

1 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

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4
5 PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

6
7 MEMORIAL SERVICES

8 f o r

9 DAVID M. WORTMAN

10 JOHN LEWIS KELLY

11 A. FRED FREEDMAN

12 J. ROBERT SHERWOOD

13 ABRAHAM CHASANOW

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15
16
17 Thursday, November 9, 1989

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23 PHYLLIS E. JACOBS

24 COURT REPORTER

25 P. O. BOX 401

UPPER MARLBORO, MD. 20773

P R O C E E D I N G S

. . . The Court convened en banc at three o'clock p.m., there being present Honorable Jacob S. Levin, Honorable Joseph S. Casula, and Honorable James P. Salmon, Associate Judges . . .

JUDGE LEVIN: The Court at this time recognizes the Honorable C. Philip Nichols, Jr., President of the Prince George's County Bar Association.

JUDGE NICHOLS: Judge Levin, Judge Casula, Judge Salmon, thank you for taking this time from your schedule to hold this special session of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. We take this moment each year to remember those who have passed away from out of the service to the Bar and our citizens. It is a good thing and one that we should continue to do as we have for decades, to continue to honor their memory.

I would like to recognize at this time the Chairman of the Bar Association for Prince George's County Committee on Memorials, the former Master for juvenile causes of this court, the Honorable Eddie Hutchinson.

MR. HUTCHINSON: Thank you, sir.

Honorable Judge Levin, Associate Judges of the Circuit Court, you have to pardon me today. I woke up with laryngitis, but I will do the best I can.

As you know, the Prince George's County Bar and

1 the members of the Court each November take an afternoon
2 off to honor the members of this association who have died
3 since the last memorial program in 1988. There are five
4 members who have passed away this year, and we are honoring
5 them in this service.

6 Those of us who have known these men I am sure
7 have profited from knowing them and associating with them,
8 and we think this is a better place that they were here
9 to work with us in and out of the court, in social organiza-
10 tions about the community. As you know, a lawyer, because
11 of his standing in the community, is expected to join in
12 to community interest and activities, and more or less direct
13 people in the way that they should go.

14 Unfortunately the Bar Association today does not
15 hold the honored place that it did say 20 years ago. I
16 don't know why, because I think we have plenty of upstanding
17 lawyers and judges who are doing their best to uphold the
18 law and enforce the law and make people realize that this
19 is a country of laws and we have to live with them and abide
20 by them.

21 It seems that most people today feel they are
22 above and beyond the law. We had a good example in Zsa
23 Zsa Gabor's case, and in these celebrated people who try
24 their case by the press, but it still falls to the Court
25 to get to the letter of the law, interpret the law and render

1 a decision so people know we have an orderly society.

2 The men we are honoring today are David M. Wortman,
3 John Lewis Kelly, A. Fred Freedman, J. Robert Sherwood,
4 and Abraham Chasanow, father of Judge Chasanow, seated at
5 the bench.

6 I would like to call on Mr. Nemeroff at this time
7 who will speak to us regarding Mr. David M. Wortman.

8 MR. NEMEROFF: Judge Levin, Judge Casula, Judge
9 Salmon, thank you for the opportunity to have this com-
10 memorative tribute. I think it's one of the most important
11 things you can do for a member of the Bar not to be forgotten.

12 As a lawyer, David Wortman was a unique breed.
13 He took the position he was the champion of the underdog,
14 champion of the under-privileged, the victimized, whether
15 they are victimized by fate or event.

16 He did so, because he empathized with these people.
17 He knew what it was like to be without; to be down and out,
18 simply to have two quarters to your name.

19 He felt the only way he could better his own life
20 was to better the lives of others. What he did is he put
21 himself in law school while he worked in the 50's, and he
22 used his God-given talents to triumph for the causes of
23 others.

