

National Board of Trial Advocacy (NBTA)

Certifications in: Civil Trial Law,  
Civil Practice Advocacy, Complex  
Litigation, Criminal Trial Law, Family Trial  
Law, Patent Litigation, Social Security  
Disability Law and Truck Accident Law



850 Franklin Street, Suite 8  
Wrentham, MA 02093  
phone: 508-384-6565  
fax: 508-384-8223

[www.nbtalawyers.org](http://www.nbtalawyers.org)

*In Memoriam: Barry J. Nace (1944 – 2021)*



Dear NBTA Members,

Yesterday our friend, colleague, and former President Barry Nace passed away. A gifted trial lawyer, Barry played a key role in the NBTA. He earned his NBTA board certification in Civil Trial Advocacy in 1997, encouraged many others to do the same and was elected to serve on the NBTA Board of Directors in 2001. For the rest of his life, Barry was periodically reelected to the Board of Directors. He served as the NBTA President, with distinction, from 2006 to 2008. Barry also served as a Founding Director of the NBTA Foundation.

Barry was well known for his volunteer and charitable work, which included decades of service with ATLA/AAJ, where he served as president from 1993-1994. Linda Lipsen, CEO of the AAJ, wrote yesterday: "When Barry served as AAJ President, he ushered in a new grassroots approach to advocacy on Capitol Hill. During his presidency, AAJ was able to beat back a massive products liability bill that would have made it impossible for clients to be compensated for their injuries. The grassroots approach was so effective that the bill was never again considered by Congress. I vividly remember this time because Barry hired me during that year." She added: "For Barry's distinguished service in advancing AAJ's mission and growth, plus his outstanding contributions to trial advocacy in a career that has spanned more than 40 years, he received the Leonard M. Ring Champion of Justice Award in 2020."

Our Executive Director Melissa Sternbach mentioned that when Barry joined our Board he did so as the representative of the renowned International Academy of Trial Lawyers and noted: "he was a big proponent for keeping ATLA (AAJ now) and NBTA in collaborations." Roger Daily, another member of the NBTA full-time staff, added "Barry's tenure as NBTA President saw a stabilization of the organization's financials through administrative reorganization and through board and member initiatives which led to budget surpluses."

Barry was a stellar lawyer, advocate, and very special human being. He was larger than life and not only could be counted upon he was also a caring, and decisive man. He sized up a problem and cut to the chase. Barry clearly loved the NBTA, as we all know, and we loved Barry. We are saddened by the enormity of this loss.

Here are just a few of the comments I've heard from our Board members about Barry in the last 24 hours:

“Barry was a hero of the civil justice system, and for plaintiffs and plaintiff’s lawyers across the nation. Barry was passionate about his advocacy for plaintiffs. We have lost, without warning, a great friend. My heart goes out to his wife and sons.” Keith Clifford, Immediate Past President, NBTA

“Barry was the ultimate straight-shooter, warrior, and friend. He consistently exhibited the courage to follow the truth and fight for justice, regardless of where that led. He will be greatly missed.” Jim Wren, Past President, NBTA

“Barry was amazing. He and his son Chris even won a large jury verdict for a client during the pandemic, finishing his illustrious career on top. No one was more dedicated to the movement supporting board certification for lawyers than Barry. Barry was a good friend I will deeply miss.” David Rapoport, Past President, NBTA

“I can’t imagine attending an NBTA board meeting without Barry’s presence. We will miss his wisdom and humor, and his devotion to the NBTA.” Steve Wizner, NBTA Board of Directors

“Barry's Presidency of the NBTA was instrumental in our history. I am still stunned by his death. I will miss him personally for his outspokenness, dedication to NBTA and his vision of certification for the public and the profession.” Phyllis Culp, NBTA Board of Directors

“Barry was a force of nature, an advocate in the strongest sense of the word, and a good and faithful friend to all he shared his work and life with. We’re all very fortunate to have traveled together with him.” Rob Wendt, NBTA Board of Directors

“A true stalwart for justice.” Joe Camerlengo, NBTA Board of Directors

“This is a huge loss, to his family and to the Board.” Mike Kelly, NBTA Board of Directors

“His straightforward, no-nonsense approach was what every board of directors needs, and of course his devotion to justice was unquestionable.” Bill Horton, NBTA Board of Directors

Please join me in sending our condolences to Barry's wife, Andrea, and his sons Chris, Jonathan, and Matthew (all trial lawyers) and other close family members too numerous to mention. Barry Nace was one of a kind who will be sorely missed by so many.

Respectfully yours,



Jim Richardson  
President, National Board of Trial Advocacy

[Legacy Obituary](#)