

In Memoriam

Magnolia Solano

1957—2007

By Noel E. Primos, Esquire

Magnolia Solano, friend and colleague, was tragically killed along with her husband, Raymond Blondin, on November 4, 2007, in a plane crash in southwestern Kent County.

Maggie was born on December 2, 1957, in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. She was one of six children. At the age of six months, Maggie moved with her mother to New York City and spent her childhood in Brooklyn.

After earning a teaching degree at the Hunter College of the City University of New York, Maggie taught elementary school to troubled children in the New York City public school system. She then earned her law degree at the University of Connecticut. Following graduation in 1990, Maggie worked as an Assistant District Attorney back in New York City, prosecuting juvenile offenders. Later, she opened her own practice in Rochester, New York.

While on vacation in Mexico, Maggie met Ray Blondin, a native of Quebec. Ray took Maggie to be his bride on August 6, 1994. After living for a period of time in Williamson, New York, Ray and Maggie embarked on a unique adventure:

they purchased a sailboat and spent approximately a year traveling around the Carribean. At another point in their lives, Ray and Maggie enjoyed an adventure of a different sort when they lived in Hong Kong for a year in connection with Ray's consulting work.

Ray and Maggie moved to Dover, Delaware, in 2003. Looking to escape the hectic pace of New York City and searching for a more rural lifestyle, they bought a converted farmhouse west of Dover and spent a good deal of time remodeling the house. They also acquired a dog, Corey, for whom they shared great affection.

Following the move to Delaware, Maggie decided to reenter the practice of law. She took and passed the Delaware Bar exam in July 2005 and completed her clerkship requirements at the law firm of Young, Malmberg, & Howard in Dover. During that period, Maggie also benefited from the mentoring efforts of the Honorable Aida Wasserstein of the Delaware Family Court.

Maggie became associated with the law firm of Schmittinger & Rodriguez in Dover in late 2005, representing plaintiffs in workers' compensation litigation. Though Maggie did not have significant prior experience in this area, she demonstrated her skill and intelligence by quickly bringing herself up to speed. In the summer of 2007, she moved to the law firm of Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin in Wilmington to practice workers' compensation law from the defense side. At the time of her death, Maggie was preparing to open her own

law practice in Camden, Delaware.

All who knew and worked with Maggie can attest not only to her superb competence as an attorney, but also to her warm and vivacious personality and her infectious laugh. Along with Ray, Maggie also showed kindness and hospitality to neighbors and friends, as this writer and his family can personally attest.

My 14-year-old son, Caleb Glenn Primos, is an avid hunter. Ray himself was a skilled hunter, often hunting game with bow and arrow in the wooded areas near his and Maggie's home. In November 2006, Ray graciously agreed to take Caleb on a youth hunt. Caleb now has wonderful memories of hunting for deer with Ray in the Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge and returning to Dover that morning for Maggie's blueberry pancakes. Caleb also treasures a bow and arrow set that Ray graciously gave him after purchasing a new set of his own.

Ray's and Maggie's lives were brief -- but in the perspective of time and eternity, all of our lives are brief. We are led to say like Job,

Man who is born of woman

Is of few days and full of trouble.

He comes forth like a flower and fades away;

He flees like a shadow and does not continue.

-- Job 14:1, 2

Though their lives were brief, we will remember Ray and Maggie for their warmth, their vitality, their sense of adventure, and their friendship. ☞