24 His creed was simple. It was based on three principles
25 devotion, honesty and respect. David Wortman was fully

1 devoted to his clients. If he believed in you, there was
2 no cause too small, no effort too great. It was an all
3 or nothing proposition with him. He thought of himself
4 as a lawyer 24 hours a day at all times. To David, the
5 law, as a profession, was based on honesty and integrity.
6 There were no ethical issues or malpractice issues like
7 we have today. There was a right way and there was a wrong
8 way, and he couldn't understand how people couldn't tell
9 the difference between the two.

10 In this era where money and greed often influence
11 a lawyer's values, David Wortman was never affected by money.
12 To him, making money from the practice of law was the result
13 of his efforts and not the reasons for it. He had the most
14 wholesome outlook on money and practicing law of anyone
15 I had ever met. To him, money was something that you paid
16 the bills with, supported his family with, let him play
17 golf with, and if there was a little left over, to place
18 a \$2.00 bet at the track with.

19 David Wortman measured his clients by the size
20 of their cause and not the size of their pocketbooks. He
21 despised lawyers who measured success in the legal profession
22 by how much money they made. To him, success was not his
23 net worth, but by his self worth, and by this measure, David
24 Wortman was a very wealthy man.

25 Finally, David's view of the law was based upon

1 his deep respect for it. As a law clerk for him before
2 I became a lawyer, I would tag along in the very courtroom
3 that I speak in now. He got prepared with the same suit,
4 the buttons didn't match, the shoes were untied, and he
5 would walk in, and the moment he got in the courtroom it
6 was the most sacred thing in the world to him. It was like
7 a temple. The law book was his bible. His teaching was
8 truth and justice. To him there was no more sacred place
9 in the world than the courtroom.

10 For more than 30 years as a lawyer in Prince George's
11 County and Montgomery County, in the Metropolitan area,
12 David Wortman not only lived by this creed, but he instilled
13 it in others. Law clerks and lawyers passed through his
14 doors and under his wings, all of whom were nurtured and
15 inspired by the same creed. Many have moved on and are
16 lawyers in Prince George's County.

17 David Wortman died a year ago tomorrow, and over
18 the last year many lawyers and law clerks and secretaries
19 called the office and his family expressing their condolences,
20 and just wondering what they could do, and some of these
21 people have been in practice for 15 or 20 years; some have
22 been law clerks, some lawyers, some even judges, and I asked
23 myself what was it that moved all these people to inquire,
24 to ask, to be so concerned about somebody. If you knew
25 him, you had been trained by him, if you worked with him,

1 you practiced law with him, then you knew why.

2 David Wortman was an oasis of righteousness.

3 He was the super ego, the conscience of all the secretaries,
4 law clerks and lawyers who had the privilege of his guidance.
5 His physical presence, the sound of his voice, the mere
6 mentioning of his name was a beacon of light for those whose
7 judgment was in doubt.

8 I will end what I have to say in the way he would
9 say it, and that's with a story.

10 About a month before he died, I was trying a case
11 in Montgomery County and a lawyer came up to me and said,
12 "Steve, how is David doing? I heard he is sick," and he
13 wished for me to express his good wishes to him. He was
14 a former law clerk of David's, and had been practicing for
15 almost 15 or 20 years, and was somewhat upset by what news
16 he had heard.

17 He said, "You know, everything I learned about
18 the law I learned from David Wortman." He shook his head.
19 He said, "No, no, that's not right. Everything good I learned
20 about the law I learned from David Wortman."

21 Although he is no longer here in body, his honesty,
22 his integrity, his wisdom and his commitment will live inside
23 our hearts and minds forever, and I will never forget him.

24 Thank you.

25 MR. HUTCHINSON: Thank you. Your Honor, I move

1 these remarks be made a part of the permanent record of
2 this court and a copy of the same sent to Mr. Wortman's
3 family.

