



Linda M. Rigot Peterson

November 4, 1943 - September 9, 2021

Linda M. Rigot Peterson unexpectedly passed September 9, 2021. Born November 4, 1943 in Cleveland, Ohio.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Barry Peterson, to whom she was devoted, and her sisters, Sherrill Rigot Marks and Leah J. Rigot. She was predeceased by her parents, Ray J. and Marge Rigot, and her sister, Sandra Rigot Whelchel.

Linda received her Juris Doctor, cum laude, in 1969 from the University of Miami School of Law. She was a member of the Honor Society, Phi Kappa Phi. She received a Meritorious Service Award from the Society of Bar and Gavel, in addition to being inducted into the Society of Wig and Robe. Linda also received an award for Law Review Service 1968-1969.

In 1969, Linda was admitted to the practice of law in Florida by the Florida Supreme Court. She was a member of the American Bar Association. She received a United States District Court, Southern District of Florida's Award for Distinguished Service. In 1970, Linda was admitted to the United States Court of Appeals, 5th Circuit.

Linda moved to Tallahassee in 1980 where she was an Administrative Law Judge of the Florida Division of Administrative Hearings until 2010. She had

jurisdiction over Chapter 120 Florida Statutes cases. Some of Judge Rigot's many activities, awards, degrees, and accomplishments (both before becoming a judge and as a judge) are:

In 1995, Judge Rigot received the Florida Bar Association (FBA) Administrative Law Section's Award for Service as Chair-Elect of the Section Activities Publications Committee, and also received an Outstanding Leadership Award as Chairwoman the following year.

In a special ceremony in 1996, Governor Lawton Chiles recognized "her leadership as Chair of the Administrative Law Section of the Florida Bar and her personal hard work securing support for the bill creating the modern Administrative Procedure Act" (APA).

In 2007-2008, Judge Rigot chaired the Appellate Rules Review Committee regarding administrative law appeals.

She chaired the Uniform Rules of Procedure Review/Amendment Committee which resulted in the adoption recommended amendments in 2013.

Judge Rigot was chair of the Steering Committee for the Florida Bar's most recent Administrative Practice CLE volume. She received, with good humor, a special award for her role as the "APA Police."

After her retirement, Judge Rigot contracted with the Division of Administrative Hearings and the Administrative Law Section of the Florida Bar to monitor and evaluate Florida House and Senate bills that would potentially affect the APA and practice before the Division of Administrative Hearings.

The family is receiving guests for a visitation at Bevis Funeral Home of Tallahassee (200 John Knox Rd.) on September 17, 2021 from the hours of

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM. There will be a Requiem Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Mission located at St. Andrew Church (401 Timberlane Rd., Tallahassee, FL) on September 18, 2021 at 4:00 PM. Donations may be made to any charity of your choice in lieu of flowers.

Breanna Green of Bevis Funeral Home is assisting the family with their arrangements. (850-385-2193 or www.bevisfh.com)

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **17.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory
200 John Knox Rd
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 385-2193

Requiem Mass

SEP **18.** 4:00 PM (ET)

St. Andrews Anglican Church
401 Timberlane Road
Tallahassee, FL 32312

Tribute Wall



“ *Rest In Peace, our beautiful friend. We were so blessed to have Linda in our lives.* ”

The Johns' - September 25, 2021 at 05:46 PM

“ Linda M. Rigot was my teacher, mentor, and closest Florida friend for 36 years.

Other friends and colleagues will rightly praise her fun sense of humor, great intellect, and professional accomplishments, but I call the attention of friends and family to her selfless service to her God, her nation, and her family.

Linda was a good and gentle lady who fed the hungry; clothed the poor; built a church; and served her God. She was a patriot who researched every economic and political issue, and who, with her much-loved husband Barry Peterson, contributed generously to the causes they supported.

After retirement, Linda trained and served as a Leon County, Florida poll worker. Recently, her excellent work in that capacity was recognized with the offer of the chief poll worker position for a regular polling place. Anonymously, we delivered clothing to the poor. She supported me in collecting books for women prisoners and collecting books and hotel-sized shampoos, etc. for veterans' hospitals and women's shelters. She utilized a number of local charities to directly distribute clothing and appliances to the needy. She studied and learned to conduct yard and garage sales for the elderly, so they could remain in their own homes or sell out and move to safer housing. She helped others pack up their possessions and move in with relatives. She was cautious with her money, but would tip large if she was convinced a waiter or waitress could not meet his/her expenses. She scoped out individuals' and organizations' needs and contributed anonymously in cash or in kind. She helped at least one small business owner reorganize a physical location so that the business could remain profitable. She was instrumental in establishing the Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Mission in Tallahassee, Florida, and personally worked to improve the physical grounds and building which house it. Until her death, she also did most of the preparation for services and post-service clean-up of the sanctuary.

She was a great lady who shared with me a belief in "stealth Christianity", and I will miss her more than words can say.--EJ Davis

Ella Jane P. Davis - September 17, 2021 at 01:36 PM

JH

“ *Because of your family when we were all teenagers in Miami, Florida, I had a "second" family where love was shown. Yes, you and Leah were the little sisters but I so enjoyed spending time with all of you! What an inspiring person you have been and will be missed by many. Love never ends and there will be a time when there will be a big family reunion in heaven. To Barry, Leah and your big siste Sherrill (my best friend) I am sad for how you will miss Linda, but your memories of a life well lived and full of joy will never be taken from you.*



Jo Ann Robinson Howard - September 15, 2021 at 08:19 PM

“ Dear Barry and Linda's entire family. I had the honor and pleasure of working closely with Linda during her final seven years at DOAH. She was a friend, a colleague, and a go-to mentor on all things related to administrative law. We worked on many important projects together, including a revision and modernization of the workers' compensation rules of procedure, monitoring of and writing analyses for legislative measures affecting DOAH and all administrative law practitioners, and updates to the Florida Administrative Practice Manual. Prior to our years together at DOAH, I appeared before Linda as an attorney in many hearings, most notably hospital certificate of need hearings in South Florida. She presided over her courtroom like a true professional and, while she kept matters on an appropriate judicial level at all times, she sometimes let her keen sense of humor seep into what would otherwise be dry proceedings.

As a colleague, she always acted in the best interests of DOAH. As a judge, she believed in the rule of law, she followed the law, and she issued decisions that were based upon the law that applied in a particular matter to the facts before her. She was always respectful of the parties in the case and, while empathetic to the feelings of people affected by her rulings, she was not dissuaded from remembering her limited role as an administrative law judge. Her decisions were often cited by her colleagues when writing their orders, as well as by many of the lawyers having appeared before her.

Linda was devoted to Barry and often scheduled her own medical procedures around her life with her dear husband. She always had a kind word for members of the staff and appreciated the hard work they did for the judges, which always made us look better and more prepared. We were honored to have her continue to monitor legislation after her departure from DOAH, until she called one day to say, "I'm finished," and was ready to enjoy her well-earned retirement.

Many have come before Linda at DOAH and many have and will follow her here, but she will long be remembered as one of the best in terms of her service to the agency, to the Administrative Law Section, and to the public. May she rest in eternal peace.

Bob Cohen

Bob Cohen - September 14, 2021 at 03:32 PM

RW

“*Than you Judge Rigot but being one the most nicest, honest, trustworthy person I have ever met. There are not many like you anymore. You ask me why I chose you for a situation at the job and I told you GOD led me to you, I will always be grateful for GOD placing you in my life. Every time you saw me there was always a smile and hug. Thank you so much for everything.*

Robert Williams

Robert Williams - September 13, 2021 at 03:36 PM