



## Leonard Jay Schwartz

September 23, 1943 - October 13, 2022

Leonard J Schwartz passed away on October 13, 2022, at 79. He died peacefully. He was preceded in death by his parents Oscar & Ethel (nee Eastman) Schwartz. As well as his parents-in-law, Milton & Paulene Eichelbaum.

He is survived by his daughter Michele Schwartz, her husband Jesse Gordon, and his two grandchildren Elliott & Mirah Gordon. He is also survived by his wife of over 55 years, Sandy E Schwartz; his siblings and their spouses, Alan & Dr. Joyce Schwartz, Linda & Andy Schwartz-Wright; brother & sister in law Melvin & Marlene Eichelbaum. Leonard is also survived by his numerous nieces and nephews, their children, and many cousins.

Leonard was born September 23, 1943, in San Antonio, Texas. He graduated with a BA in Accounting from the University of Texas at Austin, where he was a member of the Jewish fraternity Tau Delta Phi. He graduated with his JD from the University of Texas Law School. He was a proud alumni and a lifelong Texas Longhorns fan, even establishing a scholarship for law students in honor of his parents. Later, Leonard would become a member of the University's President's Council, Chancellor's Council, and an adjunct law professor. He donated his salary for teaching back to the UT Law School.

While in law school, he was on the UT Main Campus to pay for parking tickets

when the first major school shooting in the United States occurred at the UT Tower. He helped to save the life of two others without regard for his own safety. A theme that would play out for the rest of his life.

In his first cases, he represented students and teachers in freedom of speech cases which became landmark decisions that eventually his daughter Michele would study in journalism school. He went on to represent conscientious objectors to the Vietnam war. He was among the first to acknowledge equality in the workforce for women and the LGBTQ+ community. He tried to help shatter the glass ceiling for women attorneys to become named partners by establishing a licensed on-site daycare at his firm, Schwartz & Eichelbaum.

Following law school, Leonard initially took a position working in a prominent New York City firm. After a woman on a subway ride pushed him and he pushed back, he decided at that minute that it was time to move with his family back to San Antonio.

Two years after returning to San Antonio, Leonard, his wife Sandy, and their daughter Michele left again to move to Columbus, Ohio, for Leonard to take the position as the Legal Director with the Ohio State ACLU, where he fought for voting rights, to reform prisons and campaign laws and as a very young attorney argued before the United States Supreme Court. While with the ACLU, he was the lead attorney representing the shooting victims and parents of the four murdered students at Kent State to sue the governor of Ohio and the National Guard for damages. A case that was eventually won.

While living in Ohio, Leonard rose to be the Assistant Secretary of State for Elections. When Michele was almost of bat mitzvah age, he again decided to eschew his job to return to Texas to be closer to family. They settled in Austin. The family regularly drove to San Antonio for the Eastman-Bankler-Schwartz family Sunday Lunch, a tradition dating back to Leonard's childhood.

Leonard eventually started the premier firm specializing in school law. As the managing partner of Schwartz & Eichelbaum, he argued and won a case in front of the United States Supreme Court, one of his proudest achievements. He was named a member of Law Review, the Who's Who in American Law, Who's Who in the South & Southwest, and the Who's Who in Education. Leonard's last position was as the in-house counsel to the Texas State School for the Deaf, where he again championed the cause of those often powerless within the justice system.

Although Leonard had many career highlights, his first love was his family. He shared his love of history, travel, and study with them, culminating in a six-week trip to the historical eastern United States upon daughter Michele's graduation from high school.

In recent years Leonard took was a regular at Temple Beth Shalom Torah Study, a founding donor for the Jewish Community Center of Austin and the new campus, and a champion of Jewish Family Services.

Leonard asked for donations in his memory to be made to the ACLU to further their work to protect our freedom of speech and democracy.

The family wishes to thank the many people who make up Hospice Austin for their care in Leonard's last month. There are no words for their generosity of spirit, and respect.

After a private burial service, the family will have minyan on Sunday, 16 October @ 4:00 pm at the home of Michele Schwartz and Jesse Gordon -- 4208 Cat Hollow Drive.

# Tribute Wall

CB

“ Leonard is someone many of us will never forget. Our conversations were rich and always of value whether he was sharing an itinerary of baseball stadiums for an anniversary trip with Sandy or painstakingly preparing us for some litigation that there was never any doubt that he would win-- Leonard was a special and remarkable person. We are fortunate to have shared many of his final years at TSD. The world has lost a champion that I am sure will be remembered fondly.

