



Chief Justice Mark Cady

July 12, 1953 - November 15, 2019

Mark Steven Cady passed away unexpectedly on November 15, 2019, while running with his dog Lucy in Des Moines, Iowa.

Mark was born July 12, 1953, in Rapid City, South Dakota to Kenneth and Suzanne Cady. Mark was the second of two boys, Roger Cady, and was a brother to his two younger sisters, Katherine Schroeder and Karen Kochis. Mark and his family moved throughout the Midwest during their upbringing. Mark graduated from Austin High School in Austin, Minnesota in 1971, where he developed many life-long friendships. After high school, Mark followed his older brother, Roger, to Drake University where he earned both his undergraduate and law degrees. It was in law school where Mark met great friends who were with him the remainder of his life, including the love of his life, Rebecca (Becky). Mark and Becky married May 22, 1982, in Des Moines, Iowa. Mark and Rebecca moved to Fort Dodge, Iowa, after law school. Mark and Rebecca raised their two children Kelsi Fraser and Spencer Cady at their home in Fort Dodge. Mark was a caring neighbor and friend to many in the community of Fort Dodge.

Mark started his 37 years as a public servant at the age of 29, when he was appointed as a Webster County District Judge in 1983. Mark was thereafter appointed to the Iowa Court of Appeals in 1994, voted Chief Judge of the Iowa Court of Appeals in 1997, appointed to the Iowa Supreme Court in 1998 and was named Chief Justice of the Iowa Supreme Court in 2010, where he served until his passing. Mark was a thoughtful and fair jurist who dedicated his profession to the pursuit of fair and equal justice.

Mark was a humble, caring, and kind individual to everyone he encountered. His love in life was his family. Mark was a proud and loving husband to his wife Rebecca, father to his children Kelsi and Spencer, and grandfather to his four granddaughters, Brynn and Kinley Fraser, and Corah and Cameryn Cady.

Mark is survived by his wife, Rebecca, daughter Kelsi (Bric) Fraser, son Spencer (Reilly) Cady, his four granddaughters, Brynn and Kinley Fraser, and Corah and Cameryn Cady, brother Roger (Kathy) Cady, sisters Katherine (Kevin) Schroeder and Karen (Frank) Kochis, sister-in-law Susan Imus, and his nieces and nephews Matthew (Tyler) Schroeder, Jeremy Schroeder, Kara (CJ) Novice, Ryan Cady, Sara (Aaron) Pavitt, and Erin (Austin) Collard,

Jordan Louthan, Kaylee (Brandon) Engen, Jesse Kochis, and Luke Kochis.

A public celebration of life is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, November 20, 2019, with front doors opening at 9 a.m. at the Knapp Center on the campus of Drake University. Parking lots 1 and 2 are reserved for funeral guests. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to The Iowa State Bar Foundation/Judicial Learning Center in honor of Chief Justice Mark S. Cady. Gunderson Funeral Home and Cremation Services is entrusted with the arrangements.

Previous Events

Celebration Of Life

NOV **20**. 10:00 AM (CT)

The Knapp Center, Drake University
2601 Forest Ave
Des Moines, IA 50311

Tribute Wall



“ Chief Justice Mark Cady

October 30, 2020 at 11:59 AM



“ Chief Justice Mark Cady

October 28, 2020 at 02:42 PM



“ Chief Justice Mark Cady

October 28, 2020 at 02:31 PM



“ Chief Justice Mark Cady

October 28, 2020 at 02:15 PM



“ Chief Justice Mark Cady

October 28, 2020 at 01:53 PM



“ Chief Justice Mark Cady

October 28, 2020 at 07:25 AM



“ Chief Justice Mark Cady

October 28, 2020 at 06:59 AM



“ Chief Justice Mark Cady

October 28, 2020 at 06:38 AM



“ Chief Justice Mark Cady

October 28, 2020 at 06:14 AM



“ Chief Justice Mark Cady

October 26, 2020 at 03:09 PM



“ Chief Justice Mark Cady

October 26, 2020 at 02:45 PM



“ Chief Justice Mark Cady

October 26, 2020 at 02:23 PM



“ Chief Justice Mark Cady

October 26, 2020 at 01:58 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Chief Justice Mark Cady.



