In Memoriam – Steven Carpenter
1955 – 2016

It is with great sadness that we announce that PLF Claims Attorney Steven Carpenter died on July 16, 2016. He worked at the PLF from 2000 to 2016.

Steve joined the PLF as a claims attorney in 2000. He spoke and wrote widely on lawyer liability issues, but he will be most remembered for his compassion for lawyers facing malpractice claims. Steve had empathy for lawyers encountering particularly challenging situations, and over the years he developed a specialty of assisting that segment of our profession. Many of the lawyers he served remarked about Steve’s insight, professionalism, patience, and support, noting they felt in good hands with Steve during a challenging and stressful experience.

Steve’s kindness and warmth were not limited to the lawyers he served. His colleagues remember he was genuinely interested in others and always eager to help and share. He had a unique ability to connect with all kinds of people. A loyal friend and thoughtful coworker, he spread cheer in the halls and had a way of using humor to put people at ease.

Steve enjoyed sharing with others many of his diverse interests, including music, food, cooking, gardening, and travel. He had a lifelong interest in French culture, having studied in Paris as part of his undergraduate degree in French. He relished acting as tour guide to the friends who accompanied him on some of his many trips to his beloved country. An avid supporter of the arts, Steve was a member of the Portland Gay Men’s Chorus. He had a beautiful voice and a great memory for lyrics. He also treasured his Wittrock Dobermans – Moxie, the last “red girl” to claim his affections, even visited him in the hospital.

A friend and valued colleague to those who were fortunate to know him, Steve’s death is a tremendous loss for the PLF and for Oregon lawyers. He leaves a legacy of service and friendship, and we are grateful for his many contributions. He will be greatly missed.