

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE ALLEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

David R. Smelko

WHEREAS, We are here to pay our respects to the memory of our deceased colleague and friend, David R. Smelko, who passed away on August 22, 2011, at the age of 54.

WHEREAS, David was born August 31, 1956, in Gary, Indiana, the only child of Richard and Dorothy Smelko. David grew up in Merrillville, Indiana raised by loving parents. He graduated from Merrillville High School in 1974 where he played football and ran track.

WHEREAS, David graduated from Indiana University with a BA in political science in 1978. In 1982, David received his J.D. from Valparaiso University School of Law, graduating within the top ten percent of his class. He served as the Associate Editor for the Valparaiso University Law Review.

WHEREAS, David first came to Fort Wayne in 1982 and was employed with the law firm of Rothberg, Gallmeyer, Fruechtenicht & Logan, predecessor to Rothberg Logan & Warsco, and he became a partner in the firm in 1989.

WHEREAS, David earned a national reputation as a lawyer in the field of banking, representing banks, bond trustees, insurance companies, and other lending institutions from all over the country in sophisticated loan participations, loan sales, loan workouts, and similar transactions.

WHEREAS, David was instrumental in the growth and development of Rothberg Logan & Warsco and is recognized among the members of the firm as a leader, demonstrating expertise, work ethic, a positive attitude, a knack for developing and maintaining personal relationships, and tremendous pride in delivering responsive, quality legal service. Moreover, Dave's expectations of the same characteristics among the other members of the firm became a true catalyst for the success of the law firm during the course of David's career.

WHEREAS, David was the devoted husband of Joan whom he first met in 1976 on the shores of Lake Michigan at the Wells Street Beach, Lake County, Indiana even though both attended the same Catholic church while they were growing up in Lake County. David and Joan dated for nine years while David attended law school and established himself in the practice of law in Fort Wayne. In 1985, David and Joan were married in Lake County and Joan moved to Fort Wayne. For almost three years, David and Joan maintained a somewhat long distance relationship as David worked in Indianapolis three days per week and Joan worked three days per week in Lake County as a court reporter for the Lake Superior Court. Eventually, David and Joan decided that while absence makes the heart grow fonder, absence does not accomplish much when attempting to start a family. Shortly thereafter David and Joan became the proud parents of two daughters, Alexandra and Brittany.

WHEREAS, David was a devoted father who was active in the lives of his daughters, Alexandra and Brittany. Having learned of Alexandra's talents on the soccer field and knowing very little about soccer, David taught himself about the sport and became Alexandra's soccer coach at St. Charles Borromeo School. David and Joan became immersed in soccer as both of their daughters were deeply involved in the sport, including travelling to numerous tournaments across the country as Alexandra played for the Fort Wayne Fever and one year of college soccer at St. Mary's College in South Bend, Indiana.

WHEREAS, David devoted most of his social and leisure time to his family. David and his family were avid fans of Notre Dame and spent many Saturdays each Fall tailgating and experiencing Irish football. David loved to fish, having first learned how to fish from his father on their many fishing excursions. He and his fishing buddies annually travelled to Canada for a week of fishing. David also enjoyed running, in particular, when he and his family were at their vacation home on the beach near Michigan City, Indiana, a place of refuge and enjoyment for the Smelko family, where David and Joan loved spending evenings in the dunes watching sunsets.

WHEREAS, David was a man of faith having been raised in a Catholic home, and was an active member of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church and a loyal supporter of the school, serving over the years, among other roles, as a board member and as a member of various committees, including Finance and Long-Term Planning, as well as serving as a soccer coach.

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 of David R. Smelko.

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 Smelko 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 colleague, David R. Smelko.

Dated this 17th day of February, 2012.

THE ALLEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

By: *Shannon K. Reed*
Shannon K. Reed, President

By: *Stanley A. Levine*
The Honorable Stanley A. Levine
Allen Superior Court

