

Memorial comments for
JAY ALAN GREENLEAF
Presented at the Memorial and Recognition Ceremony
Held by the First Judicial District Court
November 3, 2011
Under the Auspices of the Shreveport Bar Association

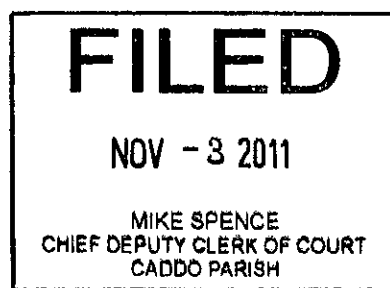
MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT:

Your Honors, families and friends of those being remembered here today, and fellow members of the bar:

Jay Alan Greenleaf was a lawyer, an accountant, a businessman, a coach and a teacher. He was a man of great faith, with integrity; a person of loyalty and trust; one who had joy of life and who exhibited the highest degree of love of family and friends. These matters are not easily made the subject of words. But, to know Jay was to understand all of these and so much more.

Jay departed us suddenly and untimely on June 7th of this year at the age of 49. Left to cherish his memories are his loving wife of 25 years, Aprile Russell Greenleaf; his daughters, Samantha Michelle Greenleaf and Madelyn Lee Greenleaf; and his son, Dylan Russell Greenleaf; as well as his father, David Greenleaf; his sister, Lori Greenleaf and Lori's fiancée, Rick Wheeler; and his brother, Jon Greenleaf and Jon's wife, Crystal. He was also survived by five nieces, Crystal and Chelsea Gelinis, Kendall and Katherine Greenleaf, and Emily Russell; his mother-in-law, Nina Russell; his sister-in-law, Tina Gelinis and her husband, John; his sister-in-law, Stephanie Russell; and his brother-in-law, Eric Russell, and Eric's wife, Crystal.

Jay was born on August 23, 1961, in Bangor, Maine, to David and Brenda Greenleaf. He moved often during his youth, ultimately settling in Irving, Texas, where he graduated from McArthur High School in 1980. From there, Jay attended Centenary College in Shreveport finishing with a degree in Accounting in 1984. He loved his years at Centenary and particularly being a member of the Kappa Alpha Order. The relationships Jay established with those institutions and the friendships he developed during that period proved to be life-long. Also, I would be remiss without noting that Jay's adventures while in college were reported so often by his contemporaries and retold so frequently by those that followed that the tales became the stuff of legend.



Mike Spence

Upon completing his studies at Centenary, Jay attended Louisiana State University Law School, obtaining his juris doctorate degree in 1987. He achieved success as a student in law school finishing high in his class and I can personally attest that he learned the law well. However, Jay would tell you that his greatest accomplishment while at LSU was to have found the love of his life, Aprile. He was a bright, multi-talented young man and Aprile provided Jay with the direction that would frame the rest of his life.

Following law school, Jay returned to Shreveport and joined the law firm of Hargrove, Guyton, Ramey and Barlow. He was in private practice for 14 years. Much of that time was devoted to a busy oil and gas practice in which he was as adept at negotiating and drafting contracts as he was at pursuing the rights of his clients in court. But Jay also found time to help friends with adoptions, counsel others through difficult financial times, or to frequently visit a juvenile he had been appointed to represent with books and gifts and advice on life. Jay was an enthusiastic, emotional and exceptional lawyer who approached the businesses and lives of his clients as though he was a part of their businesses and a member of their families. In return, Jay's clients viewed him not just as their attorney and counselor, but as their partner and friend. The lawyers with whom Jay practiced, and the Judges and other lawyers with whom Jay worked had great respect for his hard work, legal skills, innovative analysis and commitment to excellence. He was an attorney who evoked great respect, affection, loyalty and trust, from his clients, his partners and even his adversaries – a sign of only the very best of those in the legal profession.

In 2001, Jay embarked on a new career taking on what he called his “dream job” as the CFO for one of his clients, Anderson Oil and Gas. He flourished in this role, ultimately becoming its Chief Executive Officer. He combined his vast legal skills, his degree in accounting and the extensive knowledge of oil and gas he had secured while in private practice to assist in the company's growth and diversification. What he did not know about managing a business, he learned because Jay was always seeking to educate himself on something new. At Anderson, Jay was finally a true partner with his client. Upon his loss, the Andersons announced that he would be “missed not only for his tremendous management, financial and legal abilities,

but also for his keen interest and concern for the well-being of the Anderson family and his fellow employees.”

But Jay’s legal and business accomplishments represent only a small part of the man. He was a devoted family man who was an integral part of all of his children’s lives. He was involved in just about everything that Sam, Dylan and Maddie did, and he took great pride in their many achievements. If you wanted to get a smile out of Jay, all you had to do was mention his kids.

Being a dedicated father fit in well with Jay’s obsession with sports. He was an avid fan and an even more avid participant whether as a coach or a player. He coached his children from a young age in various sports, but particularly basketball. He went so far as to become a referee with the LHSAA and more than one friend referred to Jay as the Bobby Knight of Upward Basketball. In all of these endeavors, he worked hard to make long lasting and positive impressions on the kids that he coached, developing a strong bond with a number of his players and staying in close contact with them. As a player in the Shreveport Bar basketball league back in the late 1980s, Jay is fondly remembered for there never being a shot he could not take.

Jay was a spiritual man. He was very active in his Church, serving on the Church Leadership Team, Advisory Board, Finance Committee, Legal Committee, Search Committee, Outreach Team and Board of Elders, and chairing many of those. He vigorously represented his Church in the Succession of Jo Green Pardue, without compensation, to undo a wrong that had been perpetrated on an elderly parishioner. But Jay’s favorite contribution to his Church was having served as a Sunday School teacher for over 15 years. One friend described Jay as “a master at showing people Jesus’ love and compassion, not just content with knowing of it himself.”

Jay was a socially conscious man. He was active in the community, serving on numerous boards, including acting as a Trustee at Centenary College. He was on the Board of the Volunteers of America. He personally delivered Meals on Wheels every week and, according to his good friend, Merrill, he did not just drop off those meals but rather visited with those who worked there learning their life stories and medical conditions. A wise man said “Friends are

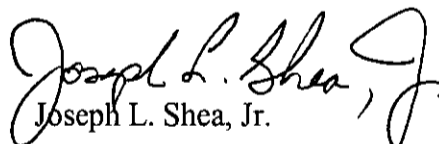
those rare people who ask how you are and then wait for the answer." Jay was someone who cared.

I met Jay at the start of his legal career. We were not just law partners. We were friends. But then everyone at the law firm, like so many others who met Jay during his lifetime, became friends with him. In evidence of this was the magnitude of the masses who assembled at Jay's visitation to pay their respects. It was an event rarely seen in Shreveport. Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote, "A man's growth is seen in the successive choirs of his friends." In the end, there is no truer measure of Jay.

Those of us, Jay's family and friends, are better persons for having had the privilege of knowing Jay. We celebrate his life and his memory. And, in a very genuine way, Jay is still here with us. He lives on through his loving family, Aprile, Sam, Dylan and Maddie, and through the lives of those many of us who have been inspired by his example.

I am deeply honored to offer this memorial to the memory of **Jay Alan Greenleaf**, and move that it be duly recorded and made a part of the permanent record of the First Judicial District Court, and that copies thereof be delivered to Jay's family and forwarded to the Louisiana Supreme Court for further recordation as appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph L. Shea, Jr.