



## Gail C. Ford

January 14, 1946 - August 22, 2020

Ford, Gail C. 1946-2020 In loving memory we share that Gail C. Ford passed away peacefully on Saturday, August 22, 2020. Gail was born in Hartford, CT on January 14, 1946 and spent her early years there before moving to Upper Arlington, OH. She was preceded in death by her parents Harold and Helen Chern and her husband of more than 30 years, Len Ford. Gail leaves behind her daughters, who loved her more than anything, Jennifer (Brad) Smith and Jessica (Kane) Kaiser; her stepdaughters Julie Ford, Tamara Ford, Susan Sayers and Stacey Sickles; her grandchildren Christina, Nick, Colin and Taylor and her youngest grandchildren, who she endearingly referred to as her "five little darlings," Chloe, Bennett, Sadie, Sofia and Collette; along with her great grandchildren, Averie, Michael and Emma, all of whom she adored. Gail also leaves her 3 siblings Mike Chern, Barry Chern and Jo Chern and her nieces Chele Walsh and Kate Hanke, and their families.

Gail was as compassionate as she was smart and driven and started her career in social work, first obtaining a Bachelor of Science Degree in Social Welfare (1968) from The Ohio State University, followed by a Master of Social Work (1977). She earned the Edwin Sharp Burdell Award in recognition of outstanding scholarship and citizenship and spent the first part of her career as a Social Worker with Franklin County Juvenile Detention and Children Services.

Wanting more for herself and her daughters, Gail went back to school to get a Law Degree and earned her Juris Doctor with Honors (1986) from The Ohio State University's Moritz College of Law. Gail joined Vorys, Sater Seymour and Pease at a time when there were few women with the firm and rose from a Clerk to Associate and ultimately became a partner in January of 1994. She had a very successful career as a corporate litigator, including being anointed a member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum, one of the most prestigious groups of trial lawyers in the United States.

Life for Gail was definitely not all work and no play. She loved spending time with her friends and family, shopping, eating good food and travelling. From her early years spent

on the Atlantic City Boardwalk to a stint in Germany and visits to some of her favorite locations, including Key West and anywhere with a beach, she was happiest in a cute town, shopping and dining in the sunshine. She had a flair for decorating and impeccable style. She was passionate about women finding success and spent her life being a role model, advocate and mentor to the women in her life, later joining the Board of the New Directions Career Center. She was a force of nature and will be missed by the many lives she touched.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the New Directions Career Center would honor her legacy. A private family remembrance will be held. Please visit <http://www.schoedinger.com> to share memories and condolences. Funeral arrangements are entrusted to SCHOEDINGER NORTHWEST CHAPEL.

# Comments

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“ When I married into the Cherns I was especially blessed to get to know some of the family. Harold, my ex-father in law, was really more a father and inspiration to me than my own, who died when I was young. Gail was the sister in law who was more than that too--a real sister to me. She was gifted in every way--but especially in her generous and understanding heart and soul. It was no wonder to me that her career was outstanding--she was brilliant though humble, skilled but self-deprecating, and also unyieldingly loving to her family and friends. "A truly generous spirit" would be a good epitaph. Separated from the family for too long, I recently was thinking about her and thought I would try to contact her through social media or the like. Too late as it turns out. Gail, I wish I could give you one more jar of my (deceased) Mom's sweet pickles, which you could finish off in no time at all. My love to you, and also to Jennifer and Jessica especially.

Alan White - September 04, 2020 at 09:33 PM

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“ Jennifer and Jessica and other family members, I am so shocked and saddened by the loss of Gail. She was such a beacon of kindness and joy. She brightened every room she walked into. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Kelly Borth

Kelly Borth - August 31, 2020 at 11:29 AM

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“ I was incredibly shocked and saddened to learn of Gail's passing. As you may recall, for more than 20 years she acted as my co-counsel in representing the various DOE facilities in Ohio and Kentucky. We spent countless happy hours together -- literally and figuratively -- and the success we obtained for our clients was due in no small part to her efforts, especially in Paducah where she took the "laboring oar" so that I could be free to handle other matters here in Columbus. I also considered her a true friend. I am so sorry for your loss -- indeed a loss for so many of us. My sincerest sympathies.

Bob Tait

Bob Tait - August 31, 2020 at 11:03 AM

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“ I am so sorry to hear of Gail's passing-- I only knew Gail as a client but can confirm her style was impeccable and I found her to be lovely person in the short time our paths crossed. My heart goes out to her family,

marilyn vutech

**Marilyn Vutech** - August 30, 2020 at 02:15 PM