

MEMORIAL FOR  
STEVEN MARK BRAINIS  
PRESENTED AT THE MEMORIAL EXERCISES  
HELD IN THE  
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT  
OCTOBER 26, 2000  
UNDER THE AUSPICES  
OF THE  
SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION

FILED

OCT 26 2000  
*Donna Daugherty*  
DEPUTY CLERK

Steven Mark Brainis was born on September 22, 1953 in Shreveport, and met an untimely death on February 2, 2000, at the age of forty-six (46).

Steve graduated from Byrd High School in 1971, attended Louisiana State University and received his Juris Doctor degree in 1978. Following graduation, he practiced law in Baton Rouge but was soon lured back to Shreveport. Steve maintained his practice for a number of years in Shreveport with the firm of Shuey & Smith which later became Shuey, Smith & Reynolds. For several years, Steve had been a sole practitioner in Shreveport.

His practice involved both criminal and civil law. Steve served with distinction as an indigent defender in the Western District of Louisiana. In doing so, he was one of those unsung heroes who in many cases are an example of what's best about our profession. His clients, civil and criminal, were indeed fortunate to have Steve as their advocate. Steve was dedicated to his profession, precise in his work and conscientious to a fault.

On a personal note, I recall three particular things about Steve.

First, was Steve's sense of humor. No one who knew Steve, even in passing, could miss that. His sense of humor, sometimes ribald, was the obvious tip-off to his enjoyment of life. His humor was contagious. I recall vividly a frequent tap on the shoulder at Rotary Club meetings - it was Steve with a new joke. He reveled in the gift of laughter and loved sharing it.

Second, to say Steve was fastidious in his dress and personal appearance is an

understatement. Steve is the only person with whom I have ever discussed the virtues of alpaca coats. Simply put, Steve loved clothes. When he dressed to work out, he appeared to be a poster boy for *Nike Today*. When he dressed for court, he qualified for the cover of *GQ*.

Third, Steve was wholly devoted to his daughters, Olivia and Eleanor. Olivia was three (3) in May and Eleanor was seven (7) earlier this month. Steve had his priorities in order. On many occasions, Steve rushed to cut short a business phone call - it was time to pick up the girls. That was no chore for him. I think it is safe to say that his daughters were the light of his life. It is unfortunate that they will not know Steve and have his guidance as they grow and mature.

Steve was a member of the Shreveport and Louisiana State Bar Associations and a long time member of the Rotary Club of Shreveport.

Steve was survived by his mother, Lucy Brainis, his grandmother, Eugenie Marrus Abramson, sisters, Sue Lester and Sara Rambin, brothers, Joe Brainis and Davis Brainis, and wife, Judy and of course his daughters, Olivia and Eleanor.

Steve was a loyal friend and a kind and loving father. William Butler Yeats expresses my sentiments well:

“Think where mans glory most begins and ends, and say my  
glory was I had such friends.”

Steve is and will be missed. A credit to his profession and community.

JOHN M. FRAZIER