

**Remarks of Chief Justice Deborah E. Fry
On the passing of Kenneth Jerrett
A Member of the Law Society
Court of Appeal, Duckworth St., St. John's, NL
March 17, 2020**

The Chief Justice:

Before commencing the regular business of Court this morning, I want to take the opportunity to record the passing of **Kenneth Jerrett**, an active member of the Bar who passed away on January 20, 2020 at the age of 49. He was called to the Bar on April 14, 1997 and was entered on the Barrister's Roll as # 1025.

Many members of the Bar and the Bench were shocked to hear of Mr. Jerrett's passing. Many had no idea that Ken was suffering from a serious chronic disease that would ultimately take his life much too soon. He had been diagnosed as a child with Chronic Granulomatous Disease (CGD), a rare genetic immunodeficiency. He lived his best life all the while dealing with the many treatments, hospitalizations and challenges posed by CGD. Not many knew the pain and suffering that Ken was managing all the while attending law school and developing a very successful legal practice. His self-deprecating style and widely acknowledged sense of humor covered what must have been a long and at times lonely fight against the odds.

In his obituary, the family acknowledged the many doctors, specialists, nurses and other medical personal whose care and attention permitted him to enjoy professional success beyond that of any other person with CGD. His life span was double what the doctors had expected for a person with his condition. I believe that Ken himself had much to do with beating the odds for as long as he did. With a positive outlook, courage, determination, fortitude and loving support of his wife and family, he was able to pack a full lifetime of experience and contributions to his profession and community into the short time he had on this earth.

His wife, Taryn Hearn, parents, Eric and Elizabeth Jerrett, sister, Carol Ann Stringer (Kent), colleagues at Martin Whalen Hennebury Stamp, best friend, Jorge Segovia, and a wide circle of family and friends are left with inspirational memories of a life well lived.

His law firm colleagues were all present for all the hours of his visitation at the funeral home. Their presence honoured him. They all spoke of the high regard they had for the professional lawyer and colleague that was Ken Jerrett. They also spoke of the high regard that his clients and clients of the firm held for him. But most of all, they told stories of Ken's sense of humor and how that had helped all of them and him come to what was to be the close of Ken's life.

Ken had an ongoing presence on twitter and when he entered the hospital for the last time during Snowmageddon 2020, he tweeted on January 19, 2020 "I continue to go downhill faster than the snowboarders on Holloway Street."

The tributes for Ken Jarrett poured in from all the people he touched and upon whom he made a lasting impression; a classmate from law school in Saskatchewan, a high school teacher, many legal colleagues, clients, a wide circle of friends, and many others. Everyone commented on his lightning quick wit and wild sense of humor, how he deflected attention from himself with his concern and compassion for others, how he faced his deadly diagnosis with grace and courage and demonstrated how fulfilling life can be, his exemplary practice and knowledge of the law and yes there were also comments of his love of whisky and fine wine!

As someone said, Ken Jarrett fought the good fight and now deserves to rest in peace.

On behalf of my colleagues at the Court of Appeal, I wish to extend our sincere condolences to the family on their loss of Kenneth Jarrett. The Bench and the Bar will miss him.

I direct that a transcript of these remarks be prepared and sent to his family.