



## Mary "Molly" Margaret Lien

May 26, 1948 - September 11, 2015

Molly Warner Lien, age 67, died on September 11, 2015, at the Meijer Heart Center in Grand Rapids as a result of cardiomyopathy and complications of heart surgery. She was born in Chicago, Illinois on May 26, 1948, the only child of the late Cornelius and Donna (Dora M.) Beukema. She grew up in Homewood, Illinois, and she attended the Interlochen Arts Camp, and finished her last two years of high school at the Interlochen Arts Academy, graduating in 1966 with a major in voice. She won the concerto competition twice at the Arts Camp and again during her senior year at the Arts Academy. She also played the leads in several productions, including those by Gilbert & Sullivan, and the high school musical.

After attending the University of Michigan her freshman year, she graduated from the University of Miami with a degree in music. She sang numerous operatic roles, but ultimately was drawn to a career in law. She graduated with honors from the Emory University School of Law in Atlanta in 1978 where she was President of the Women's Law Student Association, Articles Editor of the Law Review, a member of Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honorary Society, and a member of the Order of the Coif. She was also voted the Wall Street Journal Award by the Faculty for Outstanding Academic Achievement in the field of law.

In 1979 she returned to the Chicago area and served as a law clerk to the Hon. Wilbur F. Pell, Jr. on the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. After practicing with two major Chicago law firms as a litigation and trial attorney, she decided to pursue a career in law teaching, partly as a result of a heart condition. She began as a Bigelow Fellow at The Law School of the University of Chicago, followed by two decades of teaching at the Chicago-Kent College of Law and The John Marshall Law School in Chicago. She started her career as a legal writing instructor, and remained committed to the importance of writing and analysis throughout her career, serving as the Director of Writing at both Chicago-Kent and John Marshall. She also served as a Visiting Consultant to The National University of Singapore to assist them in establishing a skills training program. She became a full Professor of Law at John Marshall. In her career she taught a

wide range of courses, including Federal Civil Procedure, Federal Courts, International Law, Comparative Law, Professional Responsibility, the Russian Legal System in Transition, and Trade with Emerging Markets.

Her interest in the developments in the Russian Federation caused her to learn the Russian language. She enrolled in Russian courses at Northwestern University, and she lived in Moscow two summers for language study, after which she was a proficient speaker. She made fourteen trips to Russia and the Ukraine, and lived there a total of more than a year and a half. She participated in Rule of Law Programs in Russia and Ukraine, and lectured at both the National Juridical Academy and the University of Internal Affairs in Kharkov, Ukraine. In 1993 she authored a seminal article on Russian Constitutional law, published by the Stanford Journal of International Law, and also published several other articles dealing with both lawyering skills and transnational litigation.

She was a long-time resident of Winnetka, Illinois, and served as a board member and later President of Family Services of Winnetka-Northfield, and as Chair of the Winnetka Zoning Board of Appeals. She attended Christ Church in Winnetka and served as a lector, a member of the Altar Guild, and became the first woman to serve as Chancellor to the Vestry.

She and her husband John retired to Traverse City, Michigan in 2008. She admired the art of hand weaving, and she enjoyed this new hobby and felt especially fortunate to belong to both the Northland Weaving and Fiber Arts Guild, and the Benzie County Spinners, a talented and supportive group of women dedicated to the fiber arts. She attended Grace Episcopal Church, where she was Director of the Altar Guild, a member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry, and a pantry volunteer. She also was honored to be a member of the Old Mission Women's Club, where she was Membership Co-Chair, Luncheon Chair, Club Secretary and then President. Molly was an avid reader. She loved spending time with her sons and their families. She was a great lover of dogs and had several as pets.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Cornelius and Donna Beukema, and earlier this year by her son, John Charles, and from a brain tumor. She is survived by her beloved husband, John Lien, and her son, daughters-in-law, and grandsons. They are Robert H. Warner (Chrissy and grandson Jack) of Interlochen, and Anna Warner (grandsons Charles and McCoy) of Montgomery, Ohio. She is also survived by several cousins, including Elizabeth Lewis of Traverse City, Tom Beukema of Petoskey, Ann Lloyd of Sarasota, Florida, and Ellen Brubaker of Grand Rapids. She is also survived by her former husband, Robert Warner (Sandy) of Weston, Wisconsin.

