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Larger Than Life

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Larger Than Life

*Carol Harrington**

It is hard to write this because it seems impossible that Dennis is gone. In many ways Dennis was larger than life.

I met Dennis for the first time in about 1989 when he and I were asked to be on a panel at ACTEC together. I had the delightful experience of getting to know him through that talk, and discovered how remarkably smart yet practical he was, as well as his wonderful sense of humor. I always enjoyed being with him on panels, working with him on technical submissions or projects, and of course sitting next to him and Vickie at dinners at many professional events over the years.

In about 2003 Dennis and Jeff Pennell were both speaking at the ALI-ABA Madison Program and Whitey and I invited them and their spouses to stay at our vacation home near Madison. That started a tradition that lasted more than a decade of spending a weekend together at the lake each summer, during which Whitey and I were privileged to spend time with Dennis, Vickie, Jeff and Michelle. I remember those weekends as ones of fun and laughter, often caused by the wonderful stories Dennis told. Some alcohol was consumed. My daughters were sometimes there and also enjoyed hearing Dennis's stories. The six of us enjoyed many ACTEC activities and even managed to schedule a week of travel together a couple of summers ago that actually did not coincide with an ABA, ACTEC or CLE meeting.

Jeff and I spent many hours with Dennis preparing for Heckerling panels and Dennis took the laboring oar in organizing those presentations. It was always a lot of work but we had great fun in the process. He was a joy to work with. I never saw him lose his temper, although Danny Markstein tells me that golf was capable of causing that to happen. It is good to know that that Dennis was human.

Through these experiences we got to know Dennis, and of course Vickie, well. You cannot really know Dennis without knowing of his deep love and respect for Vickie. They began dating as freshmen in high school and while Dennis loved to tease "Miss Vickie," their devotion to each other was obvious and constant.

Dennis was a great attorney, one of the foremost Trusts and Estates lawyers of his time. His death is a great loss to all of us. More impor-

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tant than his legal abilities, however, was his depth of character. Dennis never let you down. He touched so many lives in his profession and community. I will miss him terribly.



More Fun Than the Recent Developments Panel

