



## Aldo Paul Guidotti

March 29, 1920 - October 8, 2013

Aldo Paul Guidotti died peacefully in Napa on Tuesday, October 8th, 2013. At 93 years young, Aldo was still driving several days a week from his home in Napa to work at his Orinda law office. Actively practicing law for 69 years, Aldo lived his passion. He was a brilliant lawyer with down-to-earth roots who guided his clients through complex legal issues with trust, ease, and understanding.

Born of Italian immigrants, Giuseppe Guidotti and Pierina Bardelli, on a small farm in Orland, California on March 29, 1920, Aldo was the first of his family to attend college. He received his B.A. in political science from U.C. Berkeley in 1941 and his J.D. from Boalt Hall in 1944, serving as Associate Editor on the California Law Review. Following law school, Aldo worked in Sacramento for State Senator Jack Shelley (later Mayor of San Francisco) drafting the California Unemployment Disability Insurance law.

Aldo started practice in Oakland's Temescal district in 1946, later adding partner Raymond Mellana to form the firm of Guidotti and Mellana. As president of the North Oakland Area Council, Aldo helped the City of Oakland acquire the site of the North Oakland Recreation Center and Temescal Pool. He was also active in the North Oakland Optimist Club, Temescal Merchants Association, and Colombo Club.

Aldo's legal secretary, Bernadine Bushman, became his wife in 1950, and in 1953 they gave birth to their only child, Joanna. Aldo moved his family to Orinda in 1958, where he contributed many hours over several decades to

serving his Orinda community. He served as president of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce, was elected to the first City Council where he served from 1985 until 1996, and became Mayor of Orinda in 1989 and 1994. After Mellana retired, Aldo and attorney Charles Lee formed Guidotti and Lee and moved their law practice to Orinda in 1989.

Aldo leaves his wife of 63 years, Bernadine Guidotti, daughter Joanna Guidotti, son-in-law Brian Jensen, and two grandsons Adam and Erik Jensen, along with several nieces and nephews. In 2007, Aldo and Bernadine moved to Napa to live with his daughter and her family. Over the past six years, Aldo watched his grandsons transform from boys into young men, debated the state of the nation with Brian and Joanna, and tended his acre of vines to create cabernet from Aldo's Vineyard. This special time with Aldo, Dad, and Grandpa has forever enriched all of their lives.

Aldo will be deeply missed by his family and endless friends and colleagues. A celebration of his life will be held on Sunday, October 27th, at the Orinda Country Club from 1 until 5 p.m. In lieu of flowers, Aldo would have requested that donations be made to the U.C. Berkeley School of Law, Boalt Hall, c/o Fran Davis, 2850 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94705.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Aldo Paul Guidotti*

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September 29, 2022 at 04:54 PM



“ *Aldo Paul Guidotti*

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September 29, 2022 at 02:55 PM

CL

“ Dear Mrs. Guidott and Joanna,

*Your husband and father, Aldo, as we always called him in our family, was one of the kindest and most understanding men I have ever known.*



*He had been attorney to my father, Nathan Levin, way back in the 1950's. Then when Dad died in 1958, Aldo continued to counsel my mother, Pearl M. Levin, until her death in 1994. She used to call him every other day with one question or another. Aldo patiently and empathetically listened and advised her. He provided her with thoughtful and prudent guidance in business, financial and family matters.*

*After I moved to Israel, I would return to the US to visit her, as well as stopping in to visit Aldo. He always received me with a warm welcome. He was amazingly considerate when my mother died, counseling my brother, Nate, and me through a very difficult time.*

*I will always remember Aldo. What a privilege it was to know such a great man.*

*All the best to you and your family. May you not know any further sorrow.*

*Carol Y. Levin*

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**Carol Y. Levin** - December 07, 2013 at 04:53 AM

CK

“ Dear Mrs. Guidotti, We have never met, but I have been an admirer of Aldo for many years when he represented Buck Brunetti. I am the "nut guy" who sent pistachios at Christmas time all these years. I will always remember Aldo's integrity, legal acuity, and transactional skills. It was my pleasure to have worked with such an accomplished guy. Here is a poem that speaks to the spiritual life we inhabit in the hearts of our loved ones:

*St. Augustine's Poem*

*Death is nothing.*

*I only have passed to the other side.*

*I am me.*

*You are you.*

*That which we were for each other, We are still.*

*Give me the name you have always given me.*

*Speak to me as you have always done, Don't use a different tone.*

*Don't adopt a sad or solemn air.*

*Continue to laugh at those things that made us laugh together...*

*Pray, smile, think of me, Pray with me, May my name be pronounced at home as it always has been.*

*Without emphasis of any kind, without the trace of a shadow.*

*Life means what it always meant, it is that which it has always been.*

*The thread has not been cut.*

*Why would I be out of your thoughts? Simply because I am out of your sight?*

*I am not far, just on the other side of the path...*

*You see, everything is fine... You will rediscover my heart, in it you will rediscover pure tenderness. Dry your tears and don't cry if you love me.*

*Chop Keenan*

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Chop Keenan - October 24, 2013 at 05:59 PM

MC

“ *My father Martin Tieburg (also an attorney) met Aldo working at the Richmond Shipyards during the war, We appreciate all that Aldo has done for our family over the years, he was always available with advice when needed. He was always warm and professional and generous with his services. He will be missed. Michele and Ernie Carson*

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**Michele Carson** - October 20, 2013 at 03:31 PM

HN

“ *Helen Ng lit a candle in memory of Aldo Paul Guidotti*



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**Helen Ng** - October 19, 2013 at 07:18 PM

HN

“ *Hi Joanna,*

*This is Helen Ng, your former secretary at Bank of America. I saw your dad's obituary in the newspaper and send my condolence to you and your family. From what I read in the newspaper, your dad had great life especially being near you and your family allowing him to watch your children grow up.*

*Please write ([helenng8@yahoo.com](mailto:helenng8@yahoo.com)) when you are up to it and we can catch up.*

*Hugs,  
Helen*

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**Helen Ng** - October 19, 2013 at 07:16 PM

LR

“ Our sincere condolences to your family on the loss of Aldo. His professional legal support and direction were foundational components of our business achievements. He will be missed.  
*The RH McDonnell Family*

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**Lisa McDonnell Reynolds** - October 18, 2013 at 10:51 AM

BN

*Joanna*

*I am sorry about the loss of your father.*

*I do remember him fondly and you are right - he will be missed. He was a true gentleman.*

*With sympathy*

*Brian Neville*

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**Brian Neville** - October 21, 2013 at 07:28 PM