

A Collection of Memories of Phil Hoffman
August 30th, 1954 – March 31st, 2020

Phil's funeral home obituary page can be found [here](#), which also contains a number of wonderful memories of the man we all adored so much. Here are some memories from his friends within PC:

- No one was more representative of the best of our firm than Phil Hoffman. It is hard to imagine life at our firm without the missives from Phil about D-Day, the summer outing and holiday party, the library, Lexis/Westlaw, and on and on. Our history is on his computer, and he treasured it as he treasured each day with us.
- We who have known Phil for so long have lost a steadfast friend and a great lawyer and man. He was integral to the firm, from the very beginning. He was loved by all and it is hard to imagine carrying on without him. He was a man dedicated to doing the right thing at all times, the highest accolade imaginable.
- When I think about Phil, these words come to mind: kind, considerate, reliable, devoted, smart, passionate, compassionate, humane, fun, funny, witty, humble, helpful, creative, caring, loving, organized, prepared, successful, loving....In sum, a life well lived. I cannot imagine Pryor Cashman ever being the same without Phil. He was a pulse that kept us true to our firm's heritage and values. His loss is profound and tragic to us all. He was and will always be part of our firm's DNA. I just know that Pete Pryor and Paul Sherman are welcoming him with hugs and kisses and thanking him for keeping their flame alive! Now it is up to us to do the same for Phil.
- After one of Phil's trips to the trademark/file room (with a box of files on his shoulder), one of my newly-hired paralegal colleagues asked me, "Who's that? Nice guy – he's here all the time carrying boxes of files in and out." I told him it was Phil Hoffman, the partner who just sent out the Christmas invite. "Oh – I thought he was one of us," he said. He was right.
- Phil is a cornerstone of our firm, the faithful librarian, diligent event planner, enthusiastic web maintenance manager (for quite a while), and this is all in addition to him being a sharp litigator. On the weekend before I joined PC in 2009, Phil wrote me an email requesting my bio. Hours later, he told me it is ready to be up the next day. This is the efficiency I witnessed and felt so good about our firm. Phil probably wrote the most emails to us, including "Save the Date," "D-Day," "Historical Office Locations," "Lexis," and "Westlaw." I always read his emails because I know he does it from his caring heart. Oftentimes, people would send emails like "someone left a pair of glasses, please come to pick them up." Nine out of ten times, Phil immediately wrote back with a much enlarged font of the same message. I could picture the smile he had on his face. Almost each Friday morning, he is one of the earliest partners sitting in a spot next to Ron at the partners' breakfast. He shared a lot of stories with us about the firm and himself. The last one, as I remember, is that he said his daughter was going to marry and the venue for the wedding, is Second, the one we hosted the birthday party for Gideon! He proudly added, it is his daughter who chose the venue by herself! Phil, you will be dearly missed...

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- I remember being a 1st year associate in 1990 and asking him sheepishly if I could take a vacation with my girlfriend. He looked at me very seriously and said "You are a professional. You don't need to ask anyone for permission to take a vacation; you work very hard and you take a vacation when you need it." I was amazed at how much respect he gave me as a young first year associate.
- Phil always smiled and asked how I was doing whenever he passed my desk or we passed in the hall. When my out-of-state family came to visit NY, Phil welcomed them into his office so they could take in the beautiful view. He would explain to them the various buildings and far off places. They would be in awe of the memorabilia in his office. Then he would give them suggestions of shows to see or restaurants to visit. My husband came to refer to Phil as the "the great guy in the corner office who loves the NY Rangers." Before Phil was sidelined with the issues with his knees, he would oftentimes stop by my desk so we could compare our daily step count and we would tease each other about which one of us would have more steps that day. I always looked forward to the historical information that he shared with us – from the history of Pryor Cashman to his D-Day emails. His work in coordinating our holiday parties and other celebrations will surely be missed.
- We had such good times together talking about hockey and theater which we shared the love of, although I was nowhere near as diligent in attending plays as Phil. We also had many great times and laughs...
- Without exception, he was unfailingly kind, caring and brought his signature humor to all of our interactions (a true rarity among litigators).
- At a pre-theater dinner with my wife last year, while I was emailing a client, an email appeared from Phil. "Put down your phone and pay attention to your wife," he teased. Startled, I look up to see Phil two tables away, smiling.
- Phil interviewed me for a job at Pryor Cashman 23 years ago. And, like others who have mentioned Phil being one of the first people they met at the firm, I was immediately captivated by the enthusiasm he had for the firm and his work. When I joined the firm a few weeks later, my office was one door down from Phil's so, as an associate, Phil was my go-to mentor for years on every aspect of how to practice law at the highest level. When I became a partner, Phil remained my first call or visit when I needed a gut check as to whether I was "doing it right." Recently, a younger lawyer who was leaving our firm told me that she admired the way that I practiced law with energy, enthusiasm, positivity and good humor. I didn't say it then, but I know that a huge part of who I am as a lawyer (and a person) is attributable to having had the privilege to work with, learn from, and laugh with Phil. And, I am only one of so many who can tell the same story. Pryor Cashman is what it is because of Phil. Our gratitude to him (and to all of you) is immeasurable.

