



**MEMORIAL FOR  
VICTORIA MARIE CRANFORD**

**PRESENTED AT THE MEMORIAL AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY  
HELD IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT  
OCTOBER 30, 2018  
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION**

GOOD AFTERNOON YOUR HONORS, AND MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT.

Family, friends, and fellow members of the bar, my name is Lauren Lock Telep. As this year's Chair of the SBA Memorial & Recognition Committee, it is my honor and privilege to present this Memorial Eulogy for Victoria Marie Cranford.

If you knew Victoria, you know this: despite her small stature, she was a firecracker! Never one to back down from a fight or scared of ruffling some feathers, Victoria's passion and dedication was explosive! She was a warrior – feisty and tough – an unwavering force to be reckoned with, especially in the courtroom.

Victoria Marie Cranford, lovingly known to her family and friends as "Vickie," was born in Converse, Louisiana in 1952. She had a happy childhood and grew up knowing that there were no limits on what she could accomplish with her life.

She graduated from Northwestern State University with a degree in Spanish and English. She had the opportunity to spend her junior year of college in Spain where she became fluent in Spanish, delicious food, and good wine.

She studied at the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center, where she fell in love with helping and serving others. This love found its match in the criminal justice system.

She was admitted to the Louisiana Bar on April 24, 1981 and moved to Shreveport, where she practiced law for thirty-seven (37) years.

She started her legal career as a Public Defender for Caddo Parish, where she spent several years honing her craft. Thereafter, she worked at Mills, Timmons & Flowers, which later turned into Mills, Turansky & Cox. She left in 2003 to pursue her dream of opening her own practice, where she excelled for the last fifteen (15) years of her career. During her legal tenure, Victoria focused on personal injury claims and criminal defense, primarily defending her clients against

drunk driving charges and drug offenses. She was a zealous advocate and fierce protector of her clients and their constitutional rights. She was able to empathize with them and truly understood what was on the line for each of them in a way that most lawyers are unable to do. She left no stone unturned in her investigations, and often brought her son with her to work on his homework while she spent late nights preparing for cases in her office.

She was a member of the Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers for several years and served as an Officer during her membership.

Her legal prowess was not unnoticed – SB Magazine named her a top criminal defense lawyer in the area. Colleagues and fellow members of the bar on both sides of her cases would comment on her intellectual brilliance, her ability to adapt and think on her feet, and her knack for defending her clients. Several people have said that they learned more from Victoria about being a good, effective lawyer and advocate than they could have imagined, just from being in the same courtroom with her.

These comments serve as a true testament to her dedication and love for the legal profession.

Victoria was always true to herself, no matter the cost. Even when her legal or political views were not yet *en vogue*, Victoria held them proudly. She pushed for legal reforms and changes in the criminal justice system long before they were ever introduced to the public or voted on by the Legislature.

Those that knew Victoria knew the passion, love, and dedication she possessed in her professional life, but, as much as she loved the law and being a lawyer, she loved her family more! Her son, William “Will” Alexander, and her grandchildren, William and Isabelle Alexander, were the light of her life. She loved to visit them in New Orleans as often as she could. On visits, you could always find her dotting on her grandchildren, reading to them, and playing with them. Her immeasurable love for her family was obvious to everyone that knew her.

Victoria was an avid LSU fan, and her love for her team knew no bounds. On Saturdays during football season, you could find her watching the Tigers on TV with her family or rooting

them on in Death Valley. Rain or shine, good days and bad, she loved cheering on her Tigers and rooting for her team.

Of course, with game time came delicious food. We all know that food is the love language for many people. Victoria was no different – especially after enjoying all the gastronomical delicacies during her year abroad in Spain. She loved to indulge in cooking shows and Martha Stewart magazines. She often tried out many new recipes on her family and friends. She reveled in supporting the local community by using organic ingredients in her recipes that she purchased from local farms and farmer's markets.

If she wasn't trying out a new recipe, she was enjoying her favorite meals from local eateries. She always looked forward to crab season, when she frequented Jacquelyn's Café (even more than usual) to enjoy her favorite delicacy: Jacquelyn's crab salad.

Victoria was devoted to her family and loved the law. She was selfless and enjoyed learning about others more than talking about herself. She delighted in drinking a good cup of coffee, while listening to NPR or classical music. She never turned down a good glass of wine, champagne, or the opportunity to catch up on conversations with new and old friends.

On June 9, 2018, we lost an incredible, smart, talented, empathetic, and fiery member of our local bar community and the legal profession at large. After three (3) decades of struggling with Type 1 Diabetes, Victoria passed away. Her last few years were the most difficult. Victoria is greatly missed, but the passion and dedication with which she fought for her clients and her health will never be forgotten.

Victoria is survived by her mother, Freida Matschnig; son, Will Alexander; grandchildren William and Isabelle Alexander; sisters, Teri Cranford and Cindy Koos and brother, Richard Cranford. She is predeceased by her brothers Kent Wayne Cranford and Karl Shane Matsching.

I am truly sad for Victoria's family, friends, and colleagues that are left grieving and coping with their loss. It is my hope that this offers some sympathy and comfort to those that she left behind.

At this point Your Honors, I now move to request that this Memorial Eulogy for Victoria Marie Cranford be duly recorded and made part of the permanent record of the First Judicial District Court, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, that copies be delivered to Victoria's family, and that as a part of the public record of Caddo Parish, this Memorial Eulogy forever serves as a reminder of the wonderful life she led and the example she provided to all the lawyers whose lives she touched.

Thank you, Your Honors.

Respectfully submitted,

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**2018 Committee Chair of the  
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