

# JACK GALLON

Jack Gallon was one of the giants of the Toledo legal community. Probably the best known and most successful labor lawyer of the last half century, he was also a longtime board member of Toledo Area Metroparks and extremely active in the Jewish community.

Jack was a championship wrestler, who graduated from DeVilbiss High School then went to the University of Michigan on scholarship. Jack got both his bachelor's and law degrees from Michigan, and remained an ardent alumnus and fan all his life.

In 1955 Jack returned to Toledo to practice law, and opened his office inside the Teamsters Hall, thus beginning a storied career dedicated to service and advocacy on behalf of labor unions, working people, and civil rights. He leaves behind the prominent firm bearing his name: Gallon, Takacs, Boissoneault & Schaffer.

Jack was passionate about the First Amendment and civil rights, and was instrumental in the success of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee. He also founded the Teamster Local 20 Legal Defense Fund, the first such program in the nation.

Jack received too many honors to list, but among those of which he was most proud were the Ohio Parks and Recreation Citizen of the Year, the National Parks and Recreation Association Board Citizen of the Year, and the Toledo Legal Aid Society Access to Justice Award. Jack was a charter member of the National Labor Advisory Board of Israel Bonds, former chair of the Labor Advisory Board of the Jewish National Fund, and longtime member of the Farmworker Justice Committee.

Jack Gallon had legal talent to spare, and he worked hard, a tough combination to beat. His love of the law, and social justice, inspired all of his colleagues. Although he is gone, his work lives on. Like the legendary Joe Hill, "where workers fight and organize," there you'll find Jack Gallon.

Respectfully submitted,

William E. Takacs, Chair  
Thomas J. Schaffer, Committee Member  
Vernon J. Williams, Committee Member