



July 3, 2024

The Oneida Law Office is providing this information on behalf of Attorney Lydia Witte, our colleague and friend. During the early morning hours on June 30, 2024, Lydia and her family were involved in a house fire while they were on vacation in Necedah (Juneau County), Wisconsin. Lydia and several family members did not survive.

Lydia was a strong ally of the Oneida Nation and she worked to protect the interests of the Nation, and its families and children. Lydia represented the Nation's interests on child welfare and child support matters and she has been on the ground floor of asserting the Nation's jurisdiction and sovereignty over child welfare matters. Prior to working with the Nation, Lydia worked as an Attorney with Friends of Abuse Families, Inc., (now known as "FRIENDS, Inc.") in Washington County, WI, and House of Hope of South Central Wisconsin (Baraboo) where she was an advocate for victims of domestic and sexual abuse and violence. Lydia worked tirelessly to provide a voice to those who could not speak for themselves or were vulnerable.

Lydia graduated from Marquette University Law School in 2014; she spent time abroad studying child maltreatment and family law. While attending law school, Lydia worked as a student attorney/intern with the Walworth County, Brown County, and Milwaukee County District Attorneys' Offices, as well as a judicial intern placement at the Milwaukee County Children's Court. During this time Lydia was also a part-time clerk (and later, attorney) for Sperling Law Offices in Milwaukee, WI. Between Fall, 2015 and Spring, 2016 Lydia also worked at Beijing Union University where she designed and delivered the curriculum for an Internal Business Law course, served as a consultant with their Examination Board, and worked with students and staff on English communication and translation.

Lydia obtained her undergraduate degree from Wisconsin Lutheran College. Lydia was a leader in the Psi Chi National Honor Society and past President.

Lydia was the embodiment of smarts, sensitivity, and strength and there are not enough words to express how much we will miss her. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Lydia's family and friends.

Lydia's colleagues have created a memorial fund in her honor. Donations may be made to the Lydia Witte Memorial via the following methods:

- A check may be made to the "Lydia Witte Memorial" and sent via in person delivery, or mail to

Lydia Witte Memorial
c/o Bay Bank
2550 Packerland Drive
P.O. Box 10855
Green Bay, WI 53037

- Pay Pal: Lydia Witte Memorial



- Zelle

Lydia Witte Memorial
lydiawitte@oneidanation.org

- Venmo: @LydiaWitteMemorial



The Lydia Witte Memorial account e-mail is: lydiawitte@oneidanation.org

Funeral arrangements remain pending.

If you were working with Lydia on a case or other professional matter, your correspondence may be directed to Senior Paralegal Jeri L. Bauman at jbauman@oneidanation.org. Child welfare matters may be directed to Attorney Peggy A. Van Gheem at pvanghee@oneidanation.org. Child support and paternity matters may be directed to Attorney Kelly M. McAndrews at kmcandre@oneidanation.org.