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- Phil was one of the first partners I worked with. He reached out to me by email to start writing my bio and preparing a press release. At our first meeting, he kindly welcomed me into his office with a big smile and a welcome hug and proceeded to tell me how terrific I would do. (I came to learn that there were a lot of huggers at PC which made the place feel like an instant family!).
- I met Phil when I was interviewing at Pryor Cashman 4 years ago. I remember telling my wife, right after the interview, what a warm and outgoing guy he was.
- He always shared with us his kindness, laughter, and joy of theater. I still vividly remember the time Phil dropped everything and flew to Denver for Pete Pryor's funeral service about 12 years ago. He then continued sharing Pete's D-Day letter every June 6th by commemorating his (military) service.
- Not only was he a lovely man and a wonderful lawyer, but he was abundantly generous to the Pryors in keeping alive the connection between Pryor Cashman and the Pryor descendants. The way he went out of his way to come to my Dad's funeral; the way he included us in the firm's D-Day celebrations; and his warmth in making us feel that we were still a part of the Pryor Cashman tradition were deeply appreciated and showed what a generous, warm and caring man he was. I always knew that someday I could show up at the firm's doorstep with the Pryor grandchildren in tow and that Phil would welcome us with his big smile and his kindness.
- Phil was the first person I met at Pryor Cashman. When I was looking for alternatives to "big law" during law school, through a tangential connection to my Dad in Ohio, I was put in touch with Phil in 2005. Having now spent my entire legal career at Pryor, it is obvious that meeting Phil was not only serendipitous, but changed the trajectory of my career and life. He was a good friend, a great man, loyal to his core, and will be sorely missed.
- Phil was truly one of the warmest, kindest, most genuine individuals I have met. People overuse superlatives but to say Phil was "one of the best" isn't giving him enough credit. As one of Pryor's vendors, I always looked forward to my Thursday afternoon "Westlaw Visits" and relished every opportunity to hear Phil talk about life with tremendous passion: His love of hockey, Broadway, knowing the best restaurant in any New York City neighborhood (he knew them all!), his love for Eileen, his children, and grandchildren. His love of life was so inspiring.
- I've shared his spreadsheet of every great NYC restaurant with its corresponding Broadway theater to family and friends. And any discussion about a Broadway show I've had with people - I've often given, not my, but his opinion. "Phil and Eileen hated it; don't waste your time."
- Phil was one of the most kind and generous people I have ever met. He was my office neighbor for a couple of years and I can't imagine the office without his presence. I would always look forward to his Halloween decorations or Rangers updates. He was always a source of good humor. I think he knew more Yiddish than many of the Jews in the office!

