



Ralph J. Monaco

Ralph J. Monaco, the CBA's 87th president, passed away suddenly on Saturday, July 10. Attorney Monaco served as president during the 2010-2011 bar year, and was, at the time of his service, the second youngest president in the history of the Connecticut Bar Association.

Attorney Monaco was a champion of civics education, founding the Civics Education Committee and continuing to serve as a co-chair and member for many years thereafter. Most recently, he served as co-chair of the Rule of Law Committee, which held its fourth Rule of Law Conference on June 28, and the Financial Impact on the Legal Profession Subcommittee of the COVID-19 Task Force, which provided much-needed information, resources, and advocacy for the profession at the height of the pandemic. Attorney Monaco served as chair of the Modernizing Lawyer Referrals & Law Firm Models Subcommittee of the State of the Legal Profession Task Force as well as legislative liaison of the Litigation Section. He previously served as chair of the Opioid Taskforce, as a member of the House of Delegates and Board of Governors, and as chair of the Young Lawyers Section.

As a partner at Conway Londregan Sheehan & Monaco PC, Attorney Monaco practiced in civil and commercial litigation, with an emphasis in the areas of personal injury, wrongful death, product liability, medical malpractice, insurance litigation, municipal litigation, and workers' compensation. He was a Board Certified Trial Lawyer and had extensive experience with jury and court trials in both federal and state court.

Attorney Monaco served on the Jury Committee of the Chief Justice's Public Safety and Trust Commission and was appointed by Connecticut Secretary of the State Denise W. Merrill to serve on the Civics Commission. He was an active member of the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association, Connecticut Bar Foundation, and New London County Bar Association.

Attorney Monaco's sudden passing is a deep loss to our profession and to our community, and we will miss his wise counsel, his thoughtful and impactful leadership, and his warm and reassuring presence. He is survived by his wife, Dina, and two daughters, Abby and Anna. ■

REFLECTIONS FROM COLLEAGUES

The passing of Ralph Monaco is tragic and unexpected. My office worked with Attorney Monaco for a decade, shepherding Law Day Programs as well as our partnership with CBA through the Volunteer Attorney program. Ralph was a strong supporter of civic education through his work on the Civic Education Committee of the CBA. I grieve with his family and all who knew him. His legacy of public service will live on through the lives of countless students who benefitted from those programs.

—Connecticut Secretary of the State
Denise W. Merrill

Attorney Ralph Monaco was a dedicated member of the CBA, leading numerous important initiatives before, during, and after his service as president. He was a true role model for so many of us within the profession, and always exhibited the highest levels of professionalism and civility. His record of service and leadership within our profession is truly inspiring. Ralph was always willing to answer the call to service, and led highly effective CBA initiatives focused on the most pressing issues of our times. All of us feel his absence deeply, and will miss his warmth, wisdom, and kindness.

—Cecil J. Thomas
2021-2022 CBA President

Ralph wasn't just a colleague but a great friend for over 25 years. I will carry fond

memories with me of the many NY Giants games we attended with his big Italian family in the Meadowlands and his eagle in golf the last time we played together. His reputation as a tireless advocate for his clients is well-known throughout the statewide Judiciary. Whether he was litigating difficult cases against Louisville Slugger, Ski Sundown, Rhode Island Station Fire defendants or handling small scale matters for friends, Ralph gave 100% effort to the case. His willingness to mentor younger lawyers and volunteer his time to his community and Bar Associations brought out his character of putting other's needs before his own—truly admirable and the likes not often seen in today's world.

—Daniel J. Horgan
CBA President-elect

"[T]here's no Connecticut lawyer who has done more than Ralph to advance the legal profession's responsibility to aid in education about civics and the rule of law. Ralph used his influence...to bring much needed attention to national and statewide deficiencies in civics education.... Ralph made civics education initiatives the centerpiece of his CBA presidency, beginning with a gala event featuring United States Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and her then-new iCivics project, and culminating in a much needed elementary

teachers' training session. Ralph's leadership led to the very successful interactive Law Day programming that the CBA Civics Education Committee organizes to this day, and spurred the organized bar to actively support other civics education projects, such as the Civics First high school mock trials where he both coached and judged.

—Jonathan Weiner

Ralph was my mentor, my friend and my hero. We are all blessed to have witnessed his extraordinary legal ability, utter dedication to the legal profession and most importantly the love for his family, friends and community. As a young lawyer during our days in the YLS and all the way through his most recent commitments to civics and the rule of law, he was a leader I always followed because he knew the way. While he will be profoundly missed, Ralph's inspirational legacy will be in our hearts and minds forever.

—Lawrence F. Morizio

Ralph was a lawyer's lawyer—one of the finest trial lawyers in the state and an amazing person. Ralph was chair of the CBA YLS a few years before me and was always a role model to me of what I wanted to do to follow in his footsteps. There was never a time he didn't have a smile on his face and he brought such a graciousness and care to everything he did.

—Daniel A. Schwartz