



Ronald C. Morgan

April 4, 1949 - October 29, 2014

Ronald Calvin Morgan, a prominent Albuquerque trial lawyer, made a peaceful transition from this earthly life at sunrise on October 29, 2014. He died at home, surrounded by his loved ones after a long illness, during which he suffered greatly. His equanimity and grace during that time was a gift to us all.

Ron was born and raised in Central Kentucky. The eldest son of a prominent Anderson County family, his parents Calvin Harrison Morgan and Delcie Jane Disponett Morgan were small business owners in Lawrenceburg – home of Wild Turkey and Four Roses bourbon. As a young man, he worked as a tobacco cutter, a hod carrier, and a school bus driver, as well as for the family business: the Morgan Sinclair service station.

He served in the United States Army and was awarded The Army Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service in Europe from September 1971-June 1972. He was stationed at a computer facility in Heidelberg, Germany that was bombed by the radical Baader Meinhof Group. Specialist 5 Morgan was luckily on leave at that time.

Upon returning home, Ron attended The University of Kentucky and earned a Bachelor's degree in accounting, as well as a Juris Doctorate of Law. In his early career in Kentucky, he developed a lifelong passion for fighting on behalf of the little guy by working in the Consumer Protection Division of the AG's

office. He also worked for and was mentored by Edward F. Prichard Jr., general counsel for the national Democratic Party and part of FDR's brain trust for the New Deal.

Ron was a CPA in 3 states, and passed the bar exam in 2 states. He burst onto the scene in Albuquerque as an exceptional trial lawyer. Always self-employed, in 35 years he represented innumerable plaintiffs for personal injury, legal malpractice, and bad-faith insurance claims. He was annually listed in Super Lawyers and Best Lawyers publications for well over a decade for these specialties.

As described by a former partner, Ron was "a fighter. He was like the welterweight who gets up off the canvas and punches his opponent in the nose. He never gave up. That is why he was able to recover seven-figure settlements for his clients and often won his cases on appeal. He loved fighting for lost causes, and often took the cases no one else wanted – most of which he won by always giving 100 percent."

In 2011, Ron successfully represented Vincent Kee, the developmentally disabled Navajo man who was kidnapped and tortured by three McDonald's employees in Farmington, NM. Another prominent case was a 12 year class action law suit against Allstate Insurance Co., involving unfair practices of computer software applications that processed claims. Hundreds of ordinary New Mexicans benefitted from the outcome. He was also long-time counsel for Allsup's Convenience Stores, for which he won a jury award of \$5 million (4.5 million in punitive damages) against their insurance company for unfair practices.

Ron was also a driving force for reshaping the law in New Mexico and had several occasions to argue his cases before the Supreme Court. He established the claim for negligent infliction of emotional distress, new duties

for insurance companies to protect their customers, and enhanced consumer relief under the Unfair Trade and Practices Act, to name just a few.

For decades, Ron devoted his enormous energies to aid the efforts of the trial lawyer organizations at the local and national levels. He served as a board member, journal editor, and president of the New Mexico Trial Lawyers Association. For many years, he also served as a New Mexico representative on the board of AAJ, the national trial lawyers organization in Washington DC. In addition, he participated as a speaker and panelist on numerous Continuing Legal Education programs, and provided important lobbying services and expert testimony in the New Mexico Legislature. He was held in high esteem by his peers and colleagues – not only the plaintiff's attorneys, but also the judges and those who opposed him in court. In April of this year, he was honored at the 30th Annual Amicus Honors Dinner for a lifetime contribution to the law. The loss to the profession is palpable, and he will be sorely missed.

He was passionate about politics, and raised considerable amounts for local and national Democratic candidates over the last 30 years. He believed that as a society we have a duty to lift all boats, and supported many organizations that would help the poor and the disadvantaged. Whenever he encountered a homeless person, he opened his heart and his wallet to them.

An avid golfer, Ron was fortunate to play on many of the great golf courses of the world (including St. Andrews) across four continents and many islands. He used the life metaphors that the game offers as a way to better his world off the course. He was a vigorous lover of life who enjoyed running, hiking, fishing, skiing, traveling, fine wine, and of course, a good bourbon. He also practiced the Ishaya Ascension meditation.