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- He was the partner who on boarded me to the Firm. He was the face of the firm to me at that time, and he has remained the face of the Firm ever since. He generously showed me the ropes and taught me how to do everything at the Firm, including friendly comments on how to improve my bio. His office is always the place to bring a visiting client or friend, not just for the view and memorabilia, but for his outsize personality with which he welcomed guests. Having the opportunity to sit in the next office for a few years, I was able to hear the way Phil extended the same generosity and cheer to scores of other colleagues and friends.
- My interactions with Phil usually took place at the summer golf outing or holiday party, which events would not have been the same (or more likely would not have occurred at all) without his tremendous efforts and enthusiasm for bringing everyone together. On the sporadic occasions that I would pass Phil in the hallways (we sat on different floors), he would always go out of his way to strike up a conversation and find out how I was doing. In my first year at the firm, I mentioned my grandfather's WWII service to Phil. In each of the 6 years since, Phil has made my grandfather a mainstay in his annual D-Day recap. It meant so much to me and to my family that Phil would keep my grandfather's memory alive in this way. Phil was truly an uplifting presence in our office and will be greatly missed.
- Phil was the heart and soul of our firm. To Phil, we were more than just a law firm; we were more than just a group of practicing lawyers. There was a unique quality to our firm and it was embodied in our history which reflected in our persona. One of our most cherished traditions came on D-day each year when Phil would bring together not only the wonderful memories of Pete Pryor 's Landing in the second wave at Omaha Beach but the memories of everyone in the firm who had a relative involved in that fateful attack.
- We were all a family and that family grew every year through additional memories gathered and related by Phil. In so doing, Phil discovered and nurtured a tradition that engendered pride and uniqueness among our colleagues. It was a special quality that Phil had. He just made everybody feel they belonged. I have just read the encomiums of first year associates and even younger acquaintances of the firm who attest to this special quality in Phil.
- You have received so many emails the past day or so regarding Phil and how much he was loved and admired at Pryor Cashman and all of them are so true in every way. Having worked with Phil for 30 years the best way for me to sum Phil up is to say that just like the 1994 Rangers he was: SIMPLY THE BEST.
- I echo all these loving remembrances. One of my last fond memories was when Phil was in LA and he made a point of going out to a wonderful steakhouse here in Los Angeles with all the lawyers from the LA office. We really had a great time that night, so full of laughter. I remember Phil obsessing about his new Fitbit, while we were all trying to outdo each other with jokes. Building camaraderie was something Phil did so naturally. He was the heart and soul of this firm and we owe it to him to keep his spirit of optimism alive.

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- The indelible image I have of Phil is at the 2014 Christmas party. I had only been at Pryor Cashman for a few months. I remember just after dinner, Phil introduced the band to an empty dance floor. The band starts rocking and within a blink of an eye, Phil is on the floor, alone, cutting a rug! Shortly thereafter, the dance floor was full.
- When I joined Pryor Cashman a few years ago, Phil was one of the first people I met and got to know, like many of the other voices you've heard from, and I can easily join that chorus in reiterating how kind and bright he was as a person and to me. However, I am also writing because, on a more personal note, Phil helped me through this past year in a way he never even knew, and I will always be thankful for that. As I'm sure is the case in your household, our team of all teams is the Rangers. On several occasions, I've had the chance to talk hockey with Phil, but the last time I recall was on the heels of the Rangers drafting Kaapo Kakko. About one year ago, my three year old son was diagnosed with T1D. It was a scary time. When I was in Phil's office that day, I mentioned my plan of getting Kakko jerseys for the family as evidence that T1D will never be an impediment to my son's aspirations. I'm sure you see where this is going and how Phil made me appreciate (quite possibly for the first time) that everything was going to be okay and that I wasn't alone nor the first to be in this situation. I can happily say that a year later, my son is thriving, and my family has a new normal, which is very much normal. This story is but a brief snapshot of what you and everyone else already know – the inherent goodness of Phil.
- It is hard to fathom that Phil, who epitomized delight in life, would suddenly be taken from our midst. Just being around the joy he took in his family, work, sports and the theater made us all appreciate our own lives more. I loved seeing him hustle down the hall past my office to meet Eileen for dinner before theater or for a Rangers game, and I loved talking with him about the shows we had both seen. Phil also was among the kindest of people, always willing to "do unto others." He approached challenges with humor and grace. To me, Phil was an exemplar of what is best about Pryor Cashman – a sharp intellect coupled with a kind and caring spirit, always willing to help, always treating all people with dignity and kindness. I will miss him greatly.
- To Phil's family, I can only imagine the shock and loss you are now feeling. I do hope that knowing how much Phil was appreciated by us at our firm gives each of you at least some solace. In my tradition, we say, "may his memory be a blessing." For me, Phil's memory will be just that.
- I had the pleasure and honor to know and work with Phil over the years. He was an incredible attorney and an even more amazing human being and I intend to treasure the memories I had with Phil who will always hold a special place in my heart.
- Phil was a stellar individual. He always had a few kind words for me whenever our paths crossed, and was always very helpful to myself and my staff; we will dearly miss him.
- Phil was a wonderful, kind and caring person. I miss him so much! I have lit a candle for his soul! May we all find comfort that he is with God now.

