

Remarks about Craig Wasserman given by Steven Rosenblum at the inaugural Craig Wasserman '86/Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz Corporate Law Alumni breakfast program on October 17, 2013

Craig was an extraordinary person and lawyer who was taken from us far too early.

He graduated from Yale Law School a few years after I did, so I knew him from the time he joined the firm. And it was clear from the time he joined the firm how remarkable he was.

As a good Yale Law grad, Craig loved the world of legal ideas. But as not all Yale Law grads can, Craig had a great ability from the start to apply the world of legal ideas to the world of practical applications.

When Craig and I were associates, the law in Delaware, particularly in the M&A world, was evolving rapidly, and Craig was very adept in thinking through these legal developments and the implications for our practice. He was able to guide clients through the legal principles and come up with creative solutions to legal problems.

Craig's legal and client skills fairly quickly caught the attention of our partner, Ed Herlihy, who was then in the early stages of building what is now one of the country's foremost financial institutions practices.

Craig soon became Ed's right hand man and an absolutely crucial piece of building that practice. Craig really became an expert in the field, and helped Ed become an expert in the field, from scratch, learning the unique features of financial institution transactions and the regulatory framework governing them.

Beyond Craig's legal skills, he also had the ability to connect with people, both within and outside the firm. On the business side, his ability to instill complete trust and confidence in clients was obviously a huge asset in building our financial institutions practice. But it was his care for people within the firm that made him such a wonderful partner to us and a mentor to the younger lawyers in the firm.

Because the financial institutions practice is a specialized one, Ed and Craig led a separate group that focused almost exclusively in that area. But Craig was always very mindful of making sure that the financial institutions group remained an integral part of the fabric of the firm as a whole. He worked closely with those of us

who were not part of that practice to help on client matters, firm matters and business development, including co-chairing our business development committee.

He also really cared about associate development: whether actively teaching or just making himself available and accessible to our younger lawyers to provide guidance and advice. Even in the last years of his life, after his health no longer allowed him to lead matters, he would come in to be something of a roving consultant, to lend his judgment and experience to whatever deal team needed it.

Craig's love of legal ideas, learning and teaching also led him to get very involved with Roberta and the Yale Corporate Law Center. He went on the Center's Board of Advisors and, when Roberta started this corporate law breakfast program, he worked closely with her to develop and organize a number of the early panels.

We have all felt Craig's loss very deeply, but we also still feel his presence and his principles daily. As some of the Yale Law partners at the firm, including me, came up on our next reunions after we lost Craig, we wanted to find a way to honor Craig's memory with our reunion gifts. Robert and Roberta talked with me about endowing this breakfast program, and given Craig's involvement with it and with the Center, it seemed like a fitting tribute. The firm was happy to help too, and thus was born the newly named Craig Wasserman '86/Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz Alumni breakfast program.

I am very happy that Craig's wife, Marla, and his mother, Sandra, and sister, Debra, are here to join us today. And Ed Herlihy, the co-chair of our firm, and Andy Brownstein, the co-chair with me of our corporate practice, are also here, as are a number of our firm's Yale Law alums. We're pleased to have been able to endow this program in Craig's and the firm's name. And we're grateful to Robert and Roberta for helping to make it happen and to Chancellor Strine for agreeing to lead this inaugural session. I know the program will serve as one more reminder to all of us of what a special person Craig was and how lucky we are to have known him.