He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of five years, Christina M. Joy,

also a small business owner in Albuquerque; his brother, Jimmie Morgan, and sister Pamela Morgan Ware of Lawrenceburg, KY, his brother, John David of Frankfort, KY, as well as nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and one grandniece – mostly all of the Anderson Co./Lexington, KY area. He is also survived by his son, Nicholas Sitterly Esq. of Albuquerque, NM. He was cremated and his remains will be lovingly scattered across the earth in places of sacred natural beauty everywhere, including a burial near his parents' graves in Lawrenceburg. There will be a memorial service to honor him in the Spring.

Tribute Wall

DK

“ I too had the privilege of working with and knowing Ron over the years (when I was in the teachers union. He was a wonderful man with a great smile and attitude about life. I had not seen him for some time but used to run into him at the Co-op, and it was always a pleasure to see him. He had informed me of his cancer but I did not know he had lost his battle. I will miss him. He was a great human being.

Dan Katz - March 22, 2015 at 09:45 AM

PW

“ I was privileged to work with Ron on behalf of one of his clients, Allsup's Convenience Stores, twice. I found him to be an amazingly passionate and talented attorney who really cared about and worked as hard as he could on behalf of all of his clients. When I think of who I would want as my attorney, his name is on the top of my list. I have no doubt that he is continuing to fight for and represent the interests of those he cares about somewhere in the hereafter.

Patti Watson

Patti Watson - December 03, 2014 at 03:39 PM

PC

“ Ron was a delightful example of a southern gentleman in every way. I was privileged and honored to have him represent me.....both as an attorney and as a fine friend. I miss him.

Pat Coughlin

Patrick Coughlin - December 02, 2014 at 05:08 PM

JR

“ Ron, what a delightful human being. You just felt that he was happy to run into you and you couldn't help but be acknowledged and brought into the fun. I bartended him as a customer, clerked for him as a student, had beer and laughed with him, and shared law stories after I passed the bar and through the years. He is a very good soul and a big ripple in the pond.

Jeff Rein

jeff rein - November 05, 2014 at 10:24 PM

CM

“ I had the opportunity to work with Ron for several years, and found him to be one of the best lawyers I have ever worked with. As I type this here I am looking at his photograph, his large smile and lively eyes. To say that I will miss his intelligence, friendship, and smile is to say too little....there is no way to express the degree of loss. There are some who leave us who, when they do, leave a gap in the fabric of life, and Ron was one of those. He was one of the ones who keep the world going in the right direction for us all. I will miss his voice, his cheer, his wit, his knowledge, his dedication to his profession and his inspiration. I will miss all of him, but I will also carry all of him with me...his life was to me a teacher, and I will continue to be his student.

Charles M. Miller

Berkeley, CA

Charles M. Miller - November 05, 2014 at 06:40 PM

PH

“ Our thoughts and prayers to the family of Ron. The pain and suffering is over for him. Rest in Peace.

*Phillip
and Roberta Melendez*



phillip - November 02, 2014 at 12:03 PM

RZ

“ Sending love and prayers to your family. Ron. Thank you for your kindness and mentoring to me over the years.
-Raesha de Ruiter Zylker

Raesha de Ruiter Zylker - November 02, 2014 at 10:17 AM

MM

“ Sending our sincere condolences and prayers for Christina and family.

Eddie Montoya and Moya McGuill



Moya McGuill - November 02, 2014 at 10:09 AM

AS

“ My first memory as a child is you holding your hand out to me. You will always hold a special place in my heart. I love you, Ronny.

Audra Saint

Audra Saint - October 31, 2014 at 04:07 PM

EM

“ *Our deep sympathy for the loss of our friend.*

Sue & Ed Macy

Edwin Macy - October 31, 2014 at 01:12 PM

JL

“ *Mr Morgan ...
It was a HUGE PLEASURE & BLESSING for me to get to know &
assist you my dear friend ...*

*James A LaCour
Special Handling Navigator
UNM Cancer Center*

James A LaCour - October 31, 2014 at 09:14 AM

KB

“ *I will never forget you, Ron. RIP, my Friend.
Love, Kelley Weldon Baskett*



Kelley Weldon Baskett - October 30, 2014 at 09:59 PM

TJ

“ *On behalf of the French Family of Companies, we express our
deepest condolences.*

Tom Jordan - October 30, 2014 at 12:15 PM