4 The next speaker will be Judge James M. Rea who
5 will speak to us about John Lewis Kelly.

6 JUDGE REA: Fellow members of the bench, ladies
7 and gentlemen, fellow members of the Bar, a number of years
8 ago one of my children was asked where she lived, and she
9 said, "I live up on the east side of Marlboro," and the
10 individual says, "You live up on the Gone With The Wind
11 Road."

12 What the individual was referring to, up on the
13 hill east of Marlboro here there are several old plantations,
14 Compton Bassette, Stradford and Ashland. The gentleman
15 that I come to talk about today is John Lewis Kelly, Master
16 of Ashland and a member of the Bar.

17 Ashland is an old antebellum home, and was split
18 by Maryland Route 4 a number of years ago. It was a very
19 productive tobacco farm, and has raised some horses of note
20 over the years. Mr. Kelly married Anna Brooke who inherited
21 the home from her Brooke family, and she and Mr. Kelly had
22 four children, John Kelly, who is in the courtroom here
23 today with his wife Maryanna, and a member of our Maryland
24 Bar and the District of Columbia Bar, and Nancy Hemley,
25 who is married to Dr. Robert Bruce Hemley, who we call Skip

1 Hemley, Katherine Cawood, who is a member of our Maryland
2 Bar and husband is the Honorable James Cawood of the Anne
3 Arundel County Bench, and the last daughter is Mary Stanley,
4 married to Tom Stanley.

5 Mr. Kelly had numerous grandchildren, but I should
6 mention that his granddaughter, Victoria Cawood, is also
7 a member of our Maryland Bar, and works for the Nationwide
8 Insurance Company in Annapolis.

9 Mr. Kelly was born a New Yorker, or from in that
10 area, and came to the Washington area as a young man and
11 worked in the security business selling stocks and bonds,
12 and graduated from George Washington Law School. He was
13 associated with an older member of the Bar by the name of
14 Henry Richardson in the District of Columbia, and he had
15 offices for many years, actually, until they literally tore
16 the building down in the old transportation building over
17 on the west side of the business section of Washington,
18 and his specialty was taxation law.

19 He was a delegate to the American Bar Association's
20 section on taxation, and had numerous clients. One of his
21 clients was a large agricultural production company in the
22 state of Kansas, and at least for one month many years he
23 would go to Kansas to handle their taxation and their books
24 and make their annual reports that all the large corporations
25 have to do.

1 He appeared in this court many times on appeals
2 from the Maryland tax assessor and he many times appeared
3 in the Maryland Tax Court.

4 He also was the accepted authority in the Upper
5 Marlboro region about taxation, and numerous lawyers in
6 this area would refer tax problems to Mr. John Kelly.

7 Mr. John Kelly had many sides about him. One
8 of the things that he dearly loved, and I guess it came
9 out of living on Ashland and being related to the Brooke
10 family, he got very devoted to the field of fox-hunting,
11 and at one time was President of the Marlboro Hunt Club,
12 and was among the ones that were responsible, probably the
13 primary one for the Hunt Club purchase of the old gun club
14 on the Patuxent River and preserving it and keeping it as
15 a place of recreation.

16 In his years as a huntsman, he, of course, got
17 involved with show horses, because he had children, and
18 the result was his oldest daughter Nancy got very involved
19 in horse showing, not that John and Mary and Catherine weren't
20 involved in it also, but in 1948 his thoroughbred horse,
21 Maryland Miss, became the champion hunter of the state of
22 Maryland.

23 I could remember that year very well. He was
24 in law school, and being the boy that kind of lived on the
25 farm across the way, I would go with him and I could remember

1 getting in an old Plymouth car with a horse trailer behind
2 it, and the 1948 horse trailers were very primitive, and
3 I remember going through Washington to Potomac, because
4 in those days there wasn't any beltway, and I know he would
5 haul that horse to Warrenton to horse shows to make the
6 points to become the champion, and he actually took that
7 horse to the Eastern Shore horse shows. It wasn't a matter
8 of going on the ferry or the Bay Bridge, but he had to go
9 all the way to Elkton and come back down with that horse
10 in that old rinky-dink trailer. I remember going down the
11 hills in Montgomery County with the four kids in the back
12 and myself and Mr. Kelly and that trailer coming up, pushing.
13 You were wondering whether or not it was going to get you
14 when it was coming down.

