



## Louise K. Sira

March 27, 1968 - October 1, 2020

Louise K. Sira, age 52, of Northville, passed away on October 1, 2020, at her residence with her loving husband, John, and beloved sons, John and Wyatt, by her side.

She was born in Syracuse on March 27, 1968, a daughter of Nicholas and Donna Stegich Kauffman, and was a 1986 graduate of William Nottingham High School. In May 1990, Louise graduated magna cum laude from Syracuse University, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. She began her legal pursuits at Albany Law School of Union University in Albany, New York, and received her Juris Doctor in May 1993. Louise was admitted to the practice of law in January 1994.

Throughout her college and law school years, Louise accumulated several honors, including inductions into Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society, Eta Pi Epsilon Syracuse University Women's Honorary Society, and Phi Eta Sigma Honorary Society, Corresponding Secretary. She participated in Senior Prize Trials (Fall 1992), Gabrielli Moot Court Competition (Fall 1991), and the Candidate Search Committee for Professors. Louise also amassed a wide variety of legal, ethical, and criminal law experience working as: a Law Clerk for Louis-Jack Pozner, Esq., Albany, NY; a Legal Research Assistant (Fall 1992) for Dean John T. Baker, Albany Law School, Albany NY; a Law Clerk (Summer 1992) for the Office of Counsel to Governor Cuomo, Albany, NY; a Legal Intern (Spring 1992) at the Albany County District Attorney's Office, Albany, NY; as a Legal Intern (Fall 1991) for

the New York State Ethics Commission, Albany, NY; and as a Legal Assistant (Spring 1989) at the Onondaga County District Attorney's Office, Syracuse, NY.

In March 1994, Louise's determination, experience and academic excellence earned her the opportunity to work at the Fulton County District Attorney's Office as an Assistant District Attorney. After serving as an ADA for three years, she was promoted to First Assistant District Attorney in June 1996. On January 1, 2002, Louise was appointed and assumed the role of Fulton County District Attorney. At 34 years old, she was one of the youngest elected officials to hold the position of District Attorney in Fulton County.

During her twenty-one years as the Fulton County District Attorney, Louise made outstanding achievements in her professional and voluntary roles, always striving for justice, equity, and humanity. Louise personally handled the prosecution of the most serious cases that occurred within her Fulton County jurisdiction. Her efforts have been recognized in that she was presented with the Soroptimist International of Fulton County, Inc's Women of Distinction Award in 2006. Louise was named as one of the Women of Distinction in June 2004 by the New York State Senate. She received the Ruth Voorhees Award from the Mental Health Association in 2006 and the Drug Court Recognition Award in 2006 and 2007. In June 2009, Louise was recognized by Girls Scouts USA, Northeastern Region and named their Woman of Distinction. In November 2009, her efforts were recognized by the NYS Fire Investigators Association, as Louise was honored as NYS Arson Prosecutor of the Year. Again, in 2010, her work in leading three arson investigations in Fulton County was recognized by the NYS Fire Investigators Association, as Louise was the leader of the group named Arson Investigation Team of the Year. In 2011, the New York Alliance Against Insurance Fraud named her its Prosecutor of the year. Louise's work statewide, to pass and promote the All Crime DNA Bill, was recognized by Governor Andrew Cuomo in 2015. In her career as District Attorney, Louise worked hard to make a name for Fulton County in the criminal justice field. Her solid relationship with law enforcement, fostered by

her deep-rooted respect for the men and women in blue, has revitalized collaborative endeavors in Fulton County, including the formation of Fulton County Violent Crime and Drug Task Force, her chairmanship of the Domestic Violence Take Force, and coordination of the Child Abuse Investigation Team. Louise promoted literacy and internet safety, and participated in civic organizations such as Soroptimist International of Fulton County, Inc. as the lead presenter for the ASPIRE Program. She sat on boards of directors, including the HFM Prevention Council, Citizens in Community Service, and the Fulton County Traffic Safety Board and supported the Crime Victims advocacy program for Fulton County.

In November 2015 Louise was elected to the position of Fulton County Judge and Surrogate. She began her judgeship in January 2016 and served the citizens of Fulton, Montgomery, Schenectady and Saratoga Counties with the same professionalism and determination to make all four of these counties better places to live.

Louise is survived by her husband John, whom she married on September 4, 1998; two sons, John and Wyatt of Northville; a stepson Jeremiah, of Broadalbin; her father, Nicholas Kauffman of Washington, DC; her mother, Donna Kauffman of Syracuse; two sisters, Donna (Todd) Frocione and Amy (Kevin) Sweeney, both of Syracuse; a brother, Nicholas Kauffman of Connecticut; a niece and several nephews.

Calling hours will be held on Sunday October 18th, 2020 from noon - 3 pm at the Robert M. Halgas Funeral Home, Inc., 111 County Highway 106 (Corner of Route 29 & Black Street), Johnstown. A private memorial service will be held with Rev. Dr. R.W. Williams, officiating. In accordance with current health guidelines, facial coverings and social distancing are required.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Northville Central School PTO Louise K. Sira Honorary Scholarship Fund, in care of the funeral home.



# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

OCT **18**. 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Halgas Funeral Home  
111 County Highway 106  
Johnstown, NY 12095  
(518) 883-5323  
debbie@halgasfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.halgasfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall

AF

“ Louise was a very special friend to our entire family and we will always keep her memory close to us in our hearts.

Andrews Family - October 18, 2020 at 06:20 PM



“ Shades of Purple was purchased for the family of Louise K. Sira.



