

Jeffrey S. Creamer

He was born on December 6, 1951, to Robert Creamer and Margaret Stahl in Mansfield, Ohio. Jeff attended St. Peter's Elementary School and Vermilion High School and graduated in 1969. After having some great adventures with his friends (including his much-recounted trip of hitchhiking across America to end up in Mexico), he attended the University of Dayton and received his law degree from Case Western, where he earned the Order of the Coif and was an editor of the law review. He began his legal career at Taft, Stettinius & Hollister in Cincinnati, where he met his wife, Aleta Bonini. They moved to Toledo, Ohio, where he continued his legal career as a partner at Shumaker, Loop and Kendrick until 2008.

Jeff felt fortunate to have congenial colleagues and to have been able to work on many interesting and difficult cases, including the tragic Paulding County culvert bridge collapse that involved multiple cars landing on top of one another and the unmasking of Martin Frankel's early frauds. During that period, Jeff was immensely devoted to his clients that had been cheated out of their retirement funds. Even though a potential recovery was a longshot, Jeff dedicated countless hours to pouring over financial statements and analyzing them for the trail that ultimately allowed him to connect the dots and discover the fraud. When the story of the fraud and flight to Germany broke, Jeff was a bit of a media star and was interviewed by the Wall Street Journal, the NY Times and Forbes magazine among others. His part in the saga and his picture appear in Ellen Pollack's book, *The Pretender: How Martin Frankel Fooled the Financial World and Led the Feds on One of the Most Publicized Manhunts in History*. He even told the story on an episode of CNBC's television program, *American Greed*, which still occasionally runs today. Jeff was a brilliant legal writer and was viewed by many in the firm, as the very best at taking lost causes and turning them into winning legal arguments.

Jeff's dedication to clients was not limited to paying clients. Jeff's generous heart and love for children led him to use his legal skills as a volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocate for abused or neglected children in the Lucas County CASA program and he ultimately served as president of the CASA board.

His interests also led him into academia, where he taught environmental law at the University of Toledo as an adjunct professor for several years. He cultivated an extensive interest in history throughout his life. Every year he would try to attend the Civil War Show in Mansfield, only missing it when it conflicted with the Anthony Wayne Art Show when his daughters' work was on display. He found time to collect Civil War artifacts and to help others to trace their heritage back to Civil War veterans, specifically those of the Ohio 20th and 102nd infantry units in which his ancestors served. In many ways his soul was linked to that conflict and he loved to talk about that period in our nation's history and his ancestral link to the war. He was also a trustee of the Monclova Historical Foundation in its early years.

Jeff enjoyed many pastimes, but will be most fondly remembered by his daughters, Petra and Aurora, as a loving father who taught them how to shoot, cook, and camp, and by his nieces and nephews for his Fourth of July celebrations. He loved the yearly autumn camping trips with his daughters. Travel with his wife and kids created some of his fondest memories and were the subject of thousands of photos he took over his lifetime. Jeff had friends from all walks of life, and tried not to let distance or circumstances get in his way of maintaining old friendships. He was a generous man to everyone he met and had a way of making you feel interesting and important, no matter what your age or status. He was kind and quiet. His gentlemanly spirit, like that of an old Civil War veteran, will be missed by many.