



The Philadelphia Association of Paralegals

A Charter Member of the National Federation of Paralegal Associations

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1973 - 2021

2021 JOAN M. WELDON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

About Joan

Joan Weldon was an active member of The Philadelphia Association of Paralegals (PAP) advocating on behalf of paralegals everywhere. She was elected President of PAP in 1991 and was instrumental in forming an alliance with the Philadelphia Bar Association.



Unfortunately, Joan was diagnosed with ovarian cancer towards the end of her presidency. As a testament to her character, she continued to work as a paralegal for Blank, Rome, Comisky & McCauley while undergoing treatment. In an effort to save her life, Joan's doctors recommended bone marrow and stem cell transplant procedures. However, her insurance carrier denied payment of the bills claiming the treatment was too experimental.

As a result, the legal community jumped into action. Members of the Association, other paralegals and Joan's employers initiated a media blitz to raise funds for her expensive medical care. She appeared on Wally Kennedy's morning show and an article was published in the Philadelphia Inquirer by acclaimed author, Steve Lopez ("The Soloist"). Within 2 weeks, approximately \$80,000 was raised.

The insurance company reevaluated its decision and ultimately paid Joan's medical bills. The donations were placed into the Paralegal Medical Assistance Fund to help other Philadelphia paralegals with burdensome medical expenses.

Sadly, Joan passed away on Christmas Day in 1994. Although she is still sorely missed, the annual Joan Weldon Memorial Scholarship lives on in her memory.

About the JWM Scholarship

The Joan Weldon Memorial Scholarship is an annual \$1,000 award, from The Philadelphia Association of Paralegals, given to a paralegal student demonstrating academic excellence. The winner is selected by members of the Professional Development Committee. The award will be presented virtually in September.

Applications are available on the Association's website as of May 1, 2021. **All applications must be postmarked by August 2, 2021.** Certain restrictions and requirements apply. See Instruction Sheet for details.