



Lucas County Bar Association  
Rodney M. Arthur Memorial

Rod loved his profession. He endured the arduous trial preparations, but reveled in the mental chess game that was required in and out the courtroom. He accepted the responsibility of being a "counselor-at-law" more seriously than most, treating his clients with respect and compassion. He gave them the full benefit of his legal knowledge, always mixed with pragmatism and understanding.

Beginning his law firm in 1972, Rod established certain expectations to which he adhered over the next 30 years. They were:

- To protect the rights of individuals;
- To solve his clients' problems in a timely and professional manner;
- To always stay current with the evolving legal landscape; and
- To motivate and encourage his employees, offering them continuing education and training in the latest trial techniques and technological developments.

Rod felt that the system of justice was large and sometimes impersonal, and that it was his job to make that system less frightening; to make complicated procedures less confusing.

Rod received many letters from clients over the years, but one in particular summed it up best: **Through Rod, juries believed.**

## Rodney M. Arthur

Rodney M. Arthur, was the founding partner of the Defiance, Ohio law firm which still bears his name. Rod practiced law there for 30 years before retiring in 2002. He passed away on November 7, 2013 at the age of 72, after a long battle with Alzheimer's.

In addition to being a talented trial lawyer, Rod was a nurturing mentor to younger members of the law firm, a devoted father to three children, and an inspirational leader within the Plaintiff's trial bar. He profoundly enhanced the lives of many clients, colleagues, family, and friends.

Rod's career began in 1969 after graduating from Ohio Northern University with a Bachelor of Science and Juris Doctor, and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Toledo. Rod first taught business law at Defiance College prior to beginning his law practice. As an influential and enthusiastic figure in his community, he was never short on ambition. His vision and drive led him to found Rodney M. Arthur Co., L.P.A. in 1972. Over the years Rod brought other attorneys to the firm and guided them into the partnership ranks.

Revered by his peers for his tireless work ethic and an insatiable desire to bring justice to the underserved and marginalized, Rod's career was marked with numerous accomplishments, including an active membership in the American Bar Association (ABA), the Roscoe Pound Trial Lawyers Foundation, and the Board of Governors of the American Association for Justice (AAJ). Throughout his time in these organizations, he chaired many committees and lectured at educational programs to national audiences. Rod was also a longtime member of the Ohio Association for Justice (OAJ, formerly the Ohio Academy of Trial Lawyers), where he served as the Association's distinguished President from 1982-83. He was also honored with the American Association for Justice Wiedemann & Wysocki Citation of Excellence Award.

Rod earned certification as a specialist in civil trial advocacy by the National Board of Trial Advocacy.

He felt privileged to stand up for those who could not stand up for themselves. His persuasive talents were legendary, and resulted in noteworthy verdicts throughout Northwest Ohio.

Rod will be fondly remembered by his wife of 44 years, Nancy Arthur, and his three wonderful children Meredith, Matthew and John, as well as the members of his firm.