A visitation will be held at Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral home between 4 pm and 8 pm on Friday, September 18, 2015. A funeral service will be held at Grace Episcopal Church in Traverse City on September 19, 2015, at 11 am., with visitation starting at 10 am. The Very Reverend Father Daniel Richards will officiate the service.

Memorial gifts may be directed to Interlochen Arts Academy, 4000 Highway M-137, Interlochen, MI 49643, the Traverse City Symphony, 300 East Front St., Traverse City, MI 49684, AC Paw, P.O. Box 94, Acme, MI 49610 or Grace Episcopal Church, 341 Washington St., Traverse City, MI 49684.

# Events

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**SEP 18** **Visitation for friends and family** 04:00PM - 08:00PM

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Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home  
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

**SEP 19** **Visitation for friends and family** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

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Grace Episcopal Church  
341 Washington, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

**SEP 19** **Memorial Service** 11:00AM

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Grace Episcopal Church  
341 Washington, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

# Comments

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“ I met Molly several years ago, in conjunction with weaving. At that time, I only knew her as an accomplished weaver, but also felt honored to meet someone that appeared to be grounded. I was not able to further spend more time with her as her son was having medical issues. Just this week, I found out that she had passed. My condolences to her family and friends. I have been reading of her many accomplishments and am sorry that I was not able to know her better. Hugs.

**Kathy Kik Dawkins** - September 16, 2016 at 05:36 AM

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“ Just found out about Molly's passing in EMORY lawyer magazine. I was a classmate of Molly and she was by far, the brightest and nicest person I had the pleasure of knowing during our time together at Emory. She made it look so easy. I am so sorry for your loss. Wayne Benjamin, Class of 78L.

**Wayne Benjamin** - May 11, 2016 at 03:36 PM

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“ Molly & I shared a love for Golden Retrievers. While we never lived in close proximity, I would always hear from Molly each Christmas. I sent a card this year to John & Molly, eagerly awaiting her card. Instead, John shared the sad news.

I remember the day I met Molly. Molly was gracious and warm. Her zest for life has inspired me, and I will continue to remember her as I do my volunteer work with the Golden Retriever Rescue of WI.

Gail Thorpe  
Milwaukee, WI

**Gail** - December 30, 2015 at 03:21 PM

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“ Professor Lien had great humanity toward her students. I was fortunate to be among them. Thank you, Professor. You will be missed.

-- Mark Nicodemo

**Mark Nicodemo** - September 21, 2015 at 12:13 AM

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“ My Mom was an amazing woman who touched a lot of souls. I will miss her everyday. I want to thank everyone for their heart felt condolences. More importantly I would like to thank everyone for being a part of her life. You all were part of her joy and will forever be part of her memory.

**Robert Henry Warner** - September 19, 2015 at 09:59 PM

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“ Dear John and Family: Caring about your sorrow and remembering you in prayer. May you find comfort in cherished memories and the eternal promise...that Molly has stepped onto the shore of heaven, and has been welcomed by the loving hand of God.

