

Andrew Hart

Andy Hart passed away on April 25, 2013. Though it has been a year since Andy's passing, he remains very much in the heart of our community.

Andy was a lifelong criminal defense attorney who dedicated his talents to representing the indigent. He began his legal career at the Wood County Public Defenders Office. When the Office of the Federal Public Defender opened its Toledo office in 2008, Andy was chosen as a founding Assistant Federal Public Defender.

Andy worked tirelessly for his clients and treated each one with dignity and respect. While his clients suffered from a number of deficits, not the least of which was exceedingly poor judgment, they always knew Andy cared about them. In addition to his genuine compassion for his clients, Andy had a keen legal mind and enjoyed looking for innovative ways to address seemingly insurmountable problems. Andy was successful on many levels in his work; however, he never sought out public accolades and did not allow news of his achievements to reach any further than needed. He was as honorable as he was humble.

Though Andy possessed an undeniably sharp wit, an easy smile, and a generous spirit, he was also very creative. He carved wood, learned glassblowing, taught himself Arabic, and took flying lessons. Andy's greatest love, however, was his young daughter Abigail. Being a father to Abigail gave Andy the most profound joy he had even known.

Andy left this world too soon, but those of us who knew him are better people for having done so. In addition to his daughter Abigail, Andy is survived by his parents Philip and Donna Hart; Abigail's mother Christine Jilek Hart; brother David Hart; and niece Ella Hart.

Amy Cleary, Assistant Federal Defender
Kathy Hamm, Wood County Public Defender
Jeff Helmick, U.S. District Court Judge