

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE ALLEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

FOR DENNIS C. BECKER

May 23, 2022

We are here to honor the memory of our colleague and friend Dennis C. Becker, who passed away on March 6, 2021, at the age of seventy – too soon.

Denny was born on February 6, 1951, in New Haven, Indiana, and throughout his life, he remained proud of his East Allen County roots. Denny's parents were Carl and Charlotte Becker. He had three older brothers: Larry, Ron (now deceased), and Bill. He also had a younger brother Jeff, and a younger sister Becky. Being the middle child of six may explain Denny's well-known ability to get along with just about everyone.

While in high school, Denny was the captain of New Haven's football team and the prom king. The prom queen was a cheerleader named Nancy Netherland. Nancy was also Denny's future wife.

From this early age, Denny and Nancy forged a rare bond that lasted more than 55 years. They were best friends. If you happened not to know Nancy, Denny would proudly tell you about her. He genuinely admired Nancy's intelligence and work ethic. He also loved her company. We would all do well to try to emulate their marriage.

Denny graduated from Indiana University in 1973 with a degree in business. He helped pay for college by working at Bennett's clothing store in New Haven - which kindled a lifelong interest in fine apparel.

Before law school, Denny worked as a CPA for Coopers & Lybrand in Fort Wayne. After matriculating at the Georgetown University Law Center, Denny transferred to the Washington, D.C. office - working his way through school. Always an excellent student, Denny was named as an editor of the Georgetown Law Review.

Denny's career as a lawyer was remarkable. He spent more than 20 years at Barrett McNagny, working on corporate, tax, and non-profit matters alongside luminaries like John Martin, Tom Fink, and Tom Horton. Thereafter, Denny continued much the same work at Barnes & Thornburg for another decade. He had many loyal clients that followed him between firms and with whom he developed close friendships. Beyond his legal acumen, Denny's colleagues at Barrett and Barnes remember his optimism and equanimity, even when confronted with piles of work. Probably another blessing of being the "middle" child.

When he passed, Denny was a partner at Beckman Lawson. He remained actively engaged in the practice of law, outlasting most of his colleagues on the typical workday. Denny also remained curious, diligent and a rather voracious consumer of paper. It was not uncommon for him to walk off at 6 pm on Friday with three or four hundred pages of articles on a recent IRS ruling. Despite driving up the copier costs, Denny was a great partner. He truly cared about his colleagues and was a great mentor to younger lawyers at the firm. Far from seeing other lawyers as threats, or as obstacles, he wanted them to succeed.

Denny was a very smart lawyer. Like a good Lutheran and Hoosier, however, he was also very practical. He had good judgment. He was wise. He was gracious, even to those who hadn't especially earned grace, which is of course how grace should be. Denny exemplified the collegiality that our bar association holds dear.

Beyond his career, Denny helped raise two boys, Tyson and Devin, whose personal accomplishments and families made their father very proud.

Tyson is a General Motors executive, which once led Denny to acquire and drive a Chevrolet Cruze out of solidarity with his son. Tyson now works in Shanghai for GM, where he resides with his wife Kady and Denny's grandchildren, Jack, Josie, and Nolan.

Devin is a full-time professor of Library Science at the University of Idaho. He is also an accomplished poet, a fact that Denny loved to share. Devin is married to Kristin, and they have two children, Agnes and Wallace.

In addition to practicing law and raising a terrific family, Denny was actively involved in the community. He served as Chairman of the Board for Matthew 25 and on several corporate boards. He was also involved in many Lutheran organizations, including the Concordia Theological Seminary, the Lutheran Foundation, Lutheran Social Services, LCMS, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, and Lake George Lutheran Chapel. As with the rest of Denny's efforts, he served quietly and effectively.

Despite his many talents and successes, Denny remained grounded and humble. He had a genuine smile and a delightful chuckle. If you stopped by his office or encountered him at an event, you could expect a warm greeting, some light gossip, and a healthy dose of IU basketball.

WHEREAS, we will miss Denny and his kindness and grace.

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 Dennis C. Becker.

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 Becker family; and

BE IT FURTHER RESLOVED, 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 our departed friend, Dennis C. Becker.

Dated this 23rd day of May, 2022 at Fort Wayne, Indiana.

By: *Sarah Schreiber*

Sarah Lorraine Schreiber, President, Allen County Bar Association

By: *Jennifer DeGroote*

Jennifer Lynne DeGroote, Judge, Allen Superior Court

Resolution prepared and presented by Matthew J. Elliott, Esq.