"He healeth the broke in heart, and bindeth up their wounds." Psalm 147:3 KJV



**Ken and Kris Smith** - September 19, 2015 at 03:18 PM

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“ To Molly's family and loved ones - I and many of my colleagues owe a debt of gratitude to Professor Lien for sharing her wisdom and showing us how to communicate as lawyers. Without her, I am certain that our skills and abilities as attorneys would not be what they are today. Not only has she had a hand in molding hundreds of lawyers, she obviously cared about teaching law, about the profession itself, and most of all, about her students. She touched many lives in a positive way. We mourn her passing and she is in my and my family's prayers. -Michael J. Fleck, J.D. '95 Chicago-Kent

**Michael J. Fleck, Esq.** - September 17, 2015 at 03:40 PM

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“ I will miss you Molly and appreciate so much your fight to stay with us. While, we were selfish of your time, you never were, instead being very generous! If only I had a few more minutes to knit with you! Jan Hinds

**Jan Hinds** - September 15, 2015 at 12:21 PM



“ Molly was such a warm person to know. She was always so positive. I felt it an honor to know her. Martha Myets OMWC

**Martha Myers** - September 15, 2015 at 08:04 AM

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“ I was so saddened to see Molly's obituary in today's paper. As it stated, she was part of the Benzie County Spinners which is how I knew her. From the time she joined the group, she was a vital member - so kind to all and so interested in everyone. She was gracious in hosting our group at her and John's lovely home, offering their indoor pool for our enjoyment. We could swim and spin (or knit or weave). I was an infrequent attender of the group, and yet, every year, Molly send me a Christmas card with a personal handwritten note in it. She personified grace. The world is a little less kind because of her absence in it. I grieve for John and for Molly's son and his family. You all are being lifted up in prayer.

**Sherri Freels** - September 15, 2015 at 07:04 AM

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“ More tributes from law teachers throughout the country:

Thank you, Ralph, for sharing Mark's post; thank you, Mark, for such a wonderful tribute to Molly; and thanks to all for expressing your comments about how special Molly was and the footprint she left on the legal writing community. I remember Molly with great respect and a smile. Debby McGregor, Indiana-Indianapolis Law School

Molly personified the best parts of our community. Everyone who knew her loved her. I will miss her so much. Terrill Pollman, UNLV Law School

What sad news. After her amazing recovery from her stroke, I thought for sure that she was invincible. Indeed, she will be greatly missed. Sam Jacobson, Willamette Law School (ret)

Molly was the essence of dedication, warmth, and courage. I feel privileged to have known her and had her as a friend. Anne Enquist, Seattle U. Law School

This is so very sad. Molly inspired a lot of people. Catherine Wasson, Elon University Law School.

Here is a wonderful tribute to Molly written by Mark Wojcik. There is very little I can add that could give anyone more of an idea of what a precious jewel Molly was in this less than ideal world of ours. Karin Mika, Cleveland State Law School.

A great woman. All around. A terrible loss Mark Wojcik. And here is a blog of her lifestory:

<http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/legalwriting/2015/09/molly-lien.html>

Mark did his usual great job here. Of course, he had such an exceptional subject. Terri Le Clercq, Texas University Law School. (ret.)

Mark got that exactly right. Ian Gallagher, Syracuse Law School.

What a loss it is. We were blessed to have her as part of our community. Mary Beth Beazley, Ohio State University Law School.

Ohhhhh. I'm so sorry! She was a remarkable person in so many ways. Chris Kunz, William Mitchell Law School.

Terribly sad news. Molly was a sweet soul and I know you cared deeply for her. Molly Current, Santa Clara Law (ret).

Molly got my teaching career going, and I will never forget her. Also, this year I finally banned laptops in my classroom - she was ahead of her time, as Mark noted: "Molly (quite correctly) warned that laptop computers were not necessarily a blessing for classrooms because they produced students who disengaged from the class either by web surfing or by becoming something like court reporters who simply transcribed class discussions instead of participating in them." Debbie Borman, Northwestern

Law School.

I knew Molly mostly from afar, but of course knew of her grace and her impact. I did not know the topic of her article, which shocks me even so many years later (or maybe it's more shocking today because Molly did so much for us?) The whole thing makes me very sad. Ruth Anne Robbins, Rutgers Law School.

