

Ethan Scherling Naftalin

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Ethan Scherling Naftalin, 39, died Sunday, June 27, 2004.

Ethan was born on October 11th, 1964, in New Haven, Connecticut. Ethan is survived by his parents, Micah and Beth Naftalin of Washington, D.C.; by sister, Marilyn Weaver, her husband, Kaleb, and their son and daughter, Noah and Sidney, in Silver Spring, Maryland; and by sister, Suzanne Rand and her husband, David, who live in Rockville, Maryland.

Ethan graduated from Middlebury College in 1986, and from Georgetown Law School in 1989. He spent three years working in Washington, D.C., for the law firm of Weil, Gotshal & Manges. From there, he moved to Raleigh, where he joined Hunton & Williams, LLP. Ethan was an excellent student and a brilliant lawyer, serving as Counsel to his firm. He practiced in the area of environmental law, providing thoughtful counsel, creative advice, and meticulous planning for his clients. He was widely and well respected within the legal community for his skills, his diligence, and his unflinching courtesy and calm professional demeanor. He published several articles and a book

concerning a number of specialized environmental topics, including directions on how

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Ethan displayed a commitment to the provision of legal services to the disadvantaged that was matched by few, if any, of his peers. He focused much of his pro bono legal efforts on helping victims of domestic violence. The Coordinator of the Wake County Volunteer Lawyers Program described Ethan as "a true champion of domestic violence victims in Wake County." As she said "we never had another domestic violence volunteer attorney like him, and-- God help us--I doubt that we ever will again." Project Together, a statewide organization dedicated to the provision of legal services to victims of domestic violence, presented Ethan their Pro Bono Distinguished Community Service Award. Ethan received many other awards for his pro bono efforts, including recognition as the Wake County Volunteer Lawyers Program Outstanding Volunteer Attorney and as a Champion of Justice by the N.C. Bar Association. Typical of the private and modest person that he was, Ethan rarely spoke of these recognitions, but his clients and the programs he served were well aware of the depth of his commitment to their needs.

Ethan's family, friends, colleagues, and clients will deeply miss him as he was a person who truly spent his life making this world a better place. At a funeral service for Ethan in Washington, D.C., Rabbi Ethan Seidel noted that the memory of Ethan Naftalin, and his kind, gentle, and generous soul, serve as a blessing and as an inspiration to others.

A Memorial Observance in Ethan's honor has been set for 1 P.M. on Wednesday, July 14th, in the Fletcher Opera Theater, on the east side of BTI Center for the Performing Arts. Those who wish to honor Ethan's memory are asked to consider a donation to Interact, 612 Wade Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27605; Friends of the Guardian Ad Litem, P.O. Box 1107, Raleigh, NC 27602 (attn: Babs Wagner); Legal Aid of North Carolina (Raleigh Office), P.O. Drawer 1731, Raleigh, NC 27602; or the Jewish Social services Agency, 6123 Montrose Road, Rockville, MD 20852.

Published by The News & Observer on Jul. 13, 2004.

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