't come back here. I wanted  
25 to be a litigator so I worked for the Attorney General's Office

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1 for a number of years and then after awhile, also, for the  
2 Commonwealth on the governor's side for awhile. Then when we had  
3 children I decided to quit working, which law is a wonderful  
4 profession to allow us flexibility and, of course, as time goes  
5 by they've gotten more flexible so I quit working; but kept my  
6 license active and then went back part time as a hearing officer  
7 for the Commonwealth for a couple years and now I'm back full  
8 time as well with the Office of General Counsel.

9           It's interesting because when you talk about  
10 him being a gentleman and who he is as a lawyer, that must have  
11 been sent to me by osmosis because that's always been my feeling.  
12 I know when he was in the legislature and he decided to quit  
13 being a legislature there were a couple reasons, one of them  
14 being my mother, I was graduating from high school and my mother  
15 said I let you raise your -- I raised your children while you've  
16 been down there; but this last one is leaving I'm not going to be  
17 at home alone the rest of my life so you can come home. So he  
18 did. But he also saw the politics changing and he once told me  
19 that really what he saw was that you couldn't work together  
20 anymore, people wouldn't compromise, they wouldn't talk about,  
21 you know, their positions and have discussions to try and get to  
22 an agreement and he was saddened by that and it wasn't fun  
23 anymore for him because people were there instead of to service  
24 constituency in their community, they were there to make a name  
25 for themselves and so that was sad, that was sad for him; but he

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1 came back and practiced law for many years and loved serving his  
2 community and doing the things that he did.

3 I'm very grateful for the honor to be able to  
4 be here to hear all of what he did and to say that he loved being  
5 a lawyer and he loved serving people here, helping people and  
6 that is why I became a lawyer. He never said do it, but he did,  
7 as my sister said, he encouraged us to do whatever we wanted to  
8 do. So when I was -- after I went back to working as a lawyer he  
9 was very happy and it was, you know, wonderful all through my  
10 life I could talk to him about things and get guidance from him  
11 as well. So he was that not only to other lawyers, but to me as  
12 his daughter, not only as a daughter; but as a lawyer. So very  
13 grateful to have had a wonderful father so thank you.

14 **PRESIDENT JUDGE BUTTS:** Thank you both for  
15 sharing. Anyone else? Okay. Well then, ladies and gentlemen,  
16 this would conclude the memorial service for Robert C. Wise. I'd  
17 like to, again, thank you very much to the family who have been  
18 here and who have shared and maybe who have just sat in and kind  
19 of basked in the feeling of everyone about Mr. Wise. I'd like to  
20 thank the members of the Law Association, who are here and  
21 friends who have attended this service here today.

22 Once again, this Special Session of Court is  
23 adjourned. Thank you all very much.

24 (Whereupon, the Special Session concluded at 4:55 p.m.)  
25

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