15 Mr. Kelly was a compassionate and charitable man.
16 Mr. Kelly commuted daily from Marlboro to Washington. He
17 had an old yellow Buick at one time, and he had that old
18 Plymouth that I referred to, and Lord knows how many people
19 around Marlboro got a free ride to Washington, because they
20 knew Mr. Kelly was going to Washington, and he never turned
21 anybody down going up the Old Marlboro Pike and taking them
22 into Washington.

23 I know for about a two-year period he hauled two
24 of my sisters almost daily to Washington, and the family
25 very much appreciated that. Another thing that wasn't too

1 well known about Mr. Kelly, Mr. Kelly was very much a man
2 of compassion and the Chief Judge of the United States Court
3 of Claims indicated that there was a problem within that
4 bench, and that was that Judge Charlotte Murphy had had
5 a stroke. Mr. Kelly took on Judge Murphy as kind of a project
6 and worked with her and aided her a great deal and made
7 sure that she went to her therapy and handled her therapy
8 so that she could get other parts of her brain functioning
9 from the parts that had been damaged, and she at one time
10 couldn't speak at all, but through the therapy and through
11 the guidance of Mr. Kelly, Judge Murphy regained her speech
12 and was able at the wake of Mr. Kelly's funeral to be there
13 and be able to talk to people in a very nice way.

14 I knew Mr. Kelly as a neighbor, as a lawyer, and
15 as a friend, and I think that most people in this region
16 could say the same thing, he was a charitable man, he was
17 a good neighbor, and basically among all things he was a
18 good parent and a good man. Thank you, gentlemen.

19 MR. HUTCHINSON: Thank you, Judge Rea. Your Honor,
20 I move that these remarks be made part of the permanent
21 record of this court, and a copy of same sent to the family
22 of John Lewis Kelly. Thank you.

23 The next speaker will be Sam Ianni, who will speak
24 to us about A. Fred Freedman.

25 MR. IANNI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Judge Levin,

1 Judge Casula, Judge Salmon. Fred Freedman was born in
2 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1931. Following graduation
3 from the public schools of Philadelphia, he entered the
4 University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School of Business.
5 He graduated with an undergraduate degree in 1953, and went
6 on to law school at the University of Pennsylvania, and
7 graduated from that school in 1956. He was admitted to
8 practice in Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia and in
9 Maryland.

10 Following his graduation from law school, he was
11 inducted into the United States Air Force, and served at
12 Cyumit Air Force Base in Illinois. Upon being discharged,
13 he went to the Active Reserves and retired as a full colonel.

14 After his discharge from the military, he went
15 to work for the Security and Exchange Commission, working
16 there two years from 1958 to 1960, and then went into private
17 practice, practicing in Maryland and the District of Columbia
18 from 1960 to 1978.

19 For a short period of time, approximately a year
20 in '78, he returned to the Security and Exchange Commission,
21 but then returned back to private practice. Of course he
22 was in private practice at the time of his death.

23 He was a member of his Synagogue for 27 years,
24 was also a member at one time in the Optimist Club in the
25 District of Columbia, and the Chillum Lions Club in Maryland.

1 I knew Fred Freedman as a fellow lawyer. In fact,
2 on one occasion had the pleasure to have him as a worthy
3 opponent. He impressed me with his knowledge of the facts
4 in that case and his knowledge of the law, but he handled
5 himself in a professional and business-like manner, and
6 it was a pleasant experience to deal with him.

7 Fred Freedman died one year ago today, November
8 9, 1988. He was survived by his wife, Judith, and two children,
9 Roberta, a lawyer who practices in Montgomery County, Maryland,
10 and who specializes in immigration law, and his son, Phillip,
11 who was an electrical engineer.

