

# Eric Yuhl, 1956-2021

## Yuhl Carr co-founder known for zealous advocacy, warm personality



Eric F. Yuhl, a founding partner of Yuhl Carr LLP, was remembered on Tuesday by prominent legal colleagues and family as a zealous, formidable attorney with a captivating smile and an outrageous sense of humor.

“The adjective I’d use to describe Eric, if I only had one, would be ‘legendary,’” said Christopher P. Yuhl, the deceased attorney’s brother and co-founder of Yuhl Carr. “You could put that before any aspect of his personality — his cross-examination skills, client control, trial presentation, in-depth legal analysis, his

outrageous sense of humor and his determination to win.”

He added his brother did everything at full speed. “Whether you were on his team or opposing him, you had to drive at his speed to keep up,” Christopher Yuhl said.

Peter A. Dubrawski, a partner at Haight Brown & Bonesteel LLP who faced Yuhl in the courtroom several times as defense counsel over the last 30 years said Yuhl was extremely well prepared and a zealous advocate. “He was a very personable guy too,” Dubrawski said.

A West Los Angeles native, Yuhl died on March 14 at 64 in Del Mar.

A graduate of the University of San Diego School of Law, he began his career at Lillick McHose & Charles’ litigation department in Los Angeles. By the time he left the firm in 1985 to open his own practice in Santa Monica, the foundation of Yuhl Carr, he had tried and won 12 jury trials and handled over 20 arbitrations.

A veteran litigator, Yuhl specialized in complex personal injury cases, mass tort, consumer class actions, employment and sex abuse litigation.

Colleague and family friend Patrick McNicholas of McNicholas & McNicholas LLP described Yuhl as a hard charger who worked extremely hard for his clients. McNicholas and Yuhl worked together several times, including on a defect class action against Mercedes-Benz that resulted in an \$80 million settlement, Callaway et al. v. Mercedes-Benz USA LLC et al., 14-CV02011 (C.D. Cal., Dec. 18, 2014).

“As great of an attorney as he was, he was an even better all around human being,” said McNicholas. “He will be sorely missed on a personal level and is a huge loss to the profession.”

John B. Quinn of Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP said Yuhl not only was a formidable lawyer who got great results for his clients, he also was funny and warm with a great personality.

“He was an anchor to his clients, a true ‘counselor’ in every sense of how that word is used for lawyers, from a father figure to a friend. He would be there for them 24/7, a shoulder to cry on or to give tough love when needed,” explained Christopher Yuhl. “He inherited the intelligence of his father, a gifted neurosurgeon who spoke seven languages and was professor of neurosurgery at UCLA Medical School, and the “gift of gab” and charm of his Irish Catholic mother.”

Yuhl is survived by his wife, Janet; his children Colin, a partner at Yuhl Carr, Keegan, Lindsay and Taylor; his stepson, Stuart; four grandchildren; his brother, Chris, six sisters and 21 nieces and nephews.

A memorial will be held once it is permitted by health and safety protocols. In lieu of flowers or other remembrances, his family asks that donations be made to Surfrider Foundation San Diego County.