

Albert B. Jeffers Jr. (1928-2011), was a veteran attorney who practiced in New Jersey for 52 years, and a stalwart supporter of attorneys in recovery from substance abuse.

“Jeff,” as he was known to his friends and colleagues, was a member of the Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps at Brown University and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1950. Mr. Jeffers served in the Marines during the Korean War between 1950 and 1953, attaining the rank of Captain. He attended law school at Columbia University under the G.I. Bill between 1952 and 1955, and served in the Marine Corp Reserves until 1959.

Mr. Jeffers was admitted to the New Jersey Bar in 1955 and began his legal career with the firm Jeffers Mountain and Franklin (later Jeffers & Mountain), under the mentorship of his uncle, Horace Jeffers, and future New Jersey Supreme Court Justice Worrall Mountain. Mr. Jeffers was the youngest partner in the history of the firm. In 1966 he joined Corbin & Hoyt (later Corbin Hoyt & Jeffers, and Hoyt Jeffers & Weiland). He maintained a solo practice from about 1970 until 1996 at which time he became Of Counsel to Celli & Schlossberg in Morristown. He retired from the practice of law in 2006, having been admitted to practice before the state and federal courts of New Jersey, the U.S. Tax Court, and the Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

Mr. Jeffers was equally known throughout the state for both his landmark reported opinions before the Appellate Division and the New Jersey Supreme Court, and his tireless efforts to help his fellow attorneys recover from alcoholism and other addictions. His expertise covered matrimonial, trusts and estate, land use, commercial and business law. Mr. Jeffers represented developers during the ground-breaking years of Mt. Laurel affordable housing litigation. He argued the seminal Supreme Court case clarifying the character and fitness standard for bar applicants seeking to establish recovery from addiction. Mr. Jeffers was involved in the development of case law establishing that alcoholism is a handicap under the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination.

He represented more New Jersey bar applicants – the majority on a pro bono basis – than any other attorney in the state. He helped scores of New Jersey attorneys achieve sobriety. Al Jeffers was available for attorneys in crisis both day and night. He was a founding member of the Morristown, New Jersey meeting of Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers, a self help group supporting recovery from alcoholism and addiction. Jeffers was instrumental in the formation of the New Jersey Lawyers Assistance Program ("NJLAP," a clearinghouse and referral source for attorneys seeking help with addiction, depression, and other personal issues) as well as in the adoption of New Jersey Court Rule 1:28B-3, which confers confidentiality upon NJLAP. Moreover, he gave of himself freely in ways that were never recorded and will never be known, except to those he helped.