

by Alison S. Bachus

Mark P. Hummels

Federal Bar Association Phoenix Chapter President

Mark P. Hummels, a respected Federal Bar Association leader, attorney, husband, and father, was tragically shot after a mediation on Jan. 30, 2013. He was just 43 years old.

Mark joined the FBA in 2005 after completing a clerkship with Hon. Andrew D. Hurwitz, then a justice of the Arizona Court of Appeals and now a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Soon after joining the FBA, Mark was appointed to the Board of the Phoenix Chapter, and then elected to the chapter's leadership ladder in 2009. He made a quick impression on his fellow board members with his humor, intelligence, and pragmatic solutions. Simply put, Mark was someone you instantly liked.

Law was not Mark's first profession, however. Prior to attending law school at the University of Arizona, he was a journalist in Colorado and New Mexico. After distinguishing himself as a newspaper reporter, Mark graduated first in his law school class and earned the highest score on the Arizona bar exam. His background as a newspaper reporter aided him in his law practice and as an FBA leader; his questions were insightful and his manner was easy-going.

As to be expected, Mark was a gifted writer—his writing was compelling, yet concise. The Phoenix Chapter was fortunate to benefit from his writing skills in one particularly important moment, after Chief Judge John Roll was killed in the January 2011 Tucson shooting. The chapter worked diligently to bring issues Judge Roll championed, such as the judicial vacancy crisis, to the fore. One such way was through letters to the editors of various newspapers, which Mark drafted and re-drafted along with his fellow FBA leaders until he believed they would be appealing to newspaper editorial staffs. His insight during that process was invaluable and a large reason why the chapter's campaign was a success.

While leading the chapter, Mark quickly rose within his firm, Osborn Maledon, to become a partner. His fellow partner David Rosenbaum said, "We all know that Mark Hummels was a brilliant lawyer, as his first place finish on the bar exam shows. But what made Mark special—as a lawyer and as a friend—was his humanity ... his sincere concern about, and interest in, those he worked with. He brought common sense, and humor, and perspective to life and to work. We miss him dearly."



As chapter president, Mark coordinated the chapter's monthly CLE luncheons. The last one Mark planned before he died took place in February. The speaker, who had been invited by Mark, was Judge Hurwitz. The luncheon was attended by many members of the legal community as a way to honor Mark, and Chief U.S. District Judge Roslyn O. Silver was among the speakers who discussed how he touched the court family. Mark's successor as chapter president, Andrea Marconi, also remembered him as a vivacious leader who

always had a thoughtful, and more importantly, kind word for everyone. In addition, a speaker from the Donor Network of Arizona spoke about organ donation—Mark's last act was to donate his organs and tissue to help save others' lives. Dozens of people registered to donate in Mark's honor at the luncheon. Indeed, his wife, Dana, asked that all FBA members be encouraged to register as organ donors. To register, take five minutes and visit www.organdonor.gov.

In addition to his efforts on the local level, Mark was also involved with the FBA nationally. He was a welcome and humorous presence at the annual and midyear meetings, and he was a Fellow of the Foundation of the FBA. Mark's impact was evidenced by FBA

President Bob DeSousa's presence at Mark's memorial in February. DeSousa reflected, "Mark's sense of humor, quick wit, and Mark's presence was felt far beyond the borders of his home state. He will be missed greatly by the entire Federal Bar Association."

Despite his myriad accomplishments, though, Mark was humble. Looking at him, one would have never known that he was a distinguished attorney. One would also not have known that he kept a unicycle in his office and was known to bring it out and ride it in the office to break up tense moments. He was also known to juggle while riding!

Above all else, Mark's focus was on his family. The FBA mourns the loss of Mark, and extends its condolences to his wife, Dana, and their two young children. Anyone who wishes to donate funds in Mark's honor may do so to either the Hummels Children's Fund at Alliance Bank of Arizona, 2901 N. Central Ave., Ste. 100, Phoenix, AZ 85012, or to the Mark Hummels Memorial Fund at the Arizona Community Foundation at www.azfoundation.org/hummels. ©

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