

**MEMORIAL FOR**  
**MICHAEL CHARLES BOWERS**  
**PRESENTED AT THE MEMORIAL AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY**  
**HELD IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT**  
**NOVEMBER 14, 2024**  
**UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE**  
**SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION**

**GOOD AFTERNOON YOUR HONORS, MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT:**

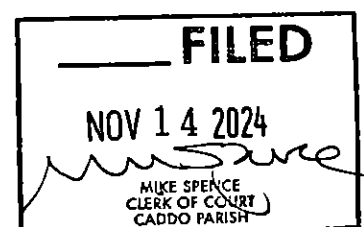
Family, Friends, and fellow members of the bar,

Michael Charles Bowers, was born on November 20, 1967, in Oakland, CA. He was the only child of the late Charles and Charity Bowers. He passed away on Tuesday, July 23, 2024. Michael was selected to be a member of the first class of the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and Arts, a public residential high school located in Natchitoches, LA. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and a Law Degree from Tulane University School of Law in New Orleans, LA.

Michael's legal career includes clerking for Federal Judge Carl Stewart, staff attorney for Northeast Louisiana Legal Services, Assistant District Attorney with the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office, Social Security and Disability Law in private practice, contract attorney with the 26<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Public Defender's office and twenty four years with the Caddo Parish District Public Defender's office. His legal career was not about fame or glory and certainly not about obtaining money. His legal career was for service, giving back to and helping his community and society as a whole. He believed in fighting the good fight.

Michael united in matrimony with Zita and became the loving father of Joshua, of whom he was extremely proud. He was proud of Josh's artistic ability and Josh's willingness to give back to the community by helping with the church pantry food give away. Michael was a great husband and father. He loved his family. That is his greatest legacy.

Michael was a great lawyer. He was a deep thinker, very intelligent. He read mathematics books for pleasure. However, he was an eclectic type of person. He also read comic books, played computer games at Dragon's Lair or what we affectionately called the Nerd Shack, practice Tai Chi Chinese Martial Art, took guitar lessons, he was a student of music, took Zumba and line dance classes. He could electric slide with the best of them. He knew the difference between Star Trek and Star Wars. Apparently, that's a thing. He was a foodie. He loved to try new restaurants and



food experiences, the more exotic the better. Michael also had a great sense of humor. Michael was kind and generous. Michael was strong.

In 2013 Michael was diagnosed with cancer for the first time. He was a fighter. Michael kicked cancer's butt! But ole cancer came back in 2020. Michael knocked it down again. That cancer is a sneaky devil, it came back again in 2022, 2023 and 2024. And still he fought. He would have long stays in the hospital that affected his ability to walk. However, he would walk to my CLE trainings without a walker or a cane. I would ask, "where is your cane" and he would reply, "in the car". This probably meant Zita sent him out of the house with the cane and he ditched it in the car. He believed in doing what he could while he could. He would seem frail, but he continued to work and go to court until approximately three weeks before he passed. Again, because he believed in doing what he could while he could. He was strong. He was a fighter.

Michael was a generous soul. He donated regularly to the National Association of University Women Shreveport Branch Scholarship fund. He accused me of being a cookie pusher every year when he purchased Girl Scout Cookies in support of my church troop. He offered to represent me if I caught a charge for pushing cookies. He and Zita brought me a little red wagon to pull my cookie deliveries around. That little red wagon has helped with several church fellowships, NAUW programs, attorney CLE trainings, office luncheons and various functions.

Michael had a great sense of humor. It was the kind of humor that catches you off guard sometimes. Many years ago, Michael said he did not want a sad funeral. Well duh, funerals are sad. He said he wanted the people attending his funeral to wear red, a happy color. He made us promise to wear red. When he got sick, I asked him to release us from that promise. He looked me straight in the eye and said, "No. If you don't wear red, I will haunt you!" If you attended his funeral, you saw he was buried in a red casket and the funeral attendees wore red. I can just imagine the smile on his face and just hear his laughter.

On one of those particularly trying and frustrating days that Public Defender lawyers sometime have, Michael asked me, "If I give you a dollar, will you just kill me?" I replied, "I'd do it for fifty cents." I thought this was funny. He just walked away. On the next trying and frustrating day, he came into my office and slapped two quarters down on my desk. This became a running joke between us. Sometimes if he didn't have two quarters, he would slap a five dollar bill on my desk and tell me he expected his change.

Michael was a great friend. He cared for and supported his friends. Michael was the kind of friend you could call when you needed help to clean out your attic, attach a vent hose to your dryer, give you a ride to dealership when you purchase a new car, help you to move furniture, plant roses in the backyard, etc. Yes, he did all those things for me.

On July 6, 2024, approximately seventeen days before he passed, Michael sent a video of himself to all his friends. In the video he thanked us all for our love and support and reminded us to take care of ourselves and enjoy life because you never know when life may be cut off.

Michael Charles Bowers was my dearest friend for twenty-nine years. I thank God for the honor and privilege of his friendship. I am indeed honored to offer this memorial in memory of Michael Charles Bowers and move that it be filed and made a part of the permanent record of the First Judicial District Court, and that copies be presented to Zita Bowers and forwarded to the Louisiana Supreme Court for further recordation as appropriate.

Respectfully submitted on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of November 2024, in Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

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