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Johnson Duffie Recognizes the Contribution of One of Its Longest-Serving Partners - Jerry R. Duffie

In 2015, Jerry R. Duffie announced he was transitioning to “Of Counsel” status with the firm. While hardly retirement, “Of Counsel” status affords Jerry the ability to continue practicing law and the flexibility to spend time with family and favorite pastimes. “I have had a rewarding career practicing law,” said Jerry, “but I am not ready to completely stop working. I still enjoy practicing law, and I continue to enjoy the strong ties I have developed with colleagues and clients over the years.”

Jerry’s legal career spans five decades of service with Johnson Duffie. In 1964, after graduating from Washington & Jefferson College, Jerry entered law school at The Dickinson School of Law. Upon graduation from law school in 1967, he was commissioned an officer and served as a military judge in the United States Army, with the Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps, as part of the U.S. Army Trial Judiciary. After serving with the JAG Corps in Vietnam, Jerry returned to the United States and resumed private practice with the law firm in 1972, becoming a principal shareholder in 1974. In 1997, Jerry became President of Johnson Duffie and held that position until December 2015.

During his career, Jerry handled many important transactional and litigation matters involving health care law, complex commercial real estate, probate and estate, zoning and municipal law. A truly exceptional and respected attorney, he consistently provided his clients with the reassurance they needed when faced with the uncertainty and acrimony inherent in legal matters. In recognition of the scope and stature of Jerry’s expertise, his career has included both statewide and national recognition and honors.

Jerry achieved the highest rating of AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell, a leading international directory of lawyers and law firms.

Of great importance to our firm, Jerry was involved in mentoring younger attorneys to aspire to the same high standards he has always maintained. “I have tremendous confidence making a transition at this stage, knowing the needs of our clients are safely in the hands of the next generation of attorneys at Johnson Duffie who I had the pleasure of working with over the years.”

Jerry is a past president of the Cumberland County Bar Association. He has also served as Chairman of the Board of Managers of the West Shore YMCA and is a former member of the Board of Directors of the Greater Harrisburg Area YMCA. He has served as a member of the Board of Governors, West Shore Country Club and has been active in other civic organizations.

Jerry is a member of the Cumberland County Bar Association and the Pennsylvania Bar Association. In November 2015, Jerry was honored, along with several other members of the firm by the Cumberland County Bar Foundation, for their dedication to the legal profession.

In his status as “Of Counsel”, Jerry continues to work with many of his commercial real estate, business and personal clients and offers guidance to other attorneys in the firm. Jerry will also be available for consultations, at the firm’s office, consistent with his desire to make sure his clients are well placed and represented by other attorneys of Johnson Duffie. “The firm’s history of steady growth and success is built upon core values such as service, integrity and excellence,” said Jerry. “The breadth of our experience, combined with the creativity of our diversified group of attorneys, enables us to effectively represent our clients’ interests.”

Jerry has well-earned the opportunity to devote more time to spend with his wife, Linda and his three children, Mark, Megan and Brian, their spouses and his six adored grandchildren.

Johnson Duffie looks forward to continued growth in the coming years, while remaining true to the principles we value – dedication and integrity.



Horace “Hank” Johnson and Jerry R. Duffie

Johnson, Duffie, Stewart & Weidner and Jeffrey B. Rettig have been nationally ranked by U.S. News and World Report

U.S. News and World Report in conjunction with Best Lawyers® has ranked **Johnson, Duffie** as one of the 2016 Best Law Firms for the Harrisburg area in their “Best Law Firms” rankings. The firm received the Ranking for Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants. This is the fourth year that Johnson Duffie has been ranked as either “Best Lawyers” or “Best Law Firm”.

Jeffrey B. Rettig has been chosen as one of the 2016 “Best Lawyers” in the Harrisburg area rankings by U.S. News and World Report in conjunction with Best Lawyers®. Mr. Rettig received a First-Tier Ranking for Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants. This is the 15th year that Mr. Rettig has been selected as a Best Lawyer.

The methodology for choosing the Best Law Firms and

Best Lawyers is based on a rigorous evaluation process that includes the collection of client and lawyer evaluations, peer reviews from leading attorneys in their field, and review of additional information provided by law firms as part of the formal submission process.

Johnson Duffie has been providing legal representation in Central Pennsylvania since 1914. Today, our valued clients include individuals, small businesses, major corporations, financial institutions, government agencies, municipalities, and more. With each client, we continue to offer the soundest legal advice and provide the most highly skilled representation in the courts of our Commonwealth. More than ten decades after the firm’s founding, our attorneys and staff remain committed to working with our clients to achieve their goals efficiently and effectively.



Susquehanna Service Dogs

Every few weeks for the past year, employees of Johnson Duffie have been greeted by a very special visitor. SSD Patriot, a Yellow Labrador Retriever, is being trained for Susquehanna Service Dogs by one of our attorneys, John Statler, and his wife, Elizabeth. The dogs are trained to assist children and adults with a variety of disabilities and to enable those individuals

to become more independent. John and Elizabeth will work with SSD Patriot until he is about eighteen months old. He will then receive six additional months of advanced instruction and training at the SSD Kennel in Grantville before he is placed with his human partner.