*Claire Bugen and friends at TSD*

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**Claire Bugen** - October 17, 2022 at 08:08 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Service Recording



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**Austin Natural Funerals** - October 16, 2022 at 04:25 PM

DM

Dear Sandy,

*I was so saddened to learn of Lenny's death. So many memories! I remember first meeting Lenny and seeing the two of you so entranced with each other and then being one of your green-clad bridesmaids. When you were living in New York and visiting you, and again in your apartment on Bandera Road where you were enjoying your roles as wife and mother (or that before Michelle and you were first a mom in NY?) I looked up to you as a pioneer on life's journey, you who were ready for adult roles certainly earlier than I and with such grace and maturity. Lenny supported your growth in so many ways, encouraging your shared political activism, your involvement in your community and your shared busy social life together. You were so right to marry Lenny, a man so well suited to you. You must have so many memories of his intellect, humor and passions that I hope will bring you comfort. Looking for your phone number online, I came across the graveside service in the woods and wanted to reach out and give you a long, warm hug. Please know that Sam and I are thinking of you and Michelle.*

*With much love and caring,  
Dottie*

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**Dottie Miller** - October 16, 2022 at 05:43 PM



*Sending love and condolences from Shirley Jeffers Clark, Attorney at Law and family 🙏🙏🙏*

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**Shirley Clark** - October 17, 2022 at 04:32 PM

SB

“ 1 file added to the album Leonard



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**Susan Becker** - October 15, 2022 at 06:01 PM

WF

“ Sandy and Michele-I was so sorry to learn of Lenny's passing, my condolences to you both and your wonderful extended families. In reflecting on our friendship, it occurred to me that we have known each other for almost 60 years, so many wonderful memories particularly when Lenny, George Rigley, and I were in law school together and Lenny and I were moot court partners and later when we were partners as young lawyers in San Antonio with offices in what was then San Antonio Savings and Loan, wonderful memories. I have always said and I am pleased that I got to personally tell Lenny that he was the most brilliant lawyer I ever met or had the privilege of working with. I know we will all miss him terribly. Love to all, Wayne

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**Wayne Irwin Fagan** - October 15, 2022 at 06:00 PM



“ Leonard Jay Schwartz

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October 14, 2022 at 12:02 PM

SB

Leonard was my first boy friend, that is, a first friend who happened to be a boy. He taught me (we were ages 13 and 15 talking on the curb) how to feel at ease with every friend, and he was a great and positive influence in my early life. Then he married my best friend (!). I have always admired Lenny (and Sandy's) social justice beliefs and initiatives and am so sorry he is gone. My warmest love to all the family. Susan

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**Susan Becker** - October 14, 2022 at 12:43 PM

CR

*Linda, Alan, and Joyce,  
We are saddened by the loss of your dear brother, Lenny. I remember being at your house, Linda, elementary school days, and your big brother was way too grown up to pay attention to us...prob 65 yrs ago. Unfortunately, time will not stand still and we lose our loved ones. We are so sad for you and Lenny's extended family.  
Sincerely,  
Carolyn & Mike Rose*

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**Carolyn & Michael Rose** - October 15, 2022 at 10:09 AM

PF

*Leonard and I were good friends both through BBYO and then socially through Tau Delt. Our Oak Hills connection, the neighborhood where we both lived was fun when we would meet down at the park area after dates and talk about our evenings. Later, Leonard and Sandy married and left San Antonio and Texas to achieve much success. They adored their wonderful daughter Michelle, loved her husband and his two children who became their grandchildred. His two cases before the Supreme Court were so awesome. Leonard achieved much as an attorney through the years. He practiced school law and we were able to be together when he was in McAllen for work. Leonard asked for me once when he was in McAllen and became sick. I was there for him until Sandy could drive down to the Rio Grande Valley to oversee her husband's medical emergency. As couples, we shared much through the years. We were so proud of his accomplishments through the years. He's earned the right to rest in peace. May Leonard's memory always be for a blessing.  
Larry joins me in sending our condolences to Sandy, Michelle and the entire family who share the loss of his passing.  
With love,  
Patty*

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**Patty Fallek** - October 15, 2022 at 03:48 PM