12 MR. HUTCHINSON: Thank you, Sam. I move in this
13 case, Your Honor, that these remarks be made a part of the
14 permanent record of the court, and a copy of same sent to
15 the family of A. Fred Freedman.

16 The next person to be honored is J. Robert Sherwood.
17 They have a misprint in the program saying I am going to
18 speak for him, but Joe DePaul is going to speak for him.
19 One of the reasons for the error is that I didn't tell Joe
20 that I expected him to be here until last Sunday, so he
21 didn't have a whole lot of time to get ready, and they didn't
22 have time to get him on the program. I apologize, Joe.

23 MR. DePAUL: No apology is necessary, Mr. Hutchinson.
24 I am pleased and delighted that you asked me to eulogize
25 my friend J. Robert Sherwood who passed away on June 10th

1 at the age of 83.

2 There are too many of those of us in the courtroom.

3 Robert Sherwood was an institution when we were
4 growing up. He was really a large part of the county, and
5 indeed he and the bank that he headed grew with the county
6 and with the state. He was a man who wrote a chapter of
7 the American story and that chapter was written in Prince
8 George's County.

9 And when he passed away of a stroke and a heart
10 attack, one of the local bankers who had done business with
11 Mr. Sherwood for many years said, "I didn't think a single
12 malady would kill that man. It would take both the combina-
13 tion of a stroke and a heart attack. He was that strong
14 and hearty, and seemed to be bigger than life. Indeed I
15 always thought of him as someone who was larger than life."

16 He went work for the old Prince George's Bank
17 of Hyattsville at the age of 17 in 1922 as a messenger and
18 clerk, and stayed in the banking industry field for the
19 rest of his life until he retired a few short years ago.

20 As a matter of fact, he was President of the successor
21 Suburban Trust from 1957 to 1975, and all of those who
22 practiced law in those years watched the bank grow with
23 the growth of the county. He then became Chairman of the
24 Board, and through the evolution, that again increased the
25 size of the bank and it grew with the county and the state.

1 Mr. Sherwood had first been educated at the old
2 business high school, and from there during the years while
3 working at the bank, he went through undergraduate work
4 and got his degree, and then he picked up an LLB at South-
5 eastern University in 1937, and promptly became a member
6 of the Bar, and was quite proud of his status as a member
7 of the Bar, but did not practice law as such very much,
8 because his activities with the bank were growing and kept
9 him quite busy.

10 He had a side to him that most of us knew quite
11 well, most of us in the county, particularly in the old
12 days he was deeply involved in the community. Bob Sherwood
13 believed that you served the community as well as your family
14 and as well as your profession or business.

15 He was very active in the Boy Scouts of America,
16 and worked for years selfishly with the Boy Scouts. He
17 was one of the charter members of Heroes Incorporated of
18 Washington, and advocated support from the community for
19 those who put their lives on the line for the community.
20 That was one of the duties he felt everyone should undertake,
21 community service.

22 He was a Director of the Prince George's County
23 General Hospital, and worked quite hard with the hospital.
24 He was always active in the Community Chest of Prince George's
25 County, and he found time to serve in many other activities

1 in the community.

2 Now unless you feel that he didn't do everything, he
3 didn't touch on everything, I want to tell you Mr. Sherwood
4 was a very avid golfer, and quite an avid fisherman, and
5 if I could just take a moment, I want to tell you on a personal
6 note an experience with Mr. Sherwood.

7 Back in 1976 he was a key witness in a large federal
8 case which I happened to be one of counsel, and all the
9 other lead counsel were from very large firms in Washington
10 and Baltimore, and they had heard of J. Robert Sherwood,
11 and they were a little timorous about interviewing this
12 man, preparing for trial, and they saw me being the last
13 man on the list, they asked me if I would undertake the
14 job. I said yes, I know Bob Sherwood, I would call him
15 and see him.