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- To call him an inspiration would be the greatest understatement.
- Phil was a superior lawyer, but so much more. He was foundational at the Firm. He believed in history and precedent: when he created events for the Firm, he knew he was creating the history of the Firm, and precedents for its future. He was strengthening and shaping the Firm. His family was always in the forefront of his thoughts. We talked about my grandson playing hockey. Phil, always thoughtful, encouraged and enabled me to take my grandson to a Rangers game, and also told me of keeping stats for Patrick when he was a young player. He still had the stats, and could talk about specific games that had been played so many years ago. He spoke of Patrick's development over the course of a season as if it were yesterday. His love for his family was evident in every word. He was not just thoughtful to his colleagues but to everyone. We spoke recently about a resume that had come in, unrequested. Phil told me how he always tried to point out, when he was not able to act positively on a resume, something that would help the sender in the future – an improvement to the resume, or a different way of phrasing an accomplishment. He didn't want to reject someone without building them up and giving them hope for the future.
- I'll never forget my first day at Pryor Cashman some 23 or so years ago (Phil would know the exact date). My wife was with me for some reason and we ran into Phil in the hallway. Phil could not have been friendlier, more welcoming, more assuring of the fact that I would like the firm and be happy and successful here. It made us feel so good. That was the kind of person Phil was.
- Phil will never be forgotten - a tremendous positive influence for us and truly a great example for us all!
- My first Firm Outing in 2004 was the beginning of our "cart buddy" duo on the golf course... Phil the "Partner" was Phil "my friend" from that point on... I have so many wonderful memories of Phil that I'll never forget... We became grandparents around the same time, the stories he'd share with me about his 18 holes a day in Puerto Rico each year, me telling him it's just a formality that I'd have to respond to his invites to the Outing or Holiday party, how he won that car at Madison Square Garden with the hockey shot, etc....But what I'll remember most about my friend is how he made "you" feel... Special people do that without trying... How you could take attributes of his life to help enhance yours... To me, that's a true measure of a genuine gentleman...
- During these perilous times, many of us have come to wonder whether life will ever be the same. And now we know it won't. Our firm will be forever changed without Phil, our tireless booster, devoted historian, and master of thankless tasks. Winston Churchill could have been thinking of Phil's selflessness when he said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." At least in heaven, Phil won't have to chase down any more library books, contend with cranky caterers or worry how to cope with a rainy summer outing.

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- He represented the very best of humanity-joyful, gracious, lover of the Rangers, Broadway and life, and always so helpful and smart. He played a major role in the life of my son who needed and received his solid advice.
- He was a brilliant, funny and kind gentleman...always greeted me with a big smile.
- Phil's spirit ...the way he created and promoted an esprit de corps, a sense of history and common purpose for all of us. Phil's incredible devotion to the firm and his eagerness to do everything necessary to see it thrive, was striking.
- He was a very important presence to the firm and a maestro on so many levels. It was his office that I always stopped into when taking a potential new client or friend on a tour of our offices as he was so welcoming and engaging...I know how Phil loved the firm and loved to mix things up at Friday breakfasts. I turned to Phil for recommendations for on and off Broadway, knowledge of The Rangers, and all things Pryor Cashman.
- I joined PC in 1998 and from the day I joined, Phil was the face of the firm - always with a smile, always upbeat, always someone who you could drop in on for a brief word of cheer. I didn't share his passion for hockey but he did ask me to represent Mark Messier when he bought a condo so thanks to Phil, that was my brush with fame. I am the firm's designated kosher food "supervisor", which meant I got to work with Phil on all our events. I was always struck by how courteous and solicitous he was of our requirements and how he went out of his way to make sure that we received the same level and quality of food. He was a real mensch.
- As I am sure you know, Phil was not only an excellent lawyer, but he was also in many ways the heart and soul of our law firm. Phil was our firm historian, and he was always willing to do the things that others were unwilling or did not have the patience to do – managing our library, our website and our CLE providers, organizing our events, etc. – all without fanfare or seeking credit, and on top of his own billable work and practice. He loved our firm, and we loved him, and he will be missed by us all.
- I had my call back interview at Pryor Cashman in the summer of 2006. I was 24 years old at the time, had not spent much time in New York City and after having been through a number of interviews for other firms I was expecting to be shuffled from one relatively cold and impersonal meeting to the next. But, Phil was the first person I met with. His office had so much personality. He was so sincere and warm and present and completely unlike what I was expecting. He inspired me to imagine possibilities for my career I hadn't really been able to envision until that moment. I vividly remember it right now. I was fortunate enough to have an opportunity to express to him how much this moment meant to me in a conversation we had this past year.
- Phil has always brought happiness and positive energy to everyone at the firm.

