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PETER BANTA(1935 - 2016)

Peter G. Banta Attorney at family-founded law firm, Winne Banta, for 55 years, expert in many legal areas, a real gentleman Peter G. Banta, 81, of Asbury, N.J., formerly of Hackensack, N.J., passed away on July 12, 2016, at Hunterdon Medical Center of Flemington, N.J., as a result of complications from multiple myeloma. Peter was born in Hackensack, on Jan. 24, 1935, as the middle of three sons, to the late Horace F. Banta and Alice Evertz Banta. Peter was a husband, father, and longtime attorney in Bergen County, N.J. He had a prominent academic and professional career. Peter was salutatorian at Phillips Academy Andover, Phi Beta Kappa at Williams College, and a graduate of Harvard Law School. Peter joined his brother, Bruce, at the law firm of Winne Banta of Hackensack, which was founded by his father, Horace (Jim) Banta, in 1922. Peter worked at Winne Banta for over 55 years, and also served as co-managing partner for several years. He was an expert in many practice areas, to include general corporate, real estate development, construction and financing, securities and tax-exempt financing law. Peter had been active in newspaper and First Amendment Law, and commercial litigation. He was recognized by the NJ Bar Association as a top First Amendment lawyer and, in 1986, he successfully defended Time, Inc. in a First Amendment case before the U.S. Supreme Court. Peter also defended the New York Times Company and its reporter, Myron Farber, in connection with a challenge to the scope of the First Amendment protections accorded to newspapers and newsmen to shield their confidential sources. He was lead outside counsel for Hackensack Hospital and Hackensack University Medical Center for many years. Peter also represented banking institutions, including Peoples Trust of New Jersey, and he played an important legal role in the growth and expansion of Peoples Trust and the formation of the United Jersey Bank's holding company. Peter's hobbies and interest included tennis, biking, hiking, skiing, and spending time with family at the Banta family vacation home in Saltaire, Fire Island, N.Y. Peter was an incredible story teller, had a wonderful sense of humor, and was respected by everyone. He was known as a real gentleman. Peter was active in local organizations including the Lions Club of Hackensack, the former Glen Goin Tennis Club and, most recently, as attorney and board member of the Musconetcong Watershed Association. Peter is survived by his wife of 34 years, Marion Strobach Banta; son, Eric G. Banta; daughter, Laurie Banta; grandchildren, Kyle, Peter, and Sophie, and brother, David Banta. Peter was predeceased by brother, Bruce Banta. A visitation of family and friends will be held on Tuesday, July 19, 2016, from 2 to 4 and from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Rupell Funeral Home, LLC, 465 Memorial Pkwy., Phillipsburg, N.J. 08865. A Memorial Service for Peter will be held in Hackensack at a later date. Please refer to www.rupellfuneralhome for more details on the Memorial Service. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Peter's name to the Hackensack University Medical Center Foundation, 360 Essex St., Suite 301, Hackensack, N.J. 07601, and the Musconetcong Watershed Association, 10 Maple Ave., Asbury, N.J. 08802.

Funeral Home**Rupell Funeral Home**

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