

**Obituary**Font Size: [+](#) [-](#)**Albert Jeffers, Advocate for Lawyers With Addiction Problems, Dead at 83**

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Albert Jeffers Jr.

Albert Jeffers Jr., a Morristown lawyer devoted to providing assistance for attorneys recovering from substance abuse problems, died July 30 at Hunterdon Medical Center. He was 83.

Jeffers practiced for more than 50 years, concentrating in matrimonial, trusts and estate, land use, commercial and business law, and in *Mount Laurel* affordable housing litigation.

But he was most well-known for his efforts to help fellow attorneys recover from alcoholism

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help fellow attorneys recover from alcoholism and other addictions.

He was a founding member of Morristown's Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers, a self-help group supporting recovery from alcoholism and addiction. He was also instrumental in forming the New Jersey Lawyers Assistance Program (NJLAP), a clearinghouse and referral source for attorneys seeking help with addiction, depression and other issues, as well as in adoption of Court Rule 1:28B-3, which confers confidentiality upon NJLAP matters.

Jeffers argued *In re Strait*, 120 N.J. 477 (1990), the seminal state Supreme Court case allowing a bar applicant with a history of substance abuse and criminal convictions to be admitted based on demonstrated reform and rehabilitation.

He also argued *Clowes v. Terminix*, 109 N.J. 575 (1988), the state Supreme Court precedent that alcoholism is a handicap under the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination.

Born in Providence, R.I., in 1928, Jeffers moved with his family to New Jersey as a child, attended Westfield Middle School and graduated from the Morristown-Beard School. He attended Brown University, where he was in the Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps. Graduating in 1950, he served in the Marines during the Korean War between 1950 and 1952, attaining the rank of captain. He was in the Marine Corps Reserves until 1959.

Jeffers attended law school at Columbia University under the G.I. Bill. Earning his law degree in 1955, he was admitted to the New Jersey bar and began his career with Jeffers Mountain & Franklin, the firm of his uncle, Horace Jeffers, and future state Supreme Court Justice Worrall Mountain. From 1966 to 1970, he was with Corbin & Hoyt (later Corbin Hoyt & Jeffers, and Hoyt Jeffers & Weiland). He went solo in 1970 and continued until 1996, when he became of counsel to Celli & Schlossberg. He retired from practice in 2006.

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He was admitted to practice before the state and federal courts of New Jersey, the U.S. Tax Court and the Third U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Jeffers is survived by his wife of 43 years, Victoria Wilkinson Jeffers, six children and 11 grandchildren. Memorial services were held Friday at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, South Street, Morristown. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Morristown & Morris Township Library Foundation, One Miller Road, Morristown, New Jersey 07960.

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