Labrador Retrievers are known for their calm temperament and ability to patiently

tolerate long periods of waiting. Service dogs can be taught to respond to both voice cues and hand signals, and perform each task on the first cue. After a service dog has completed advanced training, they receive individualized training depending upon the needs of their human partner.

Service dogs work with people who have balance issues, hearing loss, physical or psychiatric disabilities. Some dogs become companion dogs for autistic children and help them improve social interactions and relationships.

Other dogs are paired with veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder. Service dogs may also be trained to turn on lights, open doors, retrieve items or alert their partners to specific sounds.

For information, please visit www.keystonehumanservices.org/ssd



301 Market Street P.O. Box 109
Lemoyne, PA 17043-0109
717-761-4540 • www.jdsw.com

Resolution of legal issues depends upon many factors, including variations of facts and interpretations of Pennsylvania law. This newsletter is not intended to provide legal advice on specific subjects, but rather to provide insight into legal developments and issues. The reader should always consult with legal counsel before taking action on matters covered by this newsletter.

New Law Impacts General Powers of Attorney

In Act 95 of 2014, Pennsylvania modified the law governing general Powers of Attorney (POAs). A POA is a written authorization by one person (the Principal) to another (the Agent) to act on the Principal's behalf. POAs are used to insure that determinations about the Principal's property and financial affairs can be carried out should the Principal become incapacitated or for some reason cannot attend to these important matters. In the POA, the Principal appoints a trusted and responsible person, usually a family member, as Agent. Without a POA, it may be necessary to incur the expense and delay of petitioning the court to appoint a guardian. POAs are generally recommended as an integral part of estate planning.

Under the new law, a valid POA requires two witnesses, and the Principal's signature must be acknowledged by a notary public. The Notice to the Principal and the Agent's Acknowledgment has also been modified, and the Agent's authority to engage in certain transactions must be explicitly granted. There are other changes which are beyond the scope of this article.

These changes impact only general POAs signed after December 31, 2014. Fortunately, the new law does not invalidate POAs executed before January 1, 2015. They remain viable.

Health Care POAs are not affected.

This change in the law is one of many events which underscore the need for periodic reviews of estate plans. Family and financial circumstances change from time to time, and the law continues to evolve. A review ensures that the estate plan is up to date. We recommend our estate planning clients review from time to time and encourage those who have not yet planned their estates to contact us so we may assist.

Estate Planning - It's All About Your Legacy

Legendary University of North Carolina basketball coach Dean Smith continued giving to his basketball players even after his death. Each of the approximately 180 players who lettered for Smith's Chapel Hill teams received a letter from Smith's Trustee and a \$200 check with the message "enjoy a dinner out courtesy of Coach Dean Smith." Smith's thoughtful gift demonstrates that every estate plan can be crafted to express the unique wishes of the individual. Whether you want to safeguard a spendthrift child from wasting his inheritance or providing for the care of a beloved pet, our estate attorneys can assist you in achieving your goals.

Assured Land Transfers, Inc. – Title Agency



Assured Land Transfers, Inc. was founded by the attorneys of Johnson, Duffie, Stewart & Weidner to provide the protection of title insurance for investments in real estate. Title insurance protects a buyer and the buyer's heirs against liens, encumbrances and defects in title for as long as the buyer owns the property. Assured Land Transfers provides title insurance policies issued by First American Title Insurance Company and Conestoga Title Insurance Company.

The title to every property insured through Assured Land Transfers is reviewed by an experienced real estate attorney. **Unlike most title insurance agencies, Assured Land Transfers makes sure that an attorney is present to conduct every closing**

in order to ensure the interests of the buyer is protected at no additional expense. All rates for title insurance are set by the Pennsylvania Insurance Commission. The premium is paid at closing.

Assured Land Transfers, Inc. is a complete title agency offering comprehensive services at competitive rates. By choosing Assured Land Transfers you receive the attention and time you deserve throughout the entire transaction. A partial list of services includes:

- Settlement Services
- Purchase/Sale
- Refinancing
- Ownership Transfers
- Commercial Services
- Investor & Tax-Deferred Transfers

Contact David W. DeLuce, Mark C. Duffie or Richard W. Stewart at (717) 761-4720 for further information.

Practice Areas

Administrative Law
Business Planning
and Corporate Law
Collections and
Creditor's rights
Divorce and Domestic
Relations
Estate Planning and
Administration
Hospital Law and the
Law of Health Care
Professionals
Land Development,
including Condominium
and Planned Residential
Developments
Litigation
Municipal Authorities
Purchase and Sale of
Real Estate
School Law
Transportation Law
Wills
Zoning Law

Johnson Duffie Attorneys recognized as Pennsylvania Super Lawyers

JOHN A. STATLER, JEFFREY B. RETTIG AND JOHN R. NINOSKY have again distinguished themselves in their legal practices and have been designated as Pennsylvania Super Lawyers.

Pennsylvania Super Lawyers is a rating service of outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high-degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. The selection process includes independent research, peer nominations and peer evaluations.

This accolade is bestowed upon only 5% of the practicing lawyers in Pennsylvania each year after a multi-phase selection process.

Thank You!

Thank you for choosing Johnson Duffie for your legal needs. We hope that you will continue to count on us when you need legal help. We are just a phone call away.

We also appreciate the trust that you have placed in our firm by referring your friends, family, and associates to us for legal services.