



Stephen W. Jones

May 8, 1941 - September 6, 2018

Jones, Stephen W., age 77, of Royal Oak, passed away September 6, 2018.

He graduated from Cranbrook in 1959. Steve graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Albion College and received his law degree with distinction from the University of Michigan Law School. He practiced in the areas of estate planning, probate administration, corporate, tax, and real estate law for over 50 years. Steve was past Chairman of the Michigan State Bar Probate and Estate Planning Section and a Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, as well as an occasional lecturer for the Institute of Continuing Legal Education. He was also one of the leading advocates of probate law reform in Michigan. Indeed, Steve was one of the draftsmen of 1993 legislation repealing Michigan's inheritance tax, and worked for its successful passage.

Steve was also very active in community service around Royal Oak. He was past board member of both the South Oakland YMCA and the Royal Oak Boys and Girls Club. Steve was also actively involved with Boy Scouts Troop 1629, the Royal Oak Historical Society, and First Congregational Church of Royal Oak. Steve loved spending time with his family. Being at a game at the Big House cheering on his Wolverines, traveling and RV camping with Karen, and especially enjoying a beautiful sunset over Lake Michigan with his family at their cottage.

Steve was the beloved husband of Karen Jones for 49 years. Loving father of Linda (Jeremy) Dostie and Michael (Linda) Jones. Proud grandfather of Grace and Charlotte Dostie and Kylie, Stephanie, Spencer and Maverick Jones. Dear brother of David (Nancy) Jones and brother-in-law of Daniel (Sue) Teare. Also survived by several nieces and nephews. Predeceased by his parents, Harry and Eleanor (Whitman) Jones.

Visitation will take place Sunday, September 9, from 2-7 pm at Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Home, 705 W 11 Mile Road, Royal Oak, MI 48067. In state Monday, September 10, from 10 am until the time of service 11 am at the First Congregational Church, 1314 Northwood Blvd., Royal Oak, MI 48073. The Rev. Dr. Mark Jensen will officiate.

Memorials to the Salvation Army or First Congregational Church are appreciated.

Please share a memory on the Tribute Wall (see tab above).

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **9**. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067
(248) 541-7000
royal@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Funeral Service

SEP **10**. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Congregational Church of Royal Oak
1314 Northwood Boulevard
Royal Oak, MI 48073

Tribute Wall

JB

“ I was indeed saddened to read of Steve's passing. I first met him in 1968 when I was in his father's law office for the Character and Fitness interview prior to taking the Bar Exam. Steve stopped in to introduce himself and we worked on many matters together over the years. I last saw him last Spring at an OCBA Probate Committee meeting. He was a fine lawyer and a true gentleman. He will be missed by many.

James Boucher - September 19, 2018 at 11:22 AM

GF

“ The family does not know me, but I worked with Steve upon graduating from law school in 1994. Steve was very kind when I nervously represented one of his clients fresh out of law school and always provided encouragement. I only worked with Steve a few years, but our paths continued to cross, usually running in to each other at lunch. Each time they did, Steve greeted me with a warm smile as he seemed to do with everyone. I consider Steve an absolute gentlemen and wish our profession were blessed with more like him. My sincerest condolences for your loss.

George Fish

George S Fish - September 14, 2018 at 01:55 PM

JD

“ *To Karen and the Jones family
We are shocked and saddened by Steve's passing,
our thoughts and prayers are with you.
Steve was a gentleman in every way and certainly will be missed
by all the people he touched.
Our sympathies and condolences
John, Suzanne DiLabio and family
Cornwall, Ontario*

John DiLabio - September 10, 2018 at 04:10 PM

RM

“ *We were shocked and greatly saddened to hear of Steve's passing.
We have known Karen and Steve since our daughters were 3 years
old. Linda and Cheryl met at their church. We remember the fun
camping adventures and the Traverse City experiences we all had.
And of course, the memories of having fun at the Red Run pool with
the children.*

*Steve was a very kind and gentle person who had a zest for life and
will be missed. Our prayers go to Karen their children and grand
children. With our love,*

*Richard and Doris Murphy - Arizona
Cheri and Dan*

Richard and Doris Murphy - September 09, 2018 at 07:01 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the
family of Stephen W. Jones.*



September 09, 2018 at 03:16 PM

JB

“ We were so saddened to hear this news. Steve was so kind and generous to our family over the years. He was a steady pillar that was always there to support us all. In addition, we greatly enjoyed his sense of humor and wit. Steve was someone who definitely made the world a better place during his time here. He will be greatly missed. Sending love and prayers.