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- Phil was always kind to me and had a great big heart. When I phoned him, he always treated me like it was the most important phone call he ever had. I was delighted when I got to introduce my wife and our four children to him when we visited New York for Gideon's birthday. Phil showed my children around his office, asked them tons of questions, did not seem to mind when they almost broke everything in his office, and smiled and laughed the whole time.
- Phil was the warmest person who always made me smile when I saw him in the halls or at any of the events he put together. We used to talk about the Rangers whenever we bumped into each other – it was only a few weeks ago we were laughing about the stress of the mid-day press-conference where they announced Kreider was staying with the team. We were both laughing about the rollercoaster of emotions we felt as we waited for the press conference to start.
- Words escape me; they seem so insignificant at this particular moment of involuntary physical distancing, and yet words and virtual hugs are all we have. So I share words with which my rabbi introduces our congregation's memorial prayer at Sabbath services: "We give thanks for the gift of life, and for the sacred gift of memory."
- I give so many thanks for Phil's life, and I will so fondly remember him, always.
- Phil and I go back to 1984 when we both joined Pryor Cashman within a couple of months of each other. And for the past decade or more, we have sat beside each other almost every Friday morning at our partner breakfast. There is so much to say, which we will do in time. For now, I can say categorically that he was a unique, honorable, dedicated and exceptional lawyer, person and friend who deeply loved his family and his PC family. And who else would have named his son after the Ranger's NHL Division. We will miss him.
- I've been at PC for 12+ years and Phil was one of the very first people I ever met at the Firm. Everything about him was wonderful: smiles, lending a helping hand, history, fun firm events. We didn't sit on the same floor but every time I visited 40 I would try to pop my head into his office and say hi; Phil was always happy to greet me with a big smile and we'd chat about what shows we had seen recently or he would ask about my kids and how big they were getting.
- Phil was my lightbulb at the office... a cheerleader and champion, always smart, thoughtful and utterly hilarious! Phil's desk was just 20 feet from mine. We shared so many laughs during the 10 years we worked together, speaking to each other in theater shorthand, peppering our conversations with trivial actor and film references. In Phil's memory, I made a contribution to the Actors Fund today.

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- I've known Phil since late 2007, when I joined Pryor Cashman. My start date was in early December, so I came in just as Phil was hitting hyper mode in his role as the Holiday Party Planner, constantly sending e-mails reminding everyone where the gather was going to be, prodding people to respond, etc. Over the years I worked with him on various client engagements, and was always impressed with his care and insight. This only increased when he started compiling the D Day stories from members of the firm. He went out of his way to check on my grandfather's story, making sure it was just how I wanted it expressed. He really cared about Pryor and the people here, and it came through in all he did. He will be sorely missed. I am thankful for the time I shared with him.
- Phil was one of the kindest people I have ever met, and he taught me so much about being a lawyer. I first met him when he interviewed me just shy of four years ago for a position at Pryor. Although he was formally assigned to be my mentor when I was hired, I think he naturally would have assumed that role. We have many shared interests – particularly theater and music – and I would lose hours just sitting in his office talking with him (usually about the play he and Eileen had seen the night before).
- I recently joked with Phil that his firm bio was apt; it describes him as "tireless." I have never seen someone throw himself into so many different tasks with such energy (and results!). Not 5 minutes after getting home from a tireless day of arbitration hearings, Phil would be sending out emails about LexisNexis, the Library and firm events. He would often carry boxes and boxes of exhibits up to my office. I would say "Phil! Call me and I'll come get them!" The reply? "Nah, I need the steps for my Fitbit." He would churn out briefs that gave opponents little quarter but he always treated adversaries with professionalism and respect.
- Although Phil was almost always in good spirits, nothing brightened him up more than talking about his grandkids. Even – and perhaps especially – when things were really busy, he would always carve out time for them and say things like "I'm around all weekend if you need me, except for Sunday, when I'm with the grandkids."
- He will never be forgotten by anyone that knew him and to me and my kids he will always be the "Captain". It emanated from the fact that he seemed to "Captain" every event at the firm. The term took on a more special meaning when the kids started hanging out with him at Ranger games- "Will the Captain be there tonight Dad?" He enjoyed that moniker.
- I met Phil when I joined the firm in 1987, so I had many opportunities to work together with Phil and to celebrate the many firm functions with him which he hosted so brilliantly. I always enjoyed stopping by Phil's office when I was on his floor; he always had time for me. I am particularly grateful for all the time and guidance that Phil provided to my son, a 2L at Fordham Law School. Phil took a genuine interest in helping my son, who joins me in expressing our sincerest condolences for a wonderful friend. I am sorry that all his colleagues at Pryor cannot be with you and your family at this time to express our respect and sorrow. You are all in our hearts and prayers.

