

Memorial Resolution
of the
Allen County Bar Association
H. John Okeson

We are here to pay our respects to the memory of our deceased colleague and friend, H. John Okeson, who passed away on April 1, 2008, at the age of 43.

John was a long time Fort Wayne resident and attorney. He is survived by his children, son Kale and daughters, Erin and Abbey. He is also survived by his mother, Betty Okeson; his brother and sister-in-law David and Kristie Okeson, his brother and sister-in-law Paul and Michelle Okeson; and his former wife Ellen Okeson. John was preceded in death by his father, Harry Okeson.

John graduated from Carroll High School in 1982. He earned his undergraduate degree, a B.A. in Political Science, from Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne in 1986. He received his law degree from Indiana University School of Law - Indianapolis in 1989. John was a lifelong supporter of IPFW and Indiana University. In 1991, he was presented the Indiana University Alumni Association President's Award and he served on the Executive Counsel of the IU Alumni Association.

John was admitted to the Indiana Bar in 1989 and a distinguished career as a lawyer and public servant began. He started his law practice in the Fort Wayne office of Baker & Daniels. He remained there until 1994 when he was elected, at the age of 33, as the Indiana Clerk of Courts where he served one term. He returned to Baker & Daniels in 1999 and remained there until 2005 when he became a valuable member of Governor Mitch Daniels' administration, first as counsel for the Family and Social Services Administration and then as senior legislative counsel for nearly two years. Since October, 2007, he had been an attorney with the Indianapolis firm of Hall Render Killian Heath and Lyman. This position enabled him to work a great deal in the Fort Wayne area to be closer to his children.

As dedicated as John was to being a lawyer and public servant, his most important and cherished role came as a father. His family came first and he always found time to lend a hand as coach, as he did for Upward girls basketball and Y-Basketball. He was a proud soccer dad and enjoyed running with his daughter.

John was also an avid athlete. He was often seen running at the YMCA and competing in triathlons, something he had recently persuaded his brother, Paul, to participate in. Not all of his athletic pursuits were so vigorous as he really enjoyed a good round of golf, as well.

John's service to his community was not limited to the political arena. He had served as an executive committee member of Lutheran Child & Family Services of Indiana/Kentucky and as a board member of the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Fort Wayne. In 1999, he was appointed by the Allen County members of the House of Representatives to the Allen County Criminal Justice Task Force to help with strategic planning for Allen County's criminal justice system. John was also a devoted member and leader of Trinity English Lutheran Church.

Whether a person knew John personally or professionally, all came to the conclusion that he was a gracious man of unmatched integrity. He served the people of this community and the State of Indiana with dignity and a firm resolve to make Indiana a better place for generations to come. John's counsel to his clients and friends was well reasoned, respected and appreciated. Many people eagerly awaited his return to public office before his untimely passing.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Allen County Bar Association gives public expression of sorrow upon this, the occasion of the remembrance of the life and death of John Okeson; and

Be it further, resolved, that this Resolution be unanimously adopted by those present at this assembly upon this occasion; and

Be it further, resolved, that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted by the Office of the Allen County Bar Association to the members of the Okeson family; and

Be it further, resolved, that this Resolution be spread of record in the permanent records of the federal and state courts of Allen County, Indiana, to evidence the respect and admiration of the members of the Bench and Bar for their departed friend, John Okeson.

Dated this 15th day of August, 2008.

THE ALLEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

By: Thomas A. Hardin
Thomas A. Hardin, President
Allen County Bar Association

By: Stanley A. Levine
The Honorable Stanley A. Levine
Judge, Allen Superior Court