

Chambers of the Circuit Judge
JACKSON COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

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DIANE L. SPROUL
Deputy Register in Probate

***ERIC F. STUTZ
MEMORIAL***

In keeping with long standing tradition, this memorial for Attorney Eric F. Stutz is prepared and respectfully submitted for filing in the records of the Circuit Court for Jackson County and the Tri-County Bar Association.

Eric always governed his conduct with an over-riding commitment to "fairness". He did not believe in any type of trickery or ambush. He never took advantage of an adverse party or opposing attorney – never. He was a prominent divorce family and estate lawyer and shouldered a work load and schedule which left others in wonderment. He often walked to work at 4:00 a.m. and could be found in his favorite chair in front of the fireplace at the office on weekends.

Eric was fiercely loyal to family, friends and clients, but he would "fire" a client if he felt they were being unreasonable or unfair.

He truly loved family law. He willingly served as a guardian ad litem, delighted in adoptions and served a time as Family Court Commissioner. He was a talented estate planner and was always willing to freely share his knowledge in that field through public presentations.

Eric Francis Stutz was born December 10, 1944, in Aurora, Illinois, the baby in the family, to Roger D. and Alice (Clark) Stutz. Eric's father, a high school chemistry teacher, died when he was six. Alice worked extremely hard to provide for the family.

These were tough times for our nation and she grew much of what the family needed in their victory garden. This is where Eric developed the love of gardening. He was raised in Aurora and graduated from Aurora East High School. He later graduated from Beloit College and then from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School. While at Beloit College, Eric was a star quarterback and received draft interest letters from numerous NFL teams, but, his passion for law exceeded his passion for football which was probably dampened by repeated surgeries for a dislocated shoulder.

In 1970, he became a member of the law firm of Sherman, Pizzini and Stutz of Black River Falls, which later became Sherman, Stutz and Lister. In 1984, he and attorney Tom Lister formed a law partnership known as Stutz and Lister. He never seemed more self important than anyone else due to his status as an attorney and often knew more lawyer jokes than anyone else.

Eric was active in the community and in the lives of his family. He served as a teacher at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, a baseball coach, a hockey coach and his favorite role – that of a golf instructor to the town (whether asked or not).

Eric married his wife, Joyce, on January 23, 1988, in Black River Falls. He loved his family, daughter, Kristin, and son, Greg, and Joyce's family dearly. His hobbies included golfing and gardening. His sense of humor and love of laughter were infectious to everyone around him.

Eric served as City Attorney for Black River Falls and for many years he was proud to serve as Village Attorney for Melrose. As a Court Commissioner and Family Court Commissioner he loved "playing judge" when he filled in.

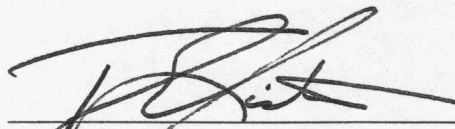
His dream of sitting on the bench, though unfulfilled, kept him going as he battled cancer. He was "popularly" elected April 1, 2008 but died on May 2nd of the same year.

His fatherly figure, his humor, his compassion, his love of life and his knowledge of the law will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

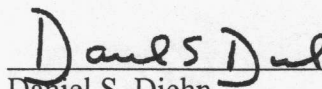
His passing leaves a void in the Tri-County Bar Association, an organization which he truly loved. The feeling was mutual.

Dated, January 9, 2009.

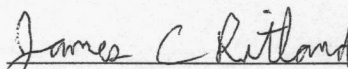
Respectfully Submitted:



Honorable Thomas E. Lister
Circuit Court Judge
Jackson County, Wisconsin



Daniel S. Diehn
Attorney at Law



James C. Ritland
Attorney at Law