

In Memoriam

The Honorable Alan N. Cooper

Judge Alan N. Cooper of the Delaware Family Court passed away on October 18, 2015. Born on August 3, 1952 in Newark, New Jersey, he is survived by his wife, Nancy A. Cooper, to whom he was married for over 30 years, their 2 children, Andrew (29) and Justin (25), and his brother, Dennis P. Cooper. He was a devoted husband and father and was loved in return by his wife and sons.

Judge Cooper practiced law in Wilmington, Delaware from 1985 as a founding partner at law firm of Berkowitz, Schagrin & Cooper, P.A. where he earned the reputation as one of Delaware's most respected Family Law practitioners. He was appointed to the bench as a judge of the Family Court on December 7, 2005 by Governor Ruth Ann Minner.

While in private practice he gave generously of his time as a volunteer for Delaware Volunteer Legal Services, the Office of the Child Advocate, and the Victim's Advocacy Program, and was the recipient of Delaware Volunteer Legal Services Outstanding *Pro Bono* Service award in 2002. He carried his sense of commitment to the community with him to the Family Court, leading many of the court's initiatives for systems change, particularly in the area of domestic violence. He was an active member of a number of national and local professional organizations, including the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the Delaware State Bar Associations and Family Law Section and the Melson Arsht Inn of Court.

"It is with great sadness that the Family Court announces the passing of Judge Alan N. Cooper. Judge Cooper was a member of the Family Court Judiciary since December 7, 2005. He served the citizens of Delaware with distinction. His intellect, compassion, and concern for the parties who appeared before him were reflected in his many well written decisions. He also led Family Court's initiatives with respect to issues of domestic violence. His leadership resulted in many changes as to how Family Court processed and resolved petitions for Protection from Abuse. His leadership, hard work, good humor, and positive personality will be missed by the Family Court and the citizens of Delaware." Family Court Chief Judge Michael Newell

"Judge Cooper was a special person. He approached each day of his difficult job as a Family Court judge with enthusiasm and passion and a gratitude for being able to make a difference. Alan gave up one of the best practices in Delaware to become a judge because of his deep concern for families, and especially vulnerable children. His intelligence, patience, and skill as a judge greatly enhanced the reputation of our Family Court. We will all miss him immensely." Supreme Court Chief Justice Leo E. Strine, Jr.

The Delaware Judiciary honors and recognizes the many contributions to the court system and the State of Delaware of one of its distinguished members and expresses great sadness on his loss.