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BENSON A. WOLMAN
STANDARD OBITUARY MATERIALS!

Benson A. Wolman, a partner in the Columbus, Ohio law firm of Wolman, Genshaft, and Gellman, is a nationally recognized constitutional and civil rights lawyer. He engages in civil and criminal litigation in both the trial and appellate arenas of federal and state courts, focusing on the areas of constitutional law, civil rights and employment, white collar criminal defense, and the representation and counseling of lawyers and other professionals.

Central Ohio lawyers elected Wolman to the Council of Delegates of the Ohio State Bar Association (1994-96, 1996-98, 1998-2000) and to the Board of Governors of the Columbus Bar Association (1992-94, 1994-96); and he chaired its Professionalism Committee for two years. He is a frequent public speaker on a wide range of subjects,¹ and has published a number of articles on constitutional law, civil rights, and legal controversies in professional and scholarly journals.²

In his private practice, Wolman has litigated on behalf of the rights of the downtrodden (employees denied their civil rights) and the uptrodden (employers such as AT & T), and as a *pro bono* attorney he has represented such diverse parties as racial minorities, as well as the Ku Klux Klan for whom he secured a Supreme Court ruling giving them the right to display a cross at the Statehouse.

Before forming his own firm, Wolman was counsel to the firm of Moots, Cope & Stanton, following his service as law clerk to the Honorable George C. Smith, United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio (1988-1989). Before that - as the Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio for seventeen years, its legislative voice at the Statehouse for more than two decades and president of the ACLU's National Executive Directors' Council for four years - Wolman became well known as an articulate advocate of individual rights. He is a member of the

¹ Through courtroom advocacy, testimony before legislative committees, and in numerous appearances on television and radio and before college, university, church, business and civic groups around the state, Wolman has been a spokesman for such causes as freedom of speech, press, belief, association, and assembly; separation of church and state; the right to privacy and self determination; due process of law; equal rights regardless of race, sex, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, age, or handicap; academic freedom; and he has been a relentless critic of censorship, electronic surveillance, capital punishment, police abuses, and the state's medieval penal and mental health systems -- in short, something to offend everyone!

² Among these are: *Separation Anxiety: Free Exercise Versus Equal Protection*, 47 Ohio St. L.J. 453 (1986); *Ohio Cases in the Supreme Court of the United States: A Bicentennial Perspective*, Ohio Lawyer (Bicentennial Supplement, Sept.-Oct. 1987); *Verbal Sexual Harassment on the Job as Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress* 17 Cap. U. L.R. 245 (1988); and *Privileged Communications between Psychotherapists and Patients*, Ohio Psychologist (March 1990 and April 1990).

National Advisory Council of the ACLU, and he has served as a member of the ACLU's National, State, and Local Boards of Directors, and as a voluntary attorney.

Wolman graduated Juris Doctor *magna cum laude* from Capital University Law School in Columbus where he was a member of the Law Review and an oralist on the school's national championship Moot Court team that won the National Appellate Advocacy Competition of the American Bar Association. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Northwestern University. During graduate studies in American Government at The Ohio State University, he was a Teaching Associate in modern American history.

For fifteen years, Wolman - under the pen name of "Ben Vivant" - wrote regular restaurant reviews for *Columbus Monthly* magazine and other publications. He maintains that even now, as Reviewer *Emeritus*, he continues to be "a glutton and wino while masquerading as gourmet and connoisseur!"

Wolman has served on both the Drug Legislation and the Criminal Law Advisory Commissions of the City of Columbus, on the Attorney General's Task Force on Regulation of Lobbyists, and as consultant to the Ohio Department of Mental Health Committee on Patients' Rights. He is a Fellow of the Columbus Bar Foundation. Wolman has been a director of the First City Bank of Columbus, Ohio. And, he has been active in a broad range of secular and Jewish affairs.³

Wolman has received the Justice Harry Blackmun Bill of Rights award of the Columbus Bar Association and the Anti-Defamation League, the Martin Luther King award of the Columbus Education Association, the Liberty Bell Award of the Columbus Bar Association, and awards from the Society of Professional Journalists and various church and civic groups. Under his tutelage, the ACLU received the Gold Medal award of the Freedoms Foundation for developing the Ohio Mock Trial Program of law related education in the state's high schools.

At age 61, Wolman has been called "Columbus' oldest living resident native liberal." He is the son of Abe A. Wolman (deceased) and Rose Danziger Wolman. He is married to Dr. Jerilyn Lazear Wolman (a clinical psychologist); his son Robert (age 37) is married to Carol Gale and lives and teaches school in Virginia; and granddaughter Mia (age 8) is unemployed.

Finally, he urges those assigned the dubious distinction of introducing him to confine themselves to any one of the above self serving sentences rather than bore the audience - a task which he reserves for himself.

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³ Wolman serves as a founding trustee (and Vice President) of the Ohio Center for Law Related Education and a founding trustee of the Center for Research into Government Processes, and he is a member of the NAACP, NOW, and the International Wine and Food Society (of which he was President of the Columbus branch); he has been a member of Agudas Achim Congregation (where he taught Sunday School for ten years), B'nai B'rith (of which he was Secretary and a youth group advisor), the Board of Trustees (of which he was President) of the Hillel Foundation at The Ohio State University, the Board of Trustees of the Columbus Jewish Federation and its Community Relations Council, the Board of Directors of the Governmental Affairs Committee of Ohio Jewish Communities, and the Board of Trustees of Wexner Heritage Village.