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- As a prospective summer associate in the fall of 2010, Phil was the first person I interviewed with upon receiving a call-back at Pryor Cashman. I walked into that interview having read and heard all the buzz that supposedly set Pryor Cashman apart from its peers. But I didn't know what to think. After all, every firm markets itself as unique and special in some way. But when Phil spoke, I knew. His sincerity and passion was overwhelming. Phil made me realize that Pryor Cashman was the firm for me, and I am sure he played no small part in ensuring that Pryor Cashman extended an offer to me. To say that Phil was a uniquely special person would be a great understatement. His zeal for life, theatre, the Rangers and, most of all, his family and Pryor Cashman was inspiring and unrivaled. Like so many others at this firm — in addition to all the clients whose lives he touched — Phil changed my life for the better, and for that I will always be grateful.
- Phil hired me as a summer associate back in 2006. Although I didn't have a scheduled interview with him the day he came to Fordham, I interrupted his break to see if he would meet with me, and he was generous enough to say yes. His generosity with his time was a hallmark of who he was. His door was always open. Some years ago, Phil had dinner with my parents when he was on a case in Mississippi (where I am from); they were thrilled to meet him and have insight into my world, and he was so gracious to spend his evening off with them, enduring their barrage of questions. He is a lovely, dear man and I am very grateful to have shared a bit of the road with him.
- Phil was the warmest, most gracious, kindest, genuine person I knew at the firm. Phil has always been someone who would always take the time to listen, help and put a smile on your face. I will miss him deeply- he was the type of person who would ALWAYS make a point of saying hello to you and made sure the culture at Pryor was inclusive and warm. This loss is a deep one – there is no one like Phil.
- Phil's impact on the firm and its people was profound. He will be sorely missed by all. Although I was in a different department, we had many interactions because for many years we shared an admin. I was a fairly junior associate at the time but I really appreciated that he never 'pulled rank' on me or deprioritized my work (which can happen in law firms). I also worked with him on our Summer Associate program and spent many hours poring over stacks of resumes from law students. He made that process fun and he valued the opinions of all of us in the room. He had respect for all and treated them like equals.
- He was a friend and mentor to me. Perfection is possible! And no one taught me to strive for that more than Phil. I will always be the Julie to his Captain Stubing.
- I always admired the way he operated (well organized)- especially with his meticulous approach to tasks and giving me ample time in advance of forthcoming depositions. We always exchanged pleasantries, whenever our paths crossed. This is, no doubt, a monumental loss. A great human being and the world's best EVENTS PLANNER.

