



Janessa C. Nisley

March 3, 1944 - February 27, 2014

Janessa Carole Nisley, 69, of Greenport passed away peacefully in her home on Mt. Merino Road on February 27, 2014. Her husband Prof. Jay C. Carlisle was by her side.

Born March 3, 1944 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania Janessa was the daughter of the late Jean and Esther Nisley of Greencastle, Pennsylvania. She is survived by her husband, her sister Rebecca Nisley of Avon, Connecticut, her brothers Robert Martin of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and Jack Nisley of Atlanta, Georgia, her step daughter Marie Carlisle of New York City, and several nieces and nephews.

Janessa was an honors graduate of the Lancaster County Day School (1962), Vassar College (1967) and Fordham Law School (1974) where she was a founding editor of the Schools Urban Law Journal. Janessa was admitted to practice law in New York State and federal courts in 1974 and devoted her entire legal career to public interest law. She was a trial attorney for the NYC Corporation Counsel and later appointed during Mayor Edward I. Koch's tenure as Chief of Special Litigation and appeals for the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development. During her twenty years as HPD Chief Janessa argued hundreds of appeals in state and federal courts, including the famous "Dracula" and "Devil" landlord tenant cases which established new law in New York State.

Upon her retirement from HPD in 1994 Janessa was publically praised as a lawyer and humanitarian by then Chief Judge of New York Judith S. Kaye,

U.S. Supreme Court Justice William Brennan and then Fordham Law School Dean John D. Feerick. Chief Judge Kaye stated, "Your twenty years' work on behalf of the people of New York City is a record of public service equaled by few. The more than one hundred cases you have argued as HPD's head of appeals constitutes a substantial contribution to all areas of state law related to housing, and it is difficult to think of as a body of law with greater impact on the day to day lives of millions of New Yorkers" Dean Feerick stated, "Through your work you have saved many people from homelessness and have set a very special standard of excellence as a lawyer. In everything, you have tremendously influenced your colleagues and made the world a better place." Janessa was an active participant in the Vassar and Lancaster County Day alumni associations. She was a statewide founding director of the New York Woman's Bar Association and for many years a member of the Association's Judicial Screening Committee. Janessa was a long time officer of the N.Y.C. Network of Bar Leaders, a past president of the Brooklyn Chapter of the New York Civil Liberties Union, a director of twenty five years for the South Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation and a director for Special Needs Inc. of Ghent, New York. Her principal hobby was traveling in foreign countries. Janessa lived and studied in Germany and China. She traveled throughout the world including her 2012 trek to Southeast Asia with her husband Jay Carlisle.

A memorial Service will be held at a later date. Donations may be made in Janessa's name to the Lancaster County Pennsylvania Day School and to Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York.

Tribute Wall

RN

“ Dear Jay,
The members of my law firm, Nobile Magarian & DiSalvo extend our sincere condolences on the untimely passing of the other professor in your family namely Janessa.
Our prayers and thoughts will be with you.
Sincerely,
Ralph R. Nobile

Ralph R. Nobile - March 10, 2014 at 09:13 AM

AJ

“ Dear Jay,

I was saddened to learn of the passing of Janessa.

While others will remember Janessa for her outstanding legal abilities, I will best remember Janessa when she spoke with sheer pleasure about her cats and finding just the right plants for her yard. Those were wonderful conversations!

Stanley joins me in extending our heartfelt condolences to you and your family.

With warmest thoughts,

Adele Lerman Janow

Adele Lerman Janow - March 06, 2014 at 12:55 AM

TP

“ Dear Jay, the entire Piscionere family along with Matt Mannis and Michael Konicoff extend our deepest condolences. You have been a strong figure in all our lives and we know that you will remain strong. Please be well and take care of yourself.

Best,

Tony Piscionere

Tony Piscionere - March 05, 2014 at 10:40 AM

JJ

“ Dear Jay,

In the end, whether a spouse dies unexpectedly or following an illness, the loss is shocking and leaves the survivor with the strong feeling that the partner will surely be home soon. We can only hope that we have already said the most important things.

Loving support to you, my cherished friend.

Janet

Janet Johnson - March 04, 2014 at 11:59 PM



“ Dear Jay: I was so sorry to hear of your loss. Please take good care of yourself during this difficult time. Marie Newman

Marie Newman - March 04, 2014 at 03:50 PM

NR

“ Dear Jay,
Shelley and I mourn with you the passing of Janessa. How rich and wonderful were her contributions to the law in New York! How gracious her encounters with us all. She is missed and we send our warm support for you in this time of profound sadness.
Nick and Shelley Robinson
Sleepy Hollow, New York

Nicholas Robinson - March 04, 2014 at 03:48 PM

NR

“ Nicholas Robinson lit a candle in memory of
Janessa C. Nisley



Nicholas Robinson - March 04, 2014 at 03:44 PM

MD

“ Jay,
We are so sorry. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.
Mark and Linda Davies

Mark Davies - March 04, 2014 at 02:02 PM

DD

“ Dear Jay--So very sorry for your loss. if there is anything I can do,
don't hesitate to ask. We are all thinking of you here at Pace.
David Dorfman

David Dorfman - March 03, 2014 at 08:13 PM

CC

“ Dear Jay,

I am so sad to hear about your loss of Janessa. Her warmth and sweet smile is a fond memory. May the love and support of your family and close friends provide you with comfort at this time.

Carole Clark

Carole Clark - March 03, 2014 at 03:17 PM

CP

“ Jay- I was sorry to hear about Janessa. You know my thoughts and condolences are with you and the family. I remember our many dinners together Carole Princer Levy

Carole PrincerLevy - March 03, 2014 at 02:08 PM

JF

“ Dear Jay,

I am so sorry to hear of Janessa's passing. Liz and I wish to express our sincere condolences and are thinking of you at this difficult time. If there is anything I can do to help, let me know.

Jim Fishman

Jim Fishman - March 03, 2014 at 10:12 AM

KC

“ Dear Jay - I'm so sorry for your loss. Please know that my heart and prayers are with you and your family. Kathy Carlisle

Kathleen Carlisle - March 03, 2014 at 10:11 AM

CW

“ Jay, I am so, so sorry. Chauncey

Chauncey Walker - March 03, 2014 at 10:10 AM

GC

“ Jay, I am very sad to hear of Jan's passing. I truly enjoyed your visits to Key City Wine. A lot of fun topics were spoken. She was a great defender of the people and very sincere. Please be strong. Wishing you strength and comfort in the coming days.
George Cordato

george cordato - March 02, 2014 at 09:26 AM

KA

“ Jay, my mother and I wish you our deepest sympathies on the loss of your wife. I'm sure dad will greet her with welcoming arms. We'll be thinking of you.
Karrie and Laura Allen

Karrie Allen - March 01, 2014 at 10:31 PM

DK

“ Dear Jay, I am so sorry to hear that Janessa has left us. When I saw her last year as we prepared for your pied a terre in Hudson, I enjoyed her charm and friendliness so much. The world has lost a clearly brilliant mind but also a sweet, warm soul. My heartfelt condolences to you and your family.
Deborah Kinney

Deborah Kinney - March 01, 2014 at 09:38 AM