Stanley Morton Fisher (1928–2011)

Our good friend and colleague, Stanley Morton Fisher, passed away on Jan. 28, 2011. Stan became a member of the Federal Bar Association on Aug. 1, 1956. He served as the president of the Northern District of Ohio Chapter and later became the first person from Ohio to be elected national president of the Federal Bar Association. He was a Charter Life Fellow of the Foundation of the Federal Bar Association. He was the first recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from his chapter, and a life member of the prestigious Judicial Conference of U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Stanley Morton Fisher was born on Feb. 15, 1928, and was raised in New Philadelphia, Ohio. Coached by the legendary Woody Hayes (later of Ohio State University fame) as a high school freshman, Stan was always proud to have been the starting offensive right tackle of the undefeated 1944 New Philadelphia High School Quakers.

Stan earned his undergraduate degree from Oberlin College and his law degree from the University of Michigan Law School. After graduating from law school, he went to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he served as a clerk first for Chief Judge Simons, and then for Judge Potter Stewart of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Throughout his career, Stan worked in several prominent law firms in Cleveland, including Arter & Hadden, Ulmer Berne, and Guren Merritt. He last practiced as of-counsel with Budish, Solomon, Steiner & Peck.

In addition to teaching at Cleveland State University’s Cleveland Marshall College of Law, Stan was a published author, president of the American Counsel Association, and a life member of the National Uniform Law Commission. He also served on several national committees responsible for updating federal codes. In 1995, he was appointed to the Federal Service Impasses Panel, which assists in labor negotiations with federal workers.

Stan was a member of both the Ohio and Florida bars. He served as a Big Brother and was on several boards of Cleveland-area Jewish institutions. In his free time, Stan enjoyed bicycling, golf, and tennis. He is survived by his second wife, Beverly Ludwig Fisher; his children, Richard (and his wife, Jill Storey), Lee (and his wife, Peggy Zone Fisher), Barbara (and her husband, Michael Scott), and Suzanne (and her husband, Steve Miller); four stepchildren; and 13 grandchildren.

During Stan’s term as national president of the FBA, he was instrumental in increasing the association’s membership and national visibility and he remained active both at home in Ohio and nationally until the time of his death. In honor of his first wife, Elaine “Boots” Fisher, who predeceased him, Stan established and endowed the FBA’s Elaine “Boots” Fisher Memorial Fund Award, which is presented each year at the association’s Annual Meeting and Convention to recognize the awardee’s civic, charitable, and professional contributions to his or her community. During his 55 years of membership, Stan always shared his grand vision of the importance of the FBA to all federal practitioners. He is dearly missed by his family, but his hearty laugh, strong handshake, and utter devotion to and passion for the Federal Bar Association will always be remembered by his FBA friends and colleagues.

Diana Thimmig is the president elect of the Northern District of Ohio Chapter of the FBA.

Government Contracts Section

On April 13, the Government Contracts Section’s Small Business Committee, along with the Professional Services Council, Women Impacting Public Policy, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, and the FBA’s D.C. Chapter, organized a presentation on the Women-Owned Small Business Procurement Set Aside Program.

On May 28, the section held a free reception and CLE presentation on “The Role of Independent Private Sector Monitors in Federal Contracts.” Speakers included Ron Goldstock, New York commissioner on the New York/New Jersey Waterfront Commission; Allison Lerner, inspector general for the National Science Foundation and chair of the IG Community’s Suspension and Debarment Working Group; Rafael Roman, director of the Information Technology Acquisition Center, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; and David Williams, inspector general for the U.S. Postal Service. The panel was organized and moderated by John Lenoir, managing director of KeyPoint Government Solutions.