

*Memorial Resolution of the
Allen County Bar Association*

JOHN FREDERICK LYONS

We are here to pay our respects to the memory of our deceased colleague and friend, John Frederick Lyons, who passed away on March 31, 2009, at the age of 64, after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

John was an Antwerp, Ohio resident and a Fort Wayne attorney. John was a loving family man, leaving behind his wife, Cindy, son John and his wife Sonja, son Michael and his wife Kristen, stepson John Rindahl, stepdaughter Melissa Rindahl, and four grandchildren, Brenten, Jacksen, Reagen, and Chase.

John was born on June 20, 1944 in Bloomington, Indiana and graduated from Bloomington High School in 1962. He received his undergraduate degree from Indiana University majoring in Marketing in 1966, and his law degree from the Indiana University School of Law in 1969, graduating at the top of his class. School honors included Beta Gamma Sigma and Phi Eta Sigma, and he was awarded the prestigious Order of the Coif.

John was admitted to the Indiana Bar, and the U.S. District Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of Indiana in 1969. He was admitted to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit in 1984. John was also a member of the Allen County, Indiana State, and American Bar Associations.

John joined Barrett, Barrett & McNagny in 1969, practicing law with the firm, which became Barrett & McNagny LLP, for 40 years. John developed specialties in appellate litigation, insurance coverage disputes, alternative dispute resolution, and legal ethics.

When the State of Indiana started mandating mediation in many civil cases, John was one of the first lawyers trained and later certified as an accredited mediator. John was an accomplished, well known, and highly respected mediator, often called upon by the members of our legal community to mediate a variety of disputes.

With a firm but gentle style, John helped other lawyers and their clients see their cases in a new light. Many remember John as a gentleman and a “venerable man of the bar.”

John loved the practice of law, and enjoyed discussing cases, theories, and strategies. He had an incomparable writing style and an uncanny way to express just the right sentiment, because, at bottom, John was a poet. John could reduce a roomful of sometimes overly-serious attorneys to laughter and tears with his sharp and penetrating wit (often put to music).

John could be a bit of a prankster too. In his early years at the firm, one memorable stunt had the green associate fearing for his job when a complaint he drafted as a joke (and which was file-marked by the Clerk to add an aura of authenticity) was accidentally picked up and reported on by the *Journal-Gazette*.

John was a very active member of Woodburn Missionary Church. His love for the Lord was profound. He enjoyed teaching Sunday School and acted in his church’s passion play every year. John was well respected at his church, leading one member of his church to remark, “he was the only lawyer I ever liked.”

He was an avid outdoorsman, and loved fishing, hiking, basketball, woodworking, and traveling. He was also a life-long baseball fan, being one of the first to get season tickets when the Wizards came to town.

John will be remembered as a great lawyer and all-around good guy.

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 John Frederick Lyons.

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 Lyons 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

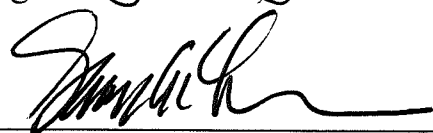
evidence the respect and admiration of the members of the Bench and Bar for their departed friend, John Frederick Lyons.

Dated this 1st day of June, 2009.

THE ALLEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

By: 

Douglas E. Johnston, President

By: 

The Honorable Stanley A. Levine
Judge, Allen Superior Court