

RESOLUTION UPON THE DEATH
OF
Mary L. Casanave Gipprich

WHEREAS, The Almighty has called to His eternal reward one of our sisters, Attorney Mary Louise Casanave, who died on October 17, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Blair County Bar Association Board of Governors has called an assembly of the Blair County Bench and Bar in profound sorrow to make this memorial tribute to a fellow attorney; and

WHEREAS, the Committee designated by Mary Lou Maierhofer, President of the Blair County Bar Association, respectfully submits the following Resolution upon the passing of Mary L. Casanave, whose death brought profound sorrow to all of those who knew her.

Mary L. Casanave was born January 9, 1923 in Altoona, a daughter of Nicholas John Sr. and Mary Hilda (Holland) Casanave. She was a graduate of Altoona Catholic High School and Penn State University. She served with the U.S. Navy in the Navy Waves from 1944 until her honorable discharge in 1946. She then concluded her formal education in June 1950 upon the receipt of a law degree from the Dickinson Law School. Mary was admitted into the Blair County Bar Association in 1950, one of the first female attorneys. She was groundbreaking in that she was the first female attorney to practice her entire career in Blair County.

She married Ralph E. Gipprich on May 29, 1964. He preceded her in death April 18, 1993.

Throughout her career, Mary was in partnership with Leo C. Mullen, Hiram Carpenter, Richard Serbin, Paul Foreman, and her brother N. John "Jack" Casanave.

She was very active -- serving as President of Quota Club and on boards for the Home Nursing Agency, Friends of the Altoona Area Public Library, and Hollidaysburg Public Library. She also served as solicitor for Improved Dwellings of Altoona (IDA), Reliance Savings and Loan, Altoona Redevelopment Authority, and Mercy Hospital.

In her spare time, she enjoyed playing bridge and reading. She was known to tell young attorneys to go to court with a library book in their briefcase in case there was a long wait at court. She especially enjoyed going to the beach with her grandchildren.

She was loved and admired by all.

She is survived by a son-in-law, Bob Sill; a brother, N. John Casanave and sister-in-law, Rita; a sister, Hilda Bertotti and brother-in-law, Dick; eight grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren and fifteen nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Eileen Gipprich Sill, a son, Ralph Gipprich, Jr., and a sister, Elizabeth Dixon. Mary L. Casanave, Esquire will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

We cannot understand the brevity of life's span and words are wholly inadequate to express our deep sense of loss at her passing.

Our bar, profession, and community have lost a valued leader and friend.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Governors of the Blair County Bar Association on behalf of the members of the Blair County Bench and Bar and all assembled here on this date, October 23, 2009, that this Association records in this manner its sense of loss at the death of Mary L. Casanave, Esquire, that this Resolution is evidence of its tribute to her memory and express appreciation for her long and useful service to our Association, her family and her community.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be spread upon the minutes of this Association, upon the record of the Court of Common Pleas of this County, and that a copy thereof be delivered to the bereaved family.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Lou Maierhofer, Esquire,
President, Blair County Bar Association



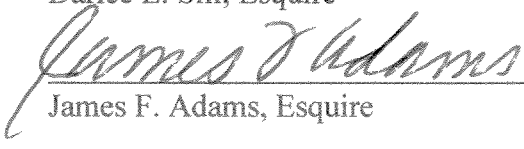
Judge Hiram A. Carpenter III



N. John Casanave, Esquire



Darlee E. Sill, Esquire



James F. Adams, Esquire



Maryann Joyce Bistline, Esquire



Christopher R. Jancula, Esquire



Robert E. Vonada II, Esquire