

MARC GERTNER

Marc Gertner was born on April 17, 1932 in Columbus, Ohio to Louis and Pearl Gertner. He was a graduate of Bexley High School and received a bachelor's degree from Harvard College. Something you may not know about Marc is that he attended Harvard Law School, albeit for one day! As a graduate with honors from Harvard College, Marc was admitted to Harvard law, and only learned after the first day of classes that he could not afford to go there. Instead, he returned home to Columbus, to attend The Ohio State University. He graduated summa cum laude from Ohio State and was editor in chief of the Law Journal, a job he once described as “an honor, and lots of work for no pay.” It was during his tenure at Ohio State that Marc met Sandy and they were wed not long after his graduation.

Although Marc graduated at the top of his law school class, not a single major law firm in Columbus would offer a job to a Jewish lawyer. With the help of his law school Dean, Marc became an associate of a firm in Providence, Rhode Island. It was not too long before Marc returned to Toledo to be closer to Sandy's family and became affiliated with Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick.

In Toledo, Marc evolved into a legal world unto himself and became noted for his expertise in ERISA law. In the words of David Katz, classmate, colleague and friend, Marc was “the absolute master of ERISA law, not just locally but nationally.” Marc wrote books, articles and gave speeches on ERISA and his expertise was widely sought by many. As he told his son Doug, “Join ERISA and see the world.” And Marc did—he flew many miles all because ERISA people wanted to hear what he had to say in speeches.

Marc also embodied the spirit of generosity. As a colleague, collaborator, mentor or benefactor, his professional and civil contributions were well documented. His generosity extended

to Harvard, Ohio State and he was legal counsel to the Junior League for nearly 25 years. He was generous to so many other organizations through time, talent and treasure.

Marc was also devoted to family and he delighted in his children. Unfortunately, he was no stranger to loss and experienced it first-hand, in 1966, with the death of his wife Sandy, only to be followed by the loss of his 6 year old daughter Toni, to leukemia, in 1971. Marc remarried and found a steady partner in Bette for 27 years until her passing in 1994. His third marriage to Geraldine brought him 13 years of solace before ending in another loss.

When Marc retired he moved to Naples, Florida but kept in contact with friends from Toledo. In November 2008, Marc again moved to Denver to be near his son as his health was declining. When Marc spoke with friends near or far after his move to Denver, he never failed to rave about the attention and care afforded him by his family. He clearly loved his family and Marc's children returned that love in caring for him at the end of his life.

Marc was amongst the most respected attorneys in this legal community. He was a trusted and valued friend and colleague. He gave much of himself to Shumaker Loop, his clients, to his community, and to his family. He will be sorely missed for all those attributes.

Marc is survived by his children, son Doug, daughters, Peggy Rice and Pamela Glatman and three grandchildren.