

MAXWELL H. COHEN  
MEMORIAL AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE  
MONROE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

The Monroe County Bar association has called this special meeting of the Association to commemorate the distinguished career of Maxwell H. Cohen, who died August 29, 2012 at an assisted living facility near the Laguna Woods, California home shared by him and Dolores, his wife of 64 years.

In this tribute and resolution, we will refer to Maxwell as “Macky”, the nickname his sister, Sheila, gave him years ago and the name by which he was known among his many friends and colleagues in the bar.

Macky was born in April 1926, and was therefore 86 years of age when he died in August of this year. He grew up in the Logan neighborhood of Philadelphia and attended Birney elementary school there. He attended Jay Cooke Junior High School and went on to graduate from Philadelphia’s prestigious Central High School as a member of its 181<sup>st</sup> graduation class. His college years were spent in the U.S. Navy’s World War II V-12 program at Bloomsburg University, Illinois State University and at Notre Dame University.

Macky left the Navy in June 1946 and in September of that year he entered Temple University Law School. He graduated from the Law school in June 1949 and took and passed the Bar examination in November of that year. He was admitted to practice in the Courts of Philadelphia County soon after the bar examination results were announced. As was the custom at that time, Macky’s first employment was with his preceptor, Robert W. Greenfield, who had an office in Philadelphia’s Bankers Securities Building. After completing his clerkship at Attorney Greenfield’s office, and working briefly at the Philadelphia firm of Polis and Polis, Macky and

Dolores opted to live in a rural environment. That lifestyle choice ultimately led him to Monroe County.

A friend introduced Macky to Martin H. Philip, a Carbon County attorney, who employed Macky in his Palmerton office while Macky explored opportunities in Monroe County. He and Dolores moved to Monroe County in early May 1950. Dolores, who had worked as a medical secretary in Philadelphia secured a job at the General Hospital of Monroe County.

When Macky arrived in Monroe County, his only contact was his law school classmate and good friend, Alex Bensinger. Macky continued working for Attorney Philip for about five months while getting his bearings in this new community of Stroudsburg. Over the next 40 years, which concluded with his retirement from law practice in 1991, Maxwell Cohen built one of the County's most successful practices by concentrating his work in civil litigation (most notably in personal injury representation and domestic relations cases) and the general practice of law that is common among rural practitioners to this day.

Macky Cohen was a remarkably organized person. His trial preparation was legendary. Often he would write out every question he intended to ask on cross-examination of a witness, with subsidiary questions he might ask depending on the response he received to his first question. That type of trial preparation assured success in the courtroom. And over those 40 years, Maxwell Cohen became the "go-to" Monroe County lawyer in personal injury and domestic litigation.

He was also a successful businessman. In the 1970's he and his business partner, Mel Solomon, developed and sold out the county's first planned residential townhouse community, known as Parktown in East Stroudsburg.

Today we take it for granted that real estate purchasers and their lenders will demand title insurance at closing. Macky Cohen was the founder and CEO of Monroe County's first successful title agency until his retirement. When he founded Consumers Land Abstract, Macky took the position that stock should be widely offered to members of the Monroe County bar and to real estate professionals. That business model proved highly successful and profitable for the Consumers Abstract shareholders.

His wife, Dolores, his son, Barry, and his daughter, Beth, survive Macky. A son, Robert (Bobby), predeceased Macky in 1985.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE Monroe County Bar Association, of which Maxwell H. Cohen was a senior member, adopt the foregoing memorial as expressive of the loss which the Bar, the Bench, the Community and this Commonwealth has sustained by reason of this death, and that we tender his family, legal associates and friends our most sincere and heartfelt sympathy, and be it FURTHER RESOLVED,

That this memorial and these resolutions, after having been entered on the minutes of this Association, be filed in the Court of Common Pleas of Monroe County, Pennsylvania, published in the Monroe Legal Reporter, and that certified copies thereof be transmitted to his wife, Dolores Cohen, to his son, Barry J. Cohen and to his daughter, Beth Amy Cohen

Respectfully Submitted by the Memorial Committee

Samuel W. Newman

George Royle, IV

George W. Westervelt, Jr.

F. Andrew Wolf, President Monroe County Bar  
Association