I am so sad today. My dear friend, Molly Lien, died yesterday during surgery. Molly was a colleague of mine at Chicago Kent for many years, succeeded me as director of the Legal Writing program, was a wonderful teacher, and the epitome of a caring, loving individual, concerned about her students and others. She went on to direct the program at John Marshall and taught there, before she retired to Traverse City Michigan a few years ago. She was born with a hole in her heart, requiring her to have a defibrillator implanted in her chest, and had numerous issues with that condition. Unfortunately, this year has been especially difficult, as her oldest son died from brain cancer, and Molly herself had almost died earlier this year from a combination of a staph infection and a stroke. With the aid and comfort of her husband John, she had seemed to miraculously survive those and was on her way to full recovery, but had a recent setback. She was undoubtedly the kindest, most generous, loving person I have ever known. She will be greatly missed. Ralph Brill, Chicago Kent

**Ralph Brill** - September 14, 2015 at 04:51 PM

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“ Molly was a wonderful friend and mentor. Her generosity with her time and good advice have stayed with me through my entire teaching career. We will miss her curiosity about the world, her warmth, her sense of humor, and above all her friendship.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Molly, John, and the entire family.

Much love,

Anna Marshall and Richard McAdams

**Anna Marshall** - September 14, 2015 at 04:42 PM

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“ The following quotes are from law teachers throughout the country. I am sure many more of them will write directly after they receive the news of Molly's passing.

Molly certainly was someone who touched many of us, far and wide, and who stood up for and symbolized the fight for recognition of the legal writing community, in ways that we won't forget. Diane Edelman, Villanova Law School.

The world is a little less lovely, a little less kind, a little less gracious for Molly's absence. I know we all share in this tremendous loss. Maureen Collins, John Marshall Law School

Your spirit will live on in all of us you touched, Molly. Congratulations on a life well-lived and a career well done. Brad Clary, University of Minnesota Law School

Molly was a great colleague and friend. I'm glad that we both knew her and I'm very sorry for this sad news. Mark Wojcik and David Austin, John Marshall Law and San Diego Law

When I was a new director with lots of questions I shared with the listserve, Molly was the one who picked up the phone and called with answers. She will truly be missed. Gail Stephenson, Southern University School of Law

This is a sad day indeed. Molly was the best of us. Always there to lend a hand, offer wise advice, and give support. We lost one of the nicest people on the planet, but we have been blessed by knowing her. She was a mentor to many of us, and her legacy is her kindness. She is a role model for all of us on how to teach and how to live. Let us always remember this great woman. Grace Tonner, University of California at Irvine.

Oh Ralph. This is just so tragic. So so sorry to lose her. I am stunned even though this seems to have been coming for some time. Anne Enquist, Seattle University Law School

Like Anne, I knew that, at some point, this would happen. It is still a shock. She is already missed. Thank you Ralph for sharing the news. Laurel Oates, Seattle University Law School.

Molly was a mentor to me in so many ways, I can't begin to name them. I am grateful for having been the recipient of her advice, her support, and her friendship. I took my son to meet Molly when he was looking at law schools, and she unquestionably influenced his ultimate choice. I don't look forward to sharing this sad news with him and his wife, both graduates of Chicago-Kent. It was a privilege to know Molly. She will never be forgotten by this community or by anyone who knew her. Coleen Barger, University of Arkansas Law School

What a loss. And after such a struggle over the last year. I'm keeping her family in my thoughts and prayers. But I'm also thinking of you, and her other dear friends. It's a loss to all of you. My sympathies. Lurene Contento, John Marshall Law School

Over the past year, I have had to dig deep inside to find courage I didn't know I had. So many times, I have thought of Molly and her strength and fortitude during one particular terrible year in her career. Molly showed us all that kindness, forgiveness, and the ability to show our dissenters just how wrong they are pave the true path to success, contentment, and respect. I loved Molly dearly and will miss her with all my heart. I join the rest of the academy in mourning her loss and honoring her life. Lisa McElroy, Drexel University School of Law

Molly was a kind and gracious mentor to me when I was a terrified new director. Rest in peace, dear lady. Kristin Dauphinais, North Dakota University Law School

This is devastating news. I suspect her son's recent death affected her ability (and perhaps desire) to fend off infections. Such a loss. Pam Lysaght, UDM Law School (ret).