16 So I called him. He said, "Why don't you come
17 out to my house. I have a one o'clock tee-off time in Columbia.
18 If you get here about noon we will talk and get you ready
19 and all the other counsel ready."

20 Well, Your Honors know how sometimes courts get
21 stuck for a few minutes past the time you are going to leave,
22 then you get into traffic, and traffic gets congested, and
23 the fracture is compounded, and by the time I got out there
24 it was about 12:30. Mr. Sherwood was pacing up and down
25 in the living room with the putter in his hand. I wasn't

1 too sure he was going to use it on me. I said, "I'm sorry,
2 I'm late." He said, "It's a good thing you are not here
3 for a loan, Joe." We are going to do our business. I told
4 you I will meet with you," and he did.

5 I didn't leave there until 2:30. He went into
6 considerable detail on the functioning of the bank and his
7 interviews by the government agents, and the point is he
8 felt it was his duty, since he was a witness in an important
9 case, that if I took the time out to go to his home to interview
10 him, his golfing friends would wait.

11 This is a man who is duty-oriented and believed
12 in doing what was necessary. I might say Mr. Sherwood
13 was very, very active in the Masonic Order. He was quite
14 active in his community.

15 His family was a good one. He really was very
16 proud of his family. He was survived by three sons and
17 two daughters. His wife passed away several years ago,
18 but he was quite proud of his children and his grandchildren,
19 and at the time of his passing, he had nine grandchildren.

20 You might say that Bob Sherwood was a thing that
21 we all want to be in our community. He was the complete
22 man. He served not only his profession, indeed two pro-
23 fessions, both as banker and lawyer, but he served his
24 community, he served his God, he served all of the community
25 duties, but above all, he was a good family man with a deep

1 and profound sense of ethics. He was a good man. It was
2 a pleasure knowing him. He added to our community, and,
3 Your Honors, I am pleased that I was asked to speak on behalf
4 of this very fine man. Thank you.

5 MR. HUTCHINSON: Your Honors, I move that these
6 remarks likewise be made a part of the permanent record
7 of this court and a copy of the same sent to the family
8 of J. Robert Sherwood.

9 The next speaker will be Mr. William F. Edwards.
10 He was associated with Mr. Abraham Chasanow, the next man
11 to be honored in the practice of law.

12 MR. EDWARDS: Your Honors, honored guests, friends,
13 I have been asked to speak about my friend, Abraham Chasanow,
14 husband, father, friend, attorney, and in remembering Abraham
15 Chasanow, it's of interest to me that it was not a question
16 of recalling war stories of his career, but I remember more
17 of the personal aspect of his life which I would like to
18 share with you. After all, we all know from law school
19 that lawyers never win the cases, the clients win, and when
20 the case is lost, the lawyer lost, of course.

21 Abe was a very important part of my life. I grew
22 up in a community in which he was the leader. I worked
23 with him, I shared office space with him, I litigated with
24 him. I think his life was exceptional.

25 He was born in Philadelphia. His family was very

1 poor, as I understand from history. He had to work to support
2 the family.

3 Despite the fact that he had to work, Abe Chasanow
4 never dropped out of school. He finished school. The school
5 system of Philadelphia at that time was a model system for
6 the country. He had high academic honors. He used to tell
7 a funny story which actually he only told to me once which
8 kind of represented the character of Abe Chasanow that I
9 remember so much.

10 Abe, apparently -- it may not be a big surprise
11 to all of us -- was somewhat small for his age. He used
12 to tell the story of how he used to go to school in the
13 Philadelphia school system in the district he lived in,
14 which was rather rough. He had to fight his way to school
15 and back. I am not sure if it was every day, but the way
16 he told the story, it was.

17 Abe decided he would have to put an end to these
18 boys pushing him around, so he went to a gym and learned
19 how to box, something which was a total anathema for me.
20 As far as Abe Chasanow was concerned, he loved it and learned
21 to be a very good boxer.

