



Martin Johnston Saunders

February 15, 1949 - November 2, 2019

Martin Johnston Saunders

Age 70, of Fox Chapel, passed to eternal life on November 2, 2019.

Son of the late Norval Saunders and Jane Johnston Saunders. Born and raised in Cincinnati, Marty came to Pittsburgh in 1974 when he joined Westinghouse as labor counsel following graduation from New York University with an LL.M. in labor law. Survived by his wife of 34 years, Rosanne Clementi Saunders; and children, Martin R. (Juliane Berg) and Clare A. The family is grateful to everyone who supported Marty after he was diagnosed with ALS in 2018, particularly the staff of the Western Pennsylvania Chapter of the ALS Association and the ALS Clinic at Allegheny General Hospital. Marty practiced management labor and employment law for over forty years. He finished his long and distinguished legal career by opening Steptoe and Johnson's labor practice in Pennsylvania. Considered by his Steptoe peers to be an authority on the legal community in Western Pennsylvania, Marty was regularly recognized by Best Lawyers in America and was known as a generous mentor to younger lawyers.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the ALS Association, Western Pennsylvania Chapter, 416 Lincoln Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15209.

Visitation Thursday, Nov. 7th from 6-8pm and Friday, Nov. 8th from 2-4pm and 6-8pm at the Thomas Smith Funeral Home, 930 Center Avenue, Blawnox, PA 15238.

Family and friends will gather at the Funeral Home on Saturday, November 9th at 9am for Mass of Christian Burial at Madonna of Jerusalem Church, 201 9th Street, Sharpsburg, PA 15215, at 10am. Burial to follow.

Cemetery

Calvary Cemetery

718 Hazelwood Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA, 15217

Events

NOV **Mass** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

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Madonna of Jerusalem Church
201 9th Street, Sharpsburg, PA, US, 15215

Comments



“ I was one of the younger attorneys to whom Marty served as a mentor towards the end of his legal career. We started at Steptoe & Johnson on the very same day —me as a brand new Associate and Marty as Of Counsel—and we quickly became close colleagues within the firm. Marty was a strategic and accomplished employment litigator, and he was very generous in sharing his time, knowledge, and experience with me. We talked regularly, and he was never too busy to let me pick his brain about case strategy, to provide career guidance, or just shoot the breeze—even after he retired. I’ve been heartbroken since I learned of his passing and will truly miss him.

Julie Moore - November 06, 2019 at 07:31 PM



“ I am greatly saddened by Marty's passing. I was unaware of the extent of his illness. I first met Marty when he first worked with Thorp Reed, and I represented the UE. We had many, cases together. He was always a gentleman, and at the same time a zealous advocate for his client. He and I made a number of CLE presentations together. He was a walking encyclopedia of labor and employment law, always willing to share his expertise. He had a great sense of humor. He was a great friend, he will be missed. Kathleen and I send our best to Roseanne, Marty Jr. and Claire. Jim Logan

Jim Logan - November 06, 2019 at 04:51 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Marty's passing. What a wonderful fellow. Prior to my retirement we worked together on several matters at Steptoe & Johnson, and he was always a pleasure to be with. Marty was indeed a fine labor and employment attorney. He was also very proud of his family, and spoke fondly of them often. God bless him. Dave Dick

David Dick - November 06, 2019 at 04:22 PM



“ Marty will be greatly missed. I had the pleasure of working with Marty after he joined Steptoe & Johnson on both traditional labor issues and employment law issues. Indeed, I referred him several matters because I knew that they would be well-handled. Marty was truly an expert in labor law. He had the rare gift of being the perfect gentleman and being courteous to all while at the same time being a zealous advocate for his clients. In addition, he was a great person to be around. We travelled together twice to Connecticut on business, and I look back fondly at those trips because of the fun we had. I offer Marty's family my most sincere condolences. David Morrison.

C. David Morrison - November 06, 2019 at 08:44 AM