Jennifer Brown and family

Jennifer Brown - September 09, 2018 at 02:21 PM

CY

“ We were greatly saddened to hear of Steve's passing. Our sympathy goes out to Karen and the family. He was such a modest, kind and caring man. Over all the years that I was Steve's secretary I had the good fortune to witness many times what a terrific and competent attorney he was. His clients were so lucky to have him represent them. I have to smile thinking about some of the funny things that occurred over the years, but my heart is not smiling today. Steve was a special person.

Claudia Young - September 09, 2018 at 02:06 PM

RB

“ I was shocked and saddened to learn of Steve's passing. I have known Steve since we were next door neighbors in the U of M Law Quad and consider him one of my best friends. He was a mentor and close friend at the law school from my first day, even though he was a senior and I was a freshman. We had such a great group that he and the other seniors kept coming back to the Law Quad on weekends after they graduated and we continued the tradition for many years thereafter at U of M tailgates.

In our early years of practice, Steve and I worked together on a number of legal projects and I found him to be an excellent lawyer, intelligent, extremely honest, kind and a pleasure to work with.

I knew Steve and Karen well and was fortunate to spend some time with them at their cottage and enjoying the shores of Lake Michigan. It was always a pleasure to get together with them.

My prayers and sympathies go to Karen, their children and grandchildren. He will be missed by all of us.

Bob Buydens

Robert Buydens - September 09, 2018 at 01:35 PM

GG

“ We were stunned to read of Steve's death and send our sympathy to you at this times of separation. Steve was our trusted lawyer for nearly thirty years and we saw him not only as our legal consultant, but a friend. Having interaction with Linda and Michael in school was special as well. May God surround you with His loving care each day.

With appreciation for each of you, and especially Steve,

George and Ruthmary Gillespie

George and Ruthmary Gillespie - September 09, 2018 at 12:57 PM

KB

“ I had the privilege as a YMCA staff member to work with Steve. Steve was passionate about families, kids and making certain the less fortunate were given opportunities. Steve smart, articulate, caring and his respectful style of communicating made one listen. I am thankful for knowing him and I am confident he is with God and enjoyed Michigan's victory yesterday.

Kevin Bush - September 09, 2018 at 12:11 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Stephen W. Jones.



September 09, 2018 at 11:05 AM

SM

“ We are all so very sorry to learn of the sudden passing of the lovely gentleman we knew as "Cousin Steve" who was husband to my cousin Karen. They were true life partners. Steve's deep intelligence was obvious, as was his wry sense of humor and great love for his family, the arts, the outdoors, driving his "rig" and UM. In years past, what a treat it was, in their home, when Steve would sit down and perform an organ concert (no music books needed), playing one beautiful tune after another. I especially remember "Bless This House". Bless the Jones house and family as Karen, Linda and Michael grieve, honor and remember their wonderful and generous husband and father. With much love, Sherri, Bill, Katie and Michael McKenna

Sheridan McKenna - September 08, 2018 at 11:25 PM

RW

“ My deepest condolences to Karen and the family on their loss. Steve was an outstanding example of what Christians aspire to. I had the privilege of serving with him on the South Oakland Family YMCA Board for many years. Steve was always thoughtful and caring with valuable insights on best practices for the Board. His generosity was evidenced by his providing guidance to members of my congregation on estate planning and probate. He gave the information as a gift, because he knew they would benefit. May our Lord give comfort to all who mourn and may the faithful rejoice in Steve's victory.