22 I remember sitting one day on the couch in his
23 office. We were talking about what happened after he learned
24 how to box. Abe said, "I was good. I went out in the street.
25 I didn't have any trouble with those bullies anymore."

1 And like all attorneys do, they like to use words like "never."
2 I said, "Never met anybody bigger than you, never training
3 or boxing."

4 Abe had a wonderful chuckle that he used when
5 he was about to pin your heart to a tree on cross-examination,
6 or used it when he was going to tell you a funny story,
7 and Abe said, "Bill, one thing I shall tell you about my
8 boxing ability, I was also blessed with common sense. When
9 I got out on the street and the situation didn't look very
10 good, I was blessed with the ability that I was able to
11 run fast as hell."

12 There in that story that Abe told, the accuracy
13 is probably smudged in my mind.

14 Abe knew how to play the cards of life. If I
15 could use an analogy to one of the things he loved to do,
16 and that was card-playing. He knew how to hold the cards
17 when it was necessary to play to the end. He also knew
18 when to fold the cards.

19 Abe came to Washington in 1932 and got a job with
20 the federal government. It was a time of deepening depression.
21 Government jobs were much coveted positions. He stayed
22 with the Navy Department for some 23 years, I believe it
23 was. Shortly after arriving here, he was imposed upon by
24 friends to go out on a blind-date, something he detested.
25 I am not sure any of us really liked that. That night he

1 gave in and met the woman who would save him from future
2 blind-dates, his wife Helen. He was married for over half
3 a century, raised children together, ran a very successful
4 real estate firm together, and she was constantly there
5 to back Abe's practice and anything that happened.

6 They decided to move to a rural area outside of
7 Washington to a little town. That rural area was referred
8 to as Prince George's County back then. As someone else
9 said earlier, it was before the beltway. They moved to
10 a little town known as Tugwell Town, Roosevelt Hill. For
11 those of us who live there, it's called Greenbelt.

12 There he raised his children, one of which went
13 on to become a Golden Glove boxing champion of his own right.
14 He wants to remain anonymous.

15 His children were Howard, Phyllis Richman in the
16 Washington Post column, you may have read, Mirna, a teacher,
17 and Ruth, a teacher. It was here that they formed friendships
18 that in later life they would fall back on and have the
19 support of when they needed it. But Abe was known as a
20 tough attorney, and the thing that amazed me about him was
21 his great love of literature, and he could read a best-selling
22 novel in a day.

23 He supposedly read all the books in the Greenbelt
24 library. I don't know if that's all true. I have difficulty
25 with Abe reading the Nancy Drew series, but he probably

1 read the same number of books that were there.

2 Before Abe and Helen moved from the family home,
3 they took me to the basement, and there on the wall, as
4 I remember, were hundreds, hundreds of books, every book
5 I think he read since he had come to Washington, are carefully
6 preserved.

7 He was a writer. He wrote a little column for
8 the Washington Post when he first came to this town called
9 Today's Epitaph. Someone has collected them. I tried to
10 find some of them. I couldn't find them.

11 He wrote poetry. Most of the poetry was for his
12 wife Helen. I could always tell when an anniversary would
13 come by. It was the only time the door to Abe Chasanow's
14 office was closed. You could see a single piece of paper
15 going back and forth between his secretary and him. When
16 Mrs. Chasanow came to the office, I would say to her, "Mrs.
17 Chasanow, don't we have an anniversary coming up? May I
18 be the first to wish you a happy anniversary." Today, I
19 can't tell you when the anniversary was, because there is
20 no one to close the door.

21 Abe developed and invented his own writing of
22 poetry of Rhymer. As far as I know, there are three copies
23 that escaped from the family. You know, it was a little
24 box you put the word in one side and a rhyme came out the
25 other side. One of those copies went to a favorite secretary,

1 and two others went out to fellow poets who wrote back to
2 Abe telling how much they enjoyed it. I think their names
3 were Ogden Nash and Robert Frost or Carl Sandburg. I can't
4 remember which one it was.

