

Paul J. Hanly, Jr., Gifted Trial Lawyer and Legal Trail Blazer, Dies at 70

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NEW YORK – With great sadness, Simmons Hanly Conroy announces that Shareholder Paul J. Hanly Jr., 70, passed away early Saturday morning at his home after a months-long battle with anaplastic thyroid cancer, a rare and aggressive disease.

“There are no words to fully capture what the legal community has lost or the impact he had on our lives, especially my own,” said Jayne Conroy, his law partner of more than

30 years. “It will be Paul’s magnanimous spirit, his championing of his clients and colleagues, and his unflinching kindness and decency that will live on in the hearts and minds of all fortunate enough to have known him.”

Hanly dedicated his 40-year legal career to helping others. A trail blazer in the legal industry and gifted trial lawyer, he played a leading role in the settlement of thousands of cases, resulting in recoveries for his clients of more than \$1 billion.

For the last 20 years, Hanly represented plaintiffs exclusively. He held key roles in some of the largest multidistrict litigations in the country and helped his clients who were unjustly harmed in every conceivable way: child abuse, defective drugs and devices, toxic exposures, economic conspiracies, and even the terrorism of 9/11.

Most recently, Hanly’s work brought him to the forefront of the unprecedented mass tort litigation seeking to resolve the on-going opioid crisis. He served as the co-lead of the Plaintiffs’ Executive Committee that oversees the prescription opioid multidistrict litigation consolidated in the Northern District of Ohio and, also, held leadership roles in state court litigation.

In 2020, the National Law Journal awarded him its Lifetime Achievement Award, in part, for his work on the opioid litigation. Hanly continued to work on the litigation until his passing.

“All of us at Simmons Hanly Conroy are committed to continuing Paul’s legacy,” said Chairman John Simmons. “We will continue to fight in his memory.”

Hanly earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Cornell University, his master’s degree in philosophy from Cambridge University and his law degree from Georgetown. After law school, Paul clerked for the Hon. Lawrence A. Whipple, a U.S. District Judge in the District of New Jersey.

He is survived by two sons, Paul J. Hanly II and Burton J. Hanly; a daughter, Edith D. Hanly; a brother, John K. Hanly; and a sister, Margo Mullady.

About Simmons Hanly Conroy, LLC

Simmons Hanly Conroy is one of the nation’s largest mass tort law firms. Primary areas of litigation include asbestos and mesothelioma, pharmaceutical, consumer protection, environmental and personal injury. The firm’s attorneys have been appointed to leadership in numerous national multidistrict litigations, including Prescription Opiates, Vioxx, Toyota Unintended Acceleration, BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, DePuy Pinnacle and the Volkswagen Emission Scandal. Offices are located in Alton, Ill.;

Chicago; Los Angeles; New York City; San Francisco; and St. Louis. Read more at www.simmonsfirm.com.