December 16, 2019 at 04:16 PM



“ Becky - My heart aches for you and your family. I haven't seen or talked to you since our Casual Corner days, but remember our friendship fondly. I am so happy to see what a beautiful family you have and what a wonderful life you and your husband built together. It is beyond our understanding why someone so precious to you should be taken all too soon, but God has a reason for everything. I have kept you in my prayers and will continue to do so. (Linda Burns)

Linda - November 21, 2019 at 01:43 PM



I just saw this. Thank you Linda! I was lucky and am Now devastated.

rebecca cady - February 25, 2020 at 12:08 PM

JW

“ *My condolences to the Cady family. Mark was my business law instructor at BVU and I was always impressed at his ability to view both sides of a case with total fairness and open mindedness, a trait that all great judges are known to possess.*

Joe Welch - November 21, 2019 at 09:16 AM

JJ

“ *We have fond memories of Mark Cady as he was the lawyer that assisted us in the adoption of our daughter over 30 years ago. So grateful to him. He remembered this when we talked to him during the summer of 2018. His family is in our prayers.*

Jim and Judy Jorgensen - November 20, 2019 at 07:33 PM

AP

“ *My heart goes out to the family of Chief Justice Cady. He was one of the most wonderful human beings I have ever met. He embraced justice, fairness, and compassion that appears once in a generation. Justice Cady appreciated Iowa's rich history of being a leader in advancing the law for all citizens. His brilliant, tireless efforts won't be forgotten. Years from now, legal scholars, students and advocates for justice will study his life and rulings. He left the world a better place transcending his chosen profession and becoming a leader for the ages.*

Alfredo Parrish - November 20, 2019 at 06:42 PM

CC

“ *Carol Chantrill lit a candle in memory of Chief Justice Mark Cady*



Carol Chantrill - November 20, 2019 at 12:54 PM

CC

Sincere condolences to the family of Honorable Cady. Having worked at various levels through the years, some encounters were with the Honorable Cady. Justice Cady always showed compassion and sincere passion for people, regardless of who they were or where they came from. This level of graciousness is something that walked with him in every step he took. As a humanitarian that speaks volumes of what he was doing at the given time and how he is going to be remember. May his family find peace in knowing love and integrity are at their sides today and the days to come. God Bless, Carol Chantrill

Carol Chantrill - November 20, 2019 at 01:05 PM

LR

“ Sincerest condolences to the family of Mark Cady. I did not know him but admired his professionalism and humanity from afar, just as a citizen of Iowa. He was a perfect leader for the storied state judicial system that I think too many Iowans probably take for granted.

Please pass on my sympathies to Roger, Mark's brother, fellow Drake alum and fellow headache medicine specialist. Regards, Lynn Rankin

Lynn Rankin - November 20, 2019 at 09:08 AM

SS

“ I cannot remember a time when Mark did not have a smile on his face and a kind word for people. He will truly be missed. My heart aches for Becky and their children. Although Kevin and I will not be able to attend the service, please know, you are all in our hearts and prayers. Sarah, and for Kevin, Schminke

Sarah Schminke - November 19, 2019 at 02:51 AM

KG

“ My absolute favorite FD Buena Vista instructor. Not only knowledgeable, but willing to take time to break things down for the non-law students.
Prayers for his family at this difficult time.
Karen Gorden



Karen Gorden - November 18, 2019 at 07:16 PM



“ A man OF and for the PEOPLE. With a strong drive for fairness of all the laws of the land. He was always seeking betterment for others. You were enriched by his conversations and points of view. Our relationship was very brief, but we became eternal friends. Job and life well done!

Osmond Malcolm

Osmond Malcolm - November 18, 2019 at 04:16 PM

MM

“ Our deepest sympathy to Becky, Spencer and all of the Cady family.