5 In dealing with this man, sharing office space
6 with him, harassing him, enjoying conversations with him,
7 it was hard to remember that this man at one point in the
8 fifties became, during a time which Anthony Lewis called
9 the time of the assassin, a national hero. At this time
10 we call it a media event, a time in which life dealt him
11 a great deal of adversity, and with the support of his family
12 and support of his community, he played the hand he held,
13 the hand that he was dealt, and he won. He was a man about
14 whom Hollywood made a movie called Three Brave Men starring
15 Ernest Borgnine as Abe Chasanow, a man about whom when he
16 died not only do we have the usual eulogy and obituaries
17 in the local papers, but Anthony Lewis, in his column in
18 the New York Times, dedicated one column to the time of
19 the assassin. Abraham Chasanow made a difference.

20 Helen Chasanow died in September of 1988. Those
21 of us who knew them well, knew that without Helen life would
22 be very difficult for Abe. We weren't surprised, although
23 we were hurt, to hear in June of this year he died while
24 on a brief holiday in Atlantic City, but we all knew, although
25 the doctors can tell us the precise reason for his death,

1 the anatomical reason, that without Helen, without his wife
2 of some 56 years, Abe Chasanow decided that the hand that
3 he had been dealt was the type of hand that he was going
4 to fold and walk away. On that day we lost my friend, husband,
5 father and national figure, Abraham Chasanow. Thank you.

6 MR. HUTCHINSON: Thank you. Your Honor, I move
7 that these remarks be made a part of the permanent record
8 of this court, and a copy of same sent to the family of
9 Abraham Chasanow.

10 I want to announce right at this time that these
11 flowers on the table here are for the families of the deceased
12 members who have been honored here today, so I would appreciate
13 the speakers seeing that one flower arrangement get to each
14 family.

15 Now we are ready for closing remarks from the
16 Court.

17 JUDGE LEVIN: Mr. Hutchinson, Judge Nichols, all
18 the judges of this court, and I speak as a representative
19 of all the judges of this court, are indeed grateful to
20 you gentlemen and your organization, our county Bar Association,
21 and members of your committee on memorials for the presenta-
22 tion of these memorials today, and making all the arrangements
23 for this ceremony.

24 It's a tradition that we, in our county, have
25 maintained for many years that, for a few minutes during

1 the course of the year, we pause and pay tribute and honor
2 to our departed brethren or sisters, and pay tribute to
3 their memory.

4 I am going to digress from what is written down
5 here, because I knew all of these five people who we honor
6 today. I went to school with Dave Wortman, I practiced
7 law with Dave Wortman. He practiced law before me as a
8 judge in this court.

9 I knew John Lewis Kelly, I practiced law with
10 Mr. Kelly.

11 I knew A. Fred Freedman. Mr. Freedman ran a clinic
12 in our county and had a radio program that emanated a local
13 Maryland program, and I was a guest on one of his programs
14 during the course of his life.

15 I knew Mr. Sherwood not as a lawyer, but as President
16 of Suburban Trust Bank, and was professionally associated
17 with him on certain occasions.

18 I knew Abe Chasanow. I practiced law with him,
19 and I knew him as a friend.

20 All of these people are deeply ingrained on my
21 mind and with all the judges of this court. So the court,
22 all of whose members have enjoyed a pleasant and a warm
23 and personal relationship with all those who have been
24 memorialized, will grant your motion, Mr. Hutchinson, and
25 direct that the memorials presented will be spread on the

1 permanent records of this court, and that copies will be
2 sent to the families of those colleagues that we honor today.

3 Mr. Bailiff, announce adjournment in honor of
4 our departed brethren.

5 THE BAILIFF: All rise.

6 (Whereupon, the proceedings were concluded and
7 court was adjourned.)
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