

*MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF
THE ALLEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION*

MICHAEL T. YATES

Michael Thomas Yates was born April 5, 1948 and died April 2, 2018, three (3) days short of his 70th birthday. Mike was an exceptional lawyer, a former law partner, a running companion and a very dear friend.

He was the son of Thomas O. Yates, deceased, and Jean Boyer. He was a graduate of Bloomfield High School, located in Bloomfield, IN (located 30 miles from Bloomington). He was a member of the school's track team, specializing in distances of a mile and half mile and no doubt derived his life-long passion for running from this experience. He received both his undergraduate and law degrees from Indiana University in Bloomington, graduating in 1973. While in law school, he responded to a posting from the Superior Court here in Fort Wayne, seeking a law clerk. The Judge requesting the clerk was the Honorable Alfred Moellering. With Judge Moellering, Mike learned the importance of proper business attire for men and women while they were in the Judge's courtroom. That simple postcard posting brought Mike to Fort Wayne for a career spanning over 40 years.

Mike participated in a number of service clubs, including Downtown Sertoma, Toastmasters, and was a founding member of the Network Businessmen's club.

Mike and I practiced in the same firm for about 25 years and he had a passion for computers -- something I learned when Mike and Mickey Miller introduced me to the Commodore computer. They encouraged me to purchase one. Later, when our firm entered the computer world, our office manager would always consult Mike to resolve any computer problem before contacting our outside computer consultant. Mike would resolve our issues simply and quickly.

Mike was my "go to" lawyer for matters involving Family Law. Quickly I decided that it was easier to ask Mike to handle any divorce cases than to handle them myself. He had the temperament and patience to handle the most difficult family law clients and served as a Mediator for Family Law cases in Circuit Court. He was also skilled in Medicaid matters and participated in a number of Medicaid courses for the National Business Institute. He was a good litigator and we tried a number of cases together, before both the Bench and the jury. His preparation was always thorough and precise.

Before Mike joined our firm, he had done quite a bit of running including participating in several of the Indy Mini Half marathons and the Home Loan 10 Ks, but never a full marathon (that's 26.2 miles). His first of three marathons was at the age of 60--the Veterans Marathon in Columbia City. His second marathon was the Flying Pig in Cincinnati, a very hilly course. His third and last marathon was in Louisville, one that Mike and I trained for and did together.

If you've ever done a marathon, you know it takes effort, many training miles and several long runs of twenty miles or more to prepare. During one of our training runs on a Saturday morning, we were running on the greenway and encountered a guy who said he wanted to run with us. (I really thought he was looking for a handout.) We said "sure, no problem." We hadn't run more than a minute before he asked us to "slow down." "We can't," Mike said, "we're training for a marathon." To which our new-found friend responded, "I know all about marathons -- I used to work at one."

Mike is survived by Sue, his loving wife of 39 years, shy of forty years by 20 days; two sons, Daniel and Patrick; their wives and grandchildren Cecilia and Johnny; a brother Robert and sister, Barbara. His mother and step-father survive as does his father-in-law, Lee Adang.

I had the privilege of interviewing Mike for the Legacy Project sponsored by the Bar Association and asked him how he wished to be remembered. He said he wanted to be remembered as a capable, competent, effective lawyer who always did what was best for his clients. That's the way I remember Mike -- and also as a very good friend gone way too soon.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Allen County Bar Association give public expression of sorrow at this Memorial gathering upon the occasion of the remembrance of the life of Michael T. Yates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be unanimously adopted by those present; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted by the Office of the Allen County Bar Association to members of the Yates 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 and to evidence the respect and admiration of the members of the Bench and Bar for their departed friend, Michael T. Yates.

Dated this 6th day of August 2018 at Fort Wayne, Indiana.



THE ALLEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

By: Kristin S. Bilinski
Kristin S. Bilinski, President

By: The Honorable John F. Surbeck, Jr.
Judge, Allen Superior Court

Resolution prepared and presented by
William E. Harris