Karen and I knew Mark, not as the Chief Justice of Iowa but as a Drake parent and fan of Drake Football with our sons Ben and Spencer Cady playing as teammates. We have many wonderful memories of times spent together the night before and after a game. Tailgating and sharing special moments together, laughing and being in the moment. Mark's warmth and caring manner was always felt every time we had the chance to converse. He will be sorely missed. He was and is a special person. Now he can preside over the angels in heaven

Michael Morrison - November 18, 2019 at 03:58 PM

DC

“ Some of us spoke with Chief Justice Cady last February at Drake University following his excellent presentation about the 1868 Clark v. Muscatine school-desegregation ruling. He said he would be pleased to speak about the case in Muscatine sometime. Happily, some residents got to hear him address various justice topics when he spoke at Muscatine High School in September 2019. Sadly, we will never host his much anticipated return visit for an Alexander Clark lecture. The world has lost a brilliant jurist and, by all accounts, an all-around fine human being. We express condolences to all his family and friends.

--The Alexander G. Clark Foundation (Jay Brady, chairperson) and the Alexander G. Clark Project (D. Kent Sissel et al)

Daniel G. Clark - November 18, 2019 at 12:40 PM



“ I always enjoyed our coffee at the Iowa State Capitol Cafeteria when I was in Des Moines. It hurts to lose a friend.....

Doug Sanders

Doug Sanders - November 17, 2019 at 08:53 PM

WD

“ So very sorry to hear this. Mark Cady was clearly a man of integrity and a giant figure in the history of Iowa jurisprudence.
Wayne Debban

Wayne Debban - November 17, 2019 at 08:10 PM

TG

“ *Becky, Spencer and family--When I think of Mark I only have good thoughts--he was always calm and smiling. He was also very proud of his family!! Sorry for your loss. Todd Gaffney*

todd gaffney - November 17, 2019 at 07:10 PM

FM

“ *Chief Justice Cady was a marvelous person and public servant. He took time out of an incredibly busy schedule to teach for BVU and was a valued member of our President's Advisory Council. We were so lucky to have his wisdom. I send my heartfelt condolences to his family. What a splendid human being he was.*

*Fred Moore
President Emeritus
Buena Vista University*

Fred Moore - November 17, 2019 at 06:33 PM

AH

“ *Just heard of Mark's passing. So sorry. My dad and mom (Ed and Gretchen Flattery) thought so much of him and you Becky. Bright, legal mind and compassionate.*

Ann and Dennis Howard - November 17, 2019 at 02:16 PM

SR

“ *My mother was Cahoun County clerck of court for many years. she always talked how he was such a caring man. She made the best brownies and when anyone in the courthouse had a birthday she would make them and if knew he would be there she would make sure he got one. Very caring man.*

Sara Redenius - November 17, 2019 at 09:10 AM

JR

“ *Loved our intense conversations! He was insightful. and always presented a believable position, based on facts and logic.
There was a 2-3 year period when Spencer played fb at Drake, and Rox ran track at SLU. We had fab conversations on the merits of children competing at the next level. He was so proud of Spencer's athletic (and academic) achievements.
I'll miss him...Just a great guy. Hope the family grieves and hangs tuff!!*

jim rodenborn - November 17, 2019 at 12:53 AM

RB

“ Words can not express how we feel regarding Mark’s death. He was an AHS class of ‘71 classmate of ours. He moved to Austin the same year as Janne. Easter tourney memories last a life time. Class reunions. Sorry we can not be with you today. You are in our thoughts.

*Rev Ron And Janne Barnett
Valparaiso IN*

Ron Barnett - November 16, 2019 at 10:03 PM

SS

“ Our deepest sympathies to you Becky and family. Mark was a compassionate man who loved his work. We enjoyed visiting with him whether at church or Menards. He will be missed.

Rick and Sue Scott

Sue A Scott - November 16, 2019 at 09:56 PM