Rev. Laurence M Wood,

Rev Laurene M Wood - September 08, 2018 at 07:59 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Stephen W. Jones.*



September 08, 2018 at 07:33 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Stephen W. Jones.*



September 08, 2018 at 05:42 PM



“ *Stephen and I were partners for many enjoyable years. I can easily confirm he was a lawyers lawyer, meaning he had the highest reputation an attorney can obtain. He was concerned about his clients and his relationship with them generally went beyond the professional care. He was thorough and precise in his representation and thoughtful to the highest degree. Few lawyers reach that goal. Our profession has lost one of the true attorneys who epitomize all of the highest qualities of our profession. Jon Kingsepp*

Jon Kingsepp - September 08, 2018 at 04:34 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Stephen W. Jones.*



September 08, 2018 at 04:08 PM



“ *Feruz and Alfred Dostie purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Stephen W. Jones.*



Feruz and Alfred Dostie - September 08, 2018 at 12:45 PM



“ *Simply Chic Mixed Plant Basket was purchased for the family of Stephen W. Jones.*



September 08, 2018 at 11:48 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Stephen W. Jones.*



September 08, 2018 at 10:36 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Stephen W. Jones.*



September 08, 2018 at 09:03 AM



“ *Lori, Rick and Maddie Rescorla purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Stephen W. Jones.*



Lori, Rick and Maddie Rescorla - September 08, 2018 at 09:00 AM



“ *I am so shocked and saddened by Steve's passing. He was always unfailingly kind, and so generous of his time and talents. My sympathy is with you all. All my best wishes and prayers to you.*
Gena Olson

Gena Olson - September 08, 2018 at 07:19 AM



Steve was an incredible man as evidenced by his obituary but that doesn't tell the full story. I practiced with Steve at Beier Howlett and experienced first hand the very kind and fine man he was. Our prayers are with his family as we know what a huge loss his passing will leave. So sorry we won't be able to attend the service but the family will be in our prayers. Steve's already in heaven so he doesn't need them!
Don and Phyllis Zimmerman

Don and Phyllis Zimmerman - September 08, 2018 at 08:50 AM

AD

Steve's passing was a shock and untimely for a man who loved and lived life so well. We only met as in-laws a few times over the years, but his kindness was an aura all around him. Superlatives apply to this man. Yes, he was involved in community and scouting. He loved the great outdoors and driving around in his RV. Moreover, Steve's legacy to all of us must be to follow his example and be honorable, generous, a friend to all, and a joy to be with people. He was intelligent, witty, jovial and wonderful to be with. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Alfred C Dostie - September 08, 2018 at 11:38 AM

RW

Karen and family, We are so sorry to hear this news. What a kind and wonderful friend he was. Our prayers are with all of you.

Rae Ann Whyard - September 08, 2018 at 01:19 PM

NH

“ *Prayers are with you all. A great loss to FCCRO. We will miss his smile.*

N hayes - September 08, 2018 at 07:02 AM

PD

“ *I am very sad that Steven Jones has passed away. I had the honor of being one of his legal partners for several years, and we worked together w/ shared clients for years after as well. He was a brilliant attorney that openly shared his knowledge with all the younger attorneys and his lovely summer home on Lake Michigan with our entire firm. To his loved ones- may it bring you some peace to know that Steve's kindness fairness and dedication to the law touched many lives. All the best with sincere sympathy!! Patricia E. Kefalas Dudek*

Patti Dudek - September 07, 2018 at 10:19 PM

PW

“ I am shocked and saddened by the news of Steve's passing. Steve was my law partner for many years, and one could not ask for a more intelligent and thoughtful partner. His word could be trusted without question, and he was so meticulous. A lawyer's lawyer. Steve was unfailingly generous with his time and endlessly patient, both with his clients and his partners. I will never forget Steve's many kindnesses to me.
My heart and utmost sympathies go out to Karen and their children and grandchildren. Steve will live on in their hearts forever and I hope they take some small measure of comfort in that knowledge.

Pamela Shea Wieben - September 07, 2018 at 08:05 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Stephen W. Jones.



September 07, 2018 at 07:58 PM

JP

“ I am sad today knowing that Steve Jones is no longer part of our world. I began working for Steve in 1968 when he was a brand new lawyer and I was a brand new legal secretary. That required a lot of patience on both our parts. Steve's sweet nature and earnest wish to make you feel like an important member of the team made you want to up your game and work as hard and smart as he did. And he did work hard, with integrity, relentless attention to detail and a work ethic that would permit nothing less than excellence for his clients. The world is a better place for Steve's passing through, and those of us whose lives he touched are grateful to be able to call him friend.

Jackie Petersen - September 07, 2018 at 07:54 PM



“ *Your Light Shines* was purchased for the family of Stephen W. Jones.



September 07, 2018 at 07:07 PM



“ *Sentimental Dreams* was purchased for the family of Stephen W. Jones.



September 07, 2018 at 03:49 PM