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Lawyer Martin Horwitz started own tax firm

Villa Hills man known for energy, sense of humor

By Howard McEwen
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VILLA HILLS - Martin J. Horwitz, one of the region's top tax attorneys, died Saturday. He was 57.

Horwitz, of Villa Hills, grew up in Roselawn. He earned his master's degree in tax law from New York University in 1979 after earning degrees at the University of Cincinnati and Chase Law School.

Mr. Horwitz founded the Horwitz Law Firm in Crescent Springs in 1998. In addition to eight attorneys, several former IRS officials joined the firm to provide insight in dealing with their ex-employer.

Those who knew him said it was his boundless energy that made Mr. Horwitz a special man.

"He always had that energy," said his older brother, Jerry. "As a little boy, he was always fun to watch. We'd go swimming and he would dive off the board 100 times non-stop - this is a little kid."

Jerry Horwitz knew the source of his brother's energy.

"He got it from my father, who was a very positive and fun-loving person and loved people around him the whole time. Marty was the same," he said. Their father was Sidney Horwitz, who bought Elsmere Drugs at auction in 1932 and turned it into a thriving business.

Chad Levin, his law partner since 1999, said those qualities helped Mr. Horwitz have a successful practice.

"Marty was able to make an impression on so many different people," said Levin. "He was an absolute people person. Everyone Marty came into contact remembered and liked him. It was unavoidable. That's what endeared him to people."

Levin said Mr. Horwitz also had passion.

"He said the most important thing about being a lawyer is to have passion for your clients," said Levin. "That's what he was and why he had so many loyal clients. Even folks that weren't clients would call him because he had a wisdom and clarity that was very unusual."

"Marty never accepted 'can't.' He never saw any problem that he didn't think he could fix and he never accepted that from anyone in the firm. He said, 'If you haven't solved the problem, you haven't tried hard enough.'

"That's part of what this practice is and will be going forward," said Levin.

Jack Sullender, president of Blue Chip Records Storage and Mr. Horwitz's neighbor of 17 years, knew him as a friend.

"I lost my best friend," Sullender said. "He could keep you in stitches while giving you the best tax advice in the world."

"Marty had the creativity of Walt Disney, the business sense of a Bill Gates, the energy of Superman, but a heart bigger than anyone I had ever known."

Mr. Horwitz's wife agreed.

"His heart gave out on his because he gave it to everyone else," said Ree Horwitz

Mr. Horwitz is survived by his wife, Anna Marie "Ree" Horwitz; a daughter, Allie Horwitz; and a son, Zach Pille.

Visitation is 10 a.m.-1 p.m., today at Weil Funeral Home, 8350 Cornell Road in Blue Ash. The funeral will follow.
