

*MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE ALLEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
FOR HENRY PETER NAJDESKI*

November 20, 2023

WHEREAS we, the members of the Allen County Bar Association, in special session assembled this 20th day of November 2023, meet today to honor our departed friend and colleague, Henry Peter Najdeski, a member of the Allen County Bar Association, who passed away far too soon on April 22, 2023.

Henry was a first-generation American, born April 2, 1971, in Fort Wayne, Indiana, the son of Petar and Ivanka Najdeski, who immigrated to this country from Macedonia shortly before Henry was born. Henry was a member of one of the first graduating classes of Canterbury High School and remained one of its most ardent supporters, eventually serving as a member of the Canterbury School Board of Trustees. Henry's legacy lives on at his alma mater in the Henry Peter Najdeski Scholarship Fund.

Henry studied Economics and Political science at DePauw University where he graduated in 1993 and earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Illinois Chicago Law School in 1997.

It was the summer of 1995 when Henry first walked through the doors of Barrett McNagny, following his first year of law school. Henry spent the summer researching and writing a scholarly article concerning health care and workers compensation law. He returned the next summer to work as a 2L clerk. Henry was not the typical summer clerk. Indeed, there was something about Henry. Was it the ready smile? His classic stories? Was it his

conscientious work ethic and the fact that you could tell Henry was truly happy to be at work? For these reasons and more, Henry was offered a permanent position at Barrett McNagny and started as an Associate in 1997.

Henry became a member of the Indiana bar on November 3, 1997. On that date, he took the oath of attorneys, which include the promise some members of our profession struggle with, but not Henry: "I will abstain from offensive personality." Indeed, Henry had one of the most inoffensive personalities our profession has known. His colleagues, fellow attorneys, clients, and even opposing parties and their counsel would all agree that Henry was one of the most good-natured, genuine, kindest, and honorable individuals they ever encountered. It is a sad rarity in our profession, and Henry's loss is thus more acutely felt.

So much has been and will be said about Henry as a person - that Henry's excellence as a lawyer might be overlooked. But his clients, colleagues, and peers know otherwise. Henry's attention to detail was epic. Amidst his towering stacks of papers, Henry diligently represented clients of all sizes, from start-ups to Fortune 500 companies. He provided counsel on real estate development, zoning, mergers and acquisitions, and complex financing transactions. Henry was recognized by Best Lawyers in America for his real estate work and was recognized as a 40 under 40 in our community.

Work was not a labor to Henry, but a calling. He loved being a lawyer and loved the practice of law. But most of all, Henry loved his firm and the people in it. He took great pride in being associated with Barrett McNagny, and the firm was surely better for its association with him. Henry's presence is truly missed at Barrett on a daily basis. If you closed a deal or

won a case, you could count on Henry to be the first person to call you or email you to offer congrats. He was the consummate booster. In a profession that can sometimes be difficult and dark, Henry was always a positive ray of light to everyone who encountered him.

On his passing, so many people remarked on the fact that they felt Henry had genuine interest and concern for everyone with whom he worked: from the most senior partner to our after-hours cleaning crew. When Henry asked, "how are you?"; you knew that he really wanted to know. And in these exchanges, we often heard about what Henry prized above all: his family. Never was there a prouder son, brother, father, and husband.

From goofy jokes to unexpected acts of grace, Henry brought smiles wherever he went. Those of us who had the privilege of calling him friend can close their eyes and yet see his smiling face—his genuine joy at seeing us—and the inevitable "I got a quick story for you." It was never a quick story.

We recognize Henry's passing as not only a loss for the legal community, but also for the charitable community. In addition to his unflagging support for Canterbury, Henry served on the board of directors for the Questa Education Foundation, the YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne, and Erin's House for Grieving Children.

Diminished as we are by Henry's passing, we are humbled knowing our sorrow is eclipsed by that of his family and loved ones. In addition to the members of the Allen County Bar Association, his colleagues at Barrett McNagny, and his clients, many of whom were good friends, Henry leaves behind his wife, Sarah, their two children of whom Henry was so proud,

Jack and Emma, his parents, Petar and Ivanka, brother, Orfej, and sister Make Karagule.

Together with them, we mourn Henry's passing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Allen County Bar Association gives public expression of its sorrow upon this, the occasion of the remembrance of the life of Henry Peter Najdeski;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be unanimously adopted by those present upon this occasion;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be transmitted by the Allen County Bar Association to the members of the Najdeski family;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be spread of record and become a part of the permanent online records of the Allen County Indiana Bar Association to evidence the respect and admiration of the members of the Bench and Bar for their dear, departed friend and colleague, Henry Peter Najdeski.

Dated this 20th day of November 2023 at Fort Wayne, Allen County, Indiana.

THE ALLEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

By:

Andrew L. Teel, President, Allen County Bar Association

By:

Jennifer Lynne DeGroot, Judge, Allen Superior Court

Resolution prepared by Cathleen M. Shrader and Samuel J. Talarico, Jr. and presented by Samuel J. Talarico, Jr



Resolution of the Huntington County Bar Association in Memory of Henry Peter Najdeski

Henry P. Najdeski was born April 2, 1971 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He graduated from Canterbury High School in Fort Wayne, Indiana in 1989 and then pursued and received his undergraduate degree in Economics and Political Science from DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana. Henry went on to earn his Doctorate from the University of Illinois Chicago School of Law in 1997.

Henry was a Real Estate Attorney and Partner for the law offices of Barrett McNagny LLP for 25 years. He enjoyed practicing law and loved his firm. He was very determined, and everyone in the legal community was familiar with Henry's strong work ethic and many successes. In addition to the firm, Henry was a dedicated member of The Canterbury School's Board of Trustees, helping to lead the school forward. He also served on many non-profit boards through out the community over the years, further showing his dedication to helping others.

Throughout his life, Henry was dedicated to the people around him. Whether they were family, neighbor, classmate, teammate, teacher, law partner, client, or anyone else, Henry was a friend to all. He treated everyone with respect and always made time for a friend.

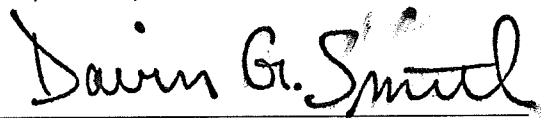
Beyond the practice of law and involvement in his community, Henry was devoted to his family and friends. He was happily married to his wife, Sarah, for 25 years. He had two children, Emma and Jack, that he loved dearly. Henry worked to provide for and serve his family. He led by example with through hard work and integrity. He was very proud of his children, and his legacy will continue to live on through Emma and Jack.

The Huntington County Bar Association recognizes the years of service, professionalism, and advocacy of Henry Najdeski. We acknowledge the many occasions that we have worked with Henry as co-counsel, as opposing counsel, and in our role as advocates in our neighboring communities to strive for a better outcome for our clients.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the members of the Huntington County Bar Association, deeply regret the passing of Henry Peter Najdeski, and extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Sarah, his children Emma and Jack, his family, and his law firm.

Dated at Huntington, Indiana, this 20th day of November, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Davin G. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Davin G. Smith
Judge – Huntington County Circuit Court
Past President – Huntington County Bar Association