

Fred Leonhardt was a man of high integrity, strong intellect, and deep faith with a heart of great compassion and humility. He loved unconditionally, and was loved by his wonderful family, by his countless friends, and by our firm. The man truly never met a stranger and was a tremendous asset to our firm, to our community, and to our state. We cannot begin to describe how much he will be missed.

Since he joined GrayRobinson in 1992, he has in many ways been the most publicly visible member of our firm throughout the state. Whether it was serving on countless nonprofit boards, in gubernatorial appointments, leading economic development initiatives, or actively participating in the political process, Fred was (in a word) everywhere. His many clients, and anyone who had the pleasure of working alongside him knows of his tireless work ethic, his passion for their cause, and his unique ability to be "in the right place at the right time" and position himself for success on their behalf. It was an ability that was evident from the moment he joined our firm and one that we now must strive to recreate in his absence. He was so proud of our growth and expansion around the State and, perhaps more than any of us, took such great pride in proclaiming what we built together as "Florida's Law Firm." He was, beyond his immense talent and good instincts, the consummate cheerleader that kept us all motivated and engaged to do our best for our clients, and for our communities.

In his seemingly never-ending volunteerism his service changed the course of several organizations which today we may take for granted. From the Central Florida Sports Commission, to the Boy Scouts, the Central Florida Partnership, the Florida Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise Florida and so many others, Fred invested his time and talents selflessly to ensure the long term prosperity and development of nonprofits and civic groups that were lucky enough to have him.

Fred loved his family in a way that we all hope we can. He and Vicki, his wife of more than forty years, have two children that were the pride of his life and his new granddaughter brought complete joy and fulfillment. But if you knew Fred, you know that we all were family. He would have done anything for anyone and lived out a faith in and commitment to his fellow man that will forever serve as an example to us all.

Intuitively we know that time will not stop, and that life will go on. But today, that doesn't seem possible. Central Florida, and we would argue our entire state, has lost a giant. We have lost a beloved colleague and friend, his family has lost a father and grandfather. Somehow we will endure and do what is right because, above all else, that is what Fred would have wanted. He was nothing if not in continuous motion. In his honor, and for his memory, we will endeavor to do the same.

We love you, Fred. Rest easy.

On behalf of the firm, written by Chris Carmody and Robert Stuart, Fred's long-time colleagues.