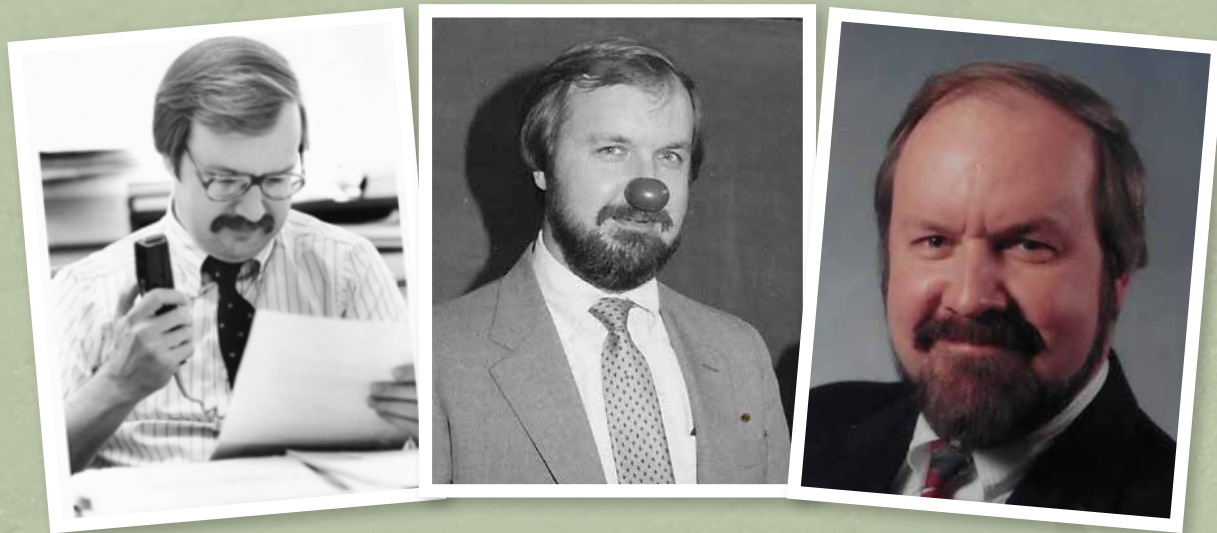


Farewell, Terry: Your Colleagues Wish You Well



CBA General Counsel Edwin W. Patterson III "Terry" retires after 39 years

I have had the good fortune to know Terry for more the 20 years. During this time, he has been my boss, colleague, mentor and friend. I first met Terry when he hired me to work at the CBA as his law clerk. It did not take long for me to catch the "ethics bug" from him because he was so devoted to his work. After graduating from law school and working elsewhere for several years, I returned to the CBA as Assistant Counsel and CLE Director. Working alongside Terry for the next eighteen years, I had the inspiring opportunity to witness his sharp legal mind in action as he led the CBA's Grievance and Ethics Committees, assisted attorneys facing ethical dilemmas, educated attorneys with presentations and articles, and participated in taskforces to consider improvements to Ohio's ethics rules and related matters of attorney regulation.

Terry went out of his way to empower me and the many other law students and young lawyers who worked with him, particularly female lawyers, to find their voice. From the start, he was interested in my opinion and made me feel like I had something of value to add. He provided opportunities for me to build my skills and make an impact. And, he did it all with his trademark humor and mild temperament. No drama; no ego. Just a big heart and big ideas.

Congratulations on an amazing career Terry! The practice of law in Ohio is undoubtedly better for your unmatched contributions.

— *Dimity Orlet, Pro Seniors Executive Director*
Orlet clerked for Patterson and was formerly the CBA's assistant counsel and director of CLE.

During his career, Terry has developed into one of the leading experts on attorney ethics and professional responsibility in Ohio. While his wealth of knowledge is an invaluable resource, it is Terry's approachability and sincere interest in helping those who seek his assistance that make him a true asset to the CBA and Cincinnati legal community. When I started at the CBA nearly four years ago, I had little knowledge of the work the grievance department did. It was fortunate that I had Terry to learn from as he has seen and heard nearly everything you can imagine in his 39-year career at the CBA.

Even with all he has experienced, Terry always finds new ways to be excited and intrigued by the work he does. No matter how bleak or thankless the work seems at times, Terry never loses his sense of empathy for the public he aims to protect or his compassion for the attorneys he is tasked with prosecuting. For someone who is still in the earlier stages of their career, I am inspired seeing someone like Terry who so clearly finds fulfillment and purpose in the work he does. Terry is also someone who wants to help others find that same fulfillment. Knowing that I had a background in journalism, Terry arranged for us to collaborate on an article for the *CBA Report*. That unexpected opportunity has become one of my favorite experiences since I joined the CBA and it was all thanks to Terry.

I will miss our afternoon chats about everything from the best downtown lunch spots to the latest movie releases to Formula 1 race results. Terry is a natural storyteller and in his time at the CBA he has built quite the repertoire of sad, strange, and funny tales. Hopefully during his well-deserved retirement he will have the opportunity for new adventures with new stories to tell.