**Ralph Brill** - September 14, 2015 at 04:31 PM

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“ Molly made an incredible contribution to the school and was amazingly devoted to all of her students. Our thoughts are with her family and friends. Dean Harold "Hal" Krent.

She was a very special person. A cruel loss for all her knew her and for Chicago kent as an institution. Prof. Howard Eglit

Molly was a wonderful person and she did so much to make Chicago-Kent into the institution and the community that it has become. She will be sorely missed. Prof. Steve Heyman

Terrible loss of a colleague, a friend and an ever wonderful smile. Clin. Prof. Richard Kling

Professor Brill, thank you for keeping me updated on Molly. She was a pleasure to work with. My thoughts and prayers will continue to go out to her and her family. Sharon Wyatt-Jordan, Administrative Assistant

Molly lived for her students and was always available for her colleagues. It was a terrible loss for Chicago-Kent when she left, and it is a further terrible loss now for all who were fortunate enough to know her. Prof. Richard Wright

Thanks for letting us know. We will all miss her terribly. Prof. Bart Brown

What terrible news. Molly left Chicago-Kent before I came on board here, but I know that the writing program suffered a huge loss when she left. I know that you and she were great friends and that this must be a horrible personal loss for you. I'm so terribly sorry. Assistant Professor of Legal Writing and Director of the Legal Writing Program, Elizabeth DeArmond

Thank you for letting us know about Molly. I am sorry for your loss I know what a great friend you were to her and her family. If there is anything I can do please let me know. Susan Jadin, Administrative Assistant

I want to offer my condolences on the loss of your friend Molly. I've heard and read many wonderful things about Molly within the C-K and broader legal writing communities and have a great deal of respect for what you both have done to build this program. I am so very sorry to learn of this news. Maureen Aidasani, Director of Experiential Learning.

As many have already written, Molly was very special: gracious, energetic, creative, totally devoted to her students, colleagues, and the law school. When I was Associate Dean in the '90's, Molly taught a wide variety of substantive courses, including Russian Law. One semester, I mentioned to her in passing that I needed an additional instructor for a particular course. Without a moment's hesitation, she offered to teach the course as an overload -- although she had never taught it before. That was Molly. Like all who had the privilege of knowing her, I will miss her very

much. Professor Howard Chapman.

**Ralph Brill** - September 14, 2015 at 03:36 PM

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“ My deepest condolences to your family. May you find comfort knowing that your loved one is in God's memory. May Jehovah God bring you peace and comfort during this difficult time. (2Cor.1:3,4)

**Thomas Wrice** - September 14, 2015 at 03:31 PM

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“ During her time at Chicago-Kent, Molly was a ray of light—available to students and colleagues 24/7, offering deep understanding, creativity, a wonderful calmness, and a wicked sense of humor. Molly put her heart into her teaching with a commitment that is rarely seen. She was truly a woman of honor. Prof. Lori Andrews

**Ralph Brill** - September 14, 2015 at 03:22 PM

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“ Molly was such an amazing woman. So many accomplishment and yet so humble. Her very real and humorous take on her health and life made her a delight to be around. I feel honored to have helped her a little bit with her health issues and just to have been able to call her a friend. My thoughts and prayers are with you John and the rest of her family. With much Love, Penny Paulley

**Penny Paulley** - September 14, 2015 at 11:28 AM

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“ Molly will be so missed by her sister and brother yogis. Her quiet ways and beautiful smile will be remembered. My condolences to her family. Sandy Lockwood

**sandy Lockwood** - September 13, 2015 at 08:10 PM