

RESOLUTION NO. 57 -2021

**RECOGNIZING AND HONORING** Peter Rosenwald for his ethics, professionalism, and generosity during his legal career in Cincinnati, as well as his exemplary service as a mentor, counselor, and friend, enjoying the respect and admiration of all who encountered him.

WHEREAS, Peter Rosenwald, known as Pete, was born on March 10, 1945, in Alingsås, Sweden; and

WHEREAS, after his parents immigrated to Cincinnati, Pete grew up in Bond Hill, graduated from Woodward High School, the University of Cincinnati School of Pharmacy, and the Salmon P. Chase College of Law at the University of Northern Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, Pete was one of the first full-time assistant public defenders in Hamilton County, Ohio, subsequently transitioning to private practice, and sustaining a long and successful criminal defense career for over 45 years in state and federal courts; and

WHEREAS, he was soon recognized for his professionalism, advocacy and skill in defending those accused of crime; and

WHEREAS, Pete was jailed for contempt when he refused a judge's order to appear at hearing for a client he had never met, as doing so would deprive the client of his Sixth Amendment right to effective representation of counsel, and violate Pete's duties as an attorney under the Code of Professional Responsibility; and

WHEREAS, that finding of contempt was reversed by the Ohio First District Court of Appeals in *State v Gasen*, 48 Ohio App 2d 191, 356 N.E.2d 505 (1976), which lauded Pete for his professionalism; and

WHEREAS, Pete tirelessly advocated for the ethical practice of law, inspiring the Cincinnati Criminal Defense Lawyers Association to establish the Peter Rosenwald Professionalism Award, first presented to Pete in 2018, and annually thereafter to a member of the criminal defense bar who demonstrates the highest standards of ethics and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, Pete continued to accept indigent clients, consistent with his belief that lawyers must give of themselves to the community and to the profession; and

WHEREAS, in *State v Byrd*, Pete defended the first Ohio death penalty case arising after reinstatement of capital punishment in 1981, and fearlessly represented Alton Coleman in a 1985 trial that attracted national attention; and

WHEREAS, he was an avid golfer, a passionate University of Cincinnati basketball fan, a licensed pilot, certified SCUBA diver, and devotee of traveling and hiking, making him a true Renaissance man; and

WHEREAS, Pete died peacefully in the company of friends and family on June 13, 2021; now, therefore,

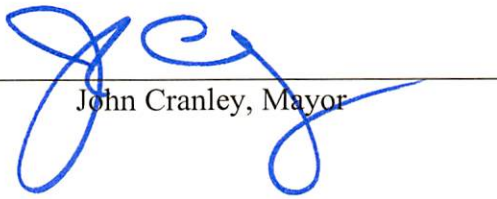
BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the Mayor and Council hereby recognize and honor Peter Rosenwald for his ethics, professionalism, and generosity during his legal career in Cincinnati, as well as his exemplary service as a mentor, counselor, and friend, enjoying the respect and admiration of all who encountered him.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council.

Passed: September 15, 2021

Attest:   
Clerk

  
John Cranley, Mayor