— *Chelsea Jordan, CBA Paralegal*

Terry has guided and supported the Grievance Committee for decades. His dedication to ensuring the integrity of the process and protection of the public is unparalleled. Everyone who served on the committee during his tenure has relied on and benefitted immensely from his wisdom and depth of knowledge. On behalf of myself and the Committee, thank you, Terry. We wish you all the best. You will be missed.

— Anita Cross, Cincinnati Bell Associate General Counsel and CBA Grievance Committee Chair

I spent approximately 20 years on the Cincinnati Bar Association Certified Grievance Committee and worked with Terry as an officer and president of the CBA. From those experiences, I know that Terry was a ready resource to the Board of Trustees, multiple committees and any lawyer who had a question on ethics or professionalism. The public and profession have greatly benefited from Terry's commitment to the ethical practice of law. Terry, congratulations on your retirement, we wish you well and will miss your presence and wisdom.

— Robert J. Gehring, Buechner Haffer Meyers & Koenig Co. LPA. Gehring worked with Patterson on the CBA's Grievance Committee and as past president of the board.

I have had the privilege of working with Terry for 25 years and have learned a great deal from him about ethics and professionalism, and the history of the grievance process. Terry is academic and analytical in his approach and appreciates the language of the law. He values the attorney discipline process and has always emphasized that protection of the public is of the utmost importance. He also values the work of the grievance committee members and appreciates their dedication. Over the years, he has been appointed to several Ohio Supreme Court task forces and commissions charged with review of the disciplinary procedures or to propose amendments to the rules. Terry brings a valued perspective to these committees and he is highly regarded as an expert in attorney discipline in Ohio.

In his role as CBA General Counsel, Terry is an invaluable resource in providing ethics advice to attorneys. He consistently provides thoughtful responses to ethics questions from CBA members, and is respectful to those asking. He has always been intrigued by the investigations and loves to solve a mystery or work on a complicated set of facts in presenting a case. Terry has an uncanny ability to remember details of grievance cases, even those from more than 30 years ago, and he loves to tell a good story. Congratulations, Terry!

— Maria Palermo, CBA Senior Counsel

Terry was a fantastic mentor and someone who truly cares about his work. "Protecting the public" has always been his mission and he did an amazing job as Bar Counsel protecting the Cincinnati community. I learned from Terry that when people put their trust in an attorney, there's a lot at stake and it's important that we as lawyers follow our ethical duties and protect our clients.

Terry is also a great teacher. I learned a lot about the disciplinary process from him and I think my legal writing improved immensely just by hearing his feedback.

A few personal things I learned about Terry: he loves the Cincinnati Reds and he loves cats. He also loved going out to lunch with local attorneys.

I'm very lucky to have worked as his law clerk for two years and his retirement is bittersweet for all I'm sure. I would like to thank him for shaping me into the lawyer that I have become.

— Brittany Ellis, Hamilton County Public Defender
Ellis clerked for Patterson 2018-2020.

Terry Patterson is an icon in the Cincinnati legal community. If you have a question involving ethics or the Rules of Professional Responsibility, you call Terry. If he doesn't know the answer, there is no answer. He will cheerfully and with actual interest attempt to figure out a legitimate answer to your novel question.

And so it has been for the past 39 years. This year, at least some of that experience comes to an end upon Terry's retirement. Others will take his place, and I am sure they will do a wonderful job. But no one can, in my mind, completely replace Terry.

Terry is everything a true lawyer should be. He is honest, kind, caring, smart, patient, hardworking, knowledgeable, reliable, and responsive. He maintains both his composure and his sense of humor in even the toughest of situations, and his love for the legal profession and dedication to protecting the public are unparalleled. I know, because I have worked with Terry in one capacity or another since I clerked for him during law school in 1990. My experience working with Terry as a law clerk taught me how to be a better, more compassionate lawyer.

I know my experience is not unique. The Cincinnati Bar Association could not have picked a finer person to lead its compliance functions over the last 39 years, and Terry's legacy will live on in the generations of lawyers, like me, who he has mentored and led by example.

— Laura Abrams, The Abrams Law Firm
Abrams clerked for Patterson in the early 1990s.

I have had the pleasure of working with Terry for my entire CBA career and the time spent as Terry's colleague has been both a pleasure and a wonderful learning experience.

Terry is a born storyteller. I have always enjoyed hearing about his latest project or trip. Especially those involving travel and cars, and sometimes both, just ask to see his expert photos of the Italian Grand Prix. In addition, how could I forget the camaraderie forged between us, aligned in dealing with CBA mechanical systems? For no one else will the words "boiler" and "elevator" mean quite the same thing.

Terry's presence and expertise at the CBA has been as reliable and steadfast as he is. Cheers to your next chapter, Terry! I know you'll stop by now and then to regale us with your new adventures — and maybe we'll have a new boiler to show you.

— Lisa McPherson, CBA Executive Director