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- Phil was a teacher by example, and I learned many things from him. I had my first trial with him almost 25 years ago and he taught me about trials. He taught me — and many others here — how to be a better lawyer over the years. He played hockey with me and when he no longer could play because of his eyes, which greatly disappointed him, he showed me how to deal with adversity with a positive attitude. Even lately, with his knee acting up, he never complained. Phil was always positive, always smiling, always helpful. And his love for his family knew no bounds. The only way I can deal with this is to draw upon what Phil exemplified, and to remember his unflagging positivity.
- Phil was a kind, funny and cheerful gentleman. He always had a smile on his face. He would always say hello every morning and ask how I am doing every time he walked by my desk or when we passed each other in the hallway. Phil's "save the date" and firm history emails showcased his personality and reading his emails would always bring a smile to my face. I can't imagine the office being the same without Phil's presence. He will truly be missed.
- I'll remember Phil in many positive ways – with a big smile, a great sense of humor and always great stories.
- Phil was one of the kindest, most generous people I have ever met—anywhere. He had a sunny disposition but more than that, he had a great spirit, one of encouragement, optimism and joy that surrounded him, followed him everywhere he went, and engulfed those he was speaking to. It even came through on his emails. Truly quite remarkable. He will be greatly missed.
- I've worked at Pryor Cashman for three years now, and Phil was one of my first introductions to the firm (he was one of the partners who interviewed me, and was also the partner who called me to make the job offer). I really liked Phil from the moment I met him. He just always seemed to be so full of life and warmth and joy, and really wanted to live life to its fullest – and encouraged others to do the same. Phil's frequent emails regarding upcoming events and firm history always made me smile, and it was always a pleasure to interact with him at the office. Phil will be truly missed.
- Phil was very friendly to my family and offered the view from his office on their visits. He was a take charge kind of guy who was always smiling and there if you needed him. Never passed you in the hall without holding door open for you or a friendly hello/good morning.
- We shared some conversations in his office, mostly about our mutual love of music and, in particular, Sinatra. I told him my favorite Sinatra album was Sinatra at the Sands from '66 and he instantly whipped it out and told me he loved it too. He also shared a story of seeing Sinatra, later in his career, at Carnegie Hall. Phil said Frank started off so-so, but at some point during his performance of "I've Got the World on a String" his voice clicked in and was unbelievable for the rest of the show. It was great to hear him tell the story and to share our thoughts about great Sinatra recordings. I'll never forget our conversations and I'm saddened that we won't have more.

A Collection of Memories of Phil Hoffman
August 30th, 1954 – March 31st, 2020

- After I finished my summer associateship, I was asked to fill out a blurb as to why I would recommend being a summer at Pryor. My main anecdote was that at Pryor, you would be given assignments and tasks that only mid-levels would get at bigger firms. I was able to say that because Phil let me draft an appellate brief, a task much bigger than anything I could have dreamed of. He was kind and patient throughout the process, and helped me understand what separated Pryor from other firms.
- Phil is one of the nicest guys at the firm. His office door was always open if you wanted to talk about theatre or his favorite team, the NY Rangers. I remember when my teenage son came to the firm and he peeked in Phil's office to see the Statue of Liberty. Phil welcomed him in the office to see the Statue and look at all of his Rangers Memorabilia. The smile of Phil's face when he talks about the RangersThe smile on his face at the end of another great holiday party... The smile of his face when he brings his bills to our department and tells us, "no rush." His presence will be truly missed.
- I had the great pleasure of spending a lot of time with dear Phil at the office....As you know, Phil was the go to critic for every show. And yes, I am the Penguins fan. Every time we went, Phil would say to his MSG seatmates, "Don't worry he's from Pittsburgh!" when I stood and cheered for every Crosby and Malkin goal. For Phil, I made a point of not standing or cheering when the Pens won, particularly in overtime.
- I loved our dinners together at Nick & Stef's, where Mr. Hoffman's table would be waiting for us. And, of course, I was there for the shot heard 'round the Garden. Before Phil stepped on the ice to shoot he said, I got this, we need a new car. He got it all right.
- Phil was a great man. He was also always so nice to me from the minute I began working at the firm almost 20 years ago and throughout. I know he treated everyone similarly. The world and certainly our firm will never be the same without him.
- Phil was a happy warrior in the sense that he loved his work; he loved the fight; and he loved working with and teaching the young lawyers. And he was someone who loved those he considered his family...Phil, more than anyone, maintained a connection to Pete Pryor while he lived, and was the firm historian.
- I have not quite processed the loss of Phil. My brain just keeps seeing his bright smile. I can picture him so vividly in a Ralph Lauren button down shirt and khakis smiling and laughing with me at a partner's breakfast. That's what Phil and I always did. Laugh. We just laughed together. Never had a case together, just an amazing friendship. Phil was such an extraordinary person. Brilliant lawyer. Brilliant party planner. Truly compassionate human being. Everything Phil touched turned to gold. He has truly touched so many of us. Helped us. Guided us. Led us. Laughed with us. Laughed with me. His memory will live on forever at Pryor Cashman.