



In Memoriam

Former Section of Family Law Chair, James J. Podell died on January 29, 2005 at the age of 64 after a courageous four-year battle against cancer. Jim served as chair of the Section from 1993 to 1994.

Jim was the husband of current Section Chair Peggy L. Podell. He was also the brother of past Section chair Richard J. Podell and the son of former Section chair Ralph J. Podell. Before his death, Jim served as the co-chair of the Section's CLE Committee and had planned the CLE for the Section's Fall CLE Conference in Milwaukee and its upcoming Spring CLE Conference in Austin.

Jim received both his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Michigan. He remained a true and loyal fan of the Michigan teams and was forever grateful for the education the University afforded him. Jim served as president of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and chair of the Family Law Sections of the Milwaukee Bar Association and the State Bar of Wisconsin.

He was named in every edition of the publication *The Best Lawyers in America* from its inception in 1983 to the present and was recognized as one of the best lawyers in various other publications including Milwaukee Magazine and the National Law Journal.

In 1981, he formed a company that provided continuing legal education programs for lawyers throughout the country up to 2004, when his health curtailed his ability to do so. Through those years, he helped to educate literally thousands of lawyers across the country in various areas of the law.

While proud of his achievements in the legal field, his family and friends were far more important to Jim than any honors that may have been bestowed upon him over the years. Jim was the loving father of two daughters and sons-in-law, Laura and Ilker Bizer and Elizabeth and Steven England. Jim was also the proud and loving grandfather of Kaan and Tolga Bizer and Riley and Benjamin England.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the American Cancer Society, the American Diabetes Association, the University of Michigan Law School, or the charity of your choice.

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