October 15, 2020 at 06:21 PM

GL

“ John, John & Wyatt: I am so sorry to hear of Louise's passing. A wonderful person who loved her community, gone way too soon. My fondest memory of Louise is being her childbirth educator when she was pregnant with John. I was nervous knowing I would be teaching the DA & her husband. She came to class and was so laid back, which made me much more comfortable. Our paths crossed again several years later as I served on grand jury duty while she was the DA. She was passionate about her career and the people she served. Keeping all of you in my thoughts and prayers. God Bless.

Gina Lachmayer - October 07, 2020 at 09:06 PM

BC

“ Louise was my best friend for almost 35 years. From the day that I met her at Syracuse University in 1986, she was forever a part of my life. She was a kind, strong and fiercely loyal person who embodied everything that is good in life. I will forever miss her and there will always be a hole in my heart. I am grateful for all of the wonderful memories I have of her. There is a special place in heaven for Louise and she will forever be our angel. My deepest love and sympathy to her children and the Kauffman Family.

Beth White Carona - October 07, 2020 at 10:01 AM

BC

“ Beth White Carona lit a candle in memory of Louise K. Sira



Beth White Carona - October 07, 2020 at 09:53 AM

RI

“ Richard lit a candle in memory of Louise K. Sira



Richard - October 06, 2020 at 12:37 PM

RI

“ Seventeen years ago we were in an accident. We were hit by a drunk driver. Louise was there for us. She listened and made our son who was eleven at the time a part of the process. She even had one of the staff show him the old county courthouse. She was a fighter for victims, Our condolences to the family and her close friends .

*Pat & Rick Fallis*

---

**Richard** - October 06, 2020 at 12:37 PM

DP

“ Diane Pertell And James Pertell lit a candle in memory of Louise K. Sira



---

**Diane Pertell and James Pertell** - October 06, 2020 at 05:57 AM

DP

*Our deepest sympathy and prayers*

---

**Diane and James Pertell** - October 06, 2020 at 08:17 PM

JC

“ I knew her from Nottingham High school. Like all of my classmates we are shocked and very saddened about her passing. She always welcomed me at her lunch table as I was shy. My heart goes out to her family. If somebody could call me with her husband's phone number I would like to personally offer my condolences. My phone number is 513-703-1854. John Cressey

---

**John Cressey** - October 05, 2020 at 11:30 PM

JT

“ I knew Louise in high school and she was such a smart, bright member of our class. It's wonderful to read about everything she contributed — and devastating that she didn't have more time. Clearly she left the world a better place in so many ways, and touched many people. My deepest sympathies to your family.

Warmly,  
Julie Mazur Tribe

---

**J Tribe** - October 05, 2020 at 09:25 PM

Jl

“ My deepest sympathy to all of you on the sad news of Louise's passing. She was a great friend and colleague as a DA and a judge. The world is a better place because of Louise. I will miss her advice, her intellect and her wonderful sense of humor. My thoughts are with you. Sincerely, Jim Murphy.



---

**James Murphy III** - October 05, 2020 at 06:49 PM

LU

“ Lu sent a virtual gift in memory of Louise K. Sira



---

**Lu** - October 05, 2020 at 06:22 PM

KK

“ So sorry to hear of Louise’s passing. She was one of my favorite people of my time in Northville. She was an amazing mentor in Youth Court and a great role model in life as to what a strong woman should be. You are in my thoughts, Sira family. Kristi Kall (O’Brien)

Kristi Kall - October 05, 2020 at 05:14 PM

MI

“ Please accept my sincere condolences. I am so sorry for your loss. It was a pleasure to work with Louise over the years. Her smile is missed in the county building. My heart goes out to all of her family & friends.  
Michelle Ippoliti



Michelle Ippoliti - October 05, 2020 at 04:06 PM

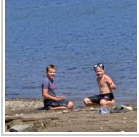
JS

“ JOHN, JOHN, WYATT, JEREMIAH SIRA , FAMILY AND FRIENDS. ROSE AND I ARE SO VERY SORRY TO HEAR OF THE PASSING OF YOUR BELOVED WIFE AND MOTHER. WE BOTH ENJOYED CONVERSATION AT SCHOOL SPORTS WITH HER AND RESPECTED ALL SHE HAD DONE OVER THE YEARS TO MAKE THINGS A BETTER PLACE FOR ALL. OUR HEARTS AND PRAYERS GO OUT TO THE SIRA FAMILY AT THIS TIME OF LOSS. LOUISE'S MEMORY WILL BE IN OUR HEARTS ALWAYS.

JOHN AND ROSEMARY SHEPARD

BENSON, NEW YORK

JOHN & ROSEMARY SHEPARD - October 05, 2020 at 11:31 AM



“ *What an amazing person you were and a great mom and wife. She loved helping people and was great at her work, but she was so proud and took pride in her family. Best example of everything good. You will be missed by many. My prayers are with her family. I'm so sorry and sad for both of her boys and her husband. Hugs*

---

**Amber Vandenburg** - October 05, 2020 at 10:33 AM

JB

“ *John and family, I'm very sorry to hear of the passing of a Louise. It was an honor and pleasure to have known her personally and professionally. RIP Louise.*

---

**Jeff Blair** - October 05, 2020 at 09:27 AM

WS

“ *John and families.. so sorry to hear this; I always enjoyed seeing and talking with Louise ... she did a great job. You're in my thoughts.*

*Wayne*

---

**Wayne D Schermerhorn** - October 05, 2020 at 08:57 AM

TR

“ *John and family,*

*I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Louise. I enjoyed our professional interactions and always found her to be as fair in her treatment of the media as she no doubt was in her treatment of everyone in the courtroom. I hope your fond memories of her will help you get through this difficult time.*

*Tom Roehl*

---

**Tom Roehl** - October 05, 2020 at 07:27 AM

BA

“ *My deepest sympathies to John, Johnnie and Wyatt. Words cannot express the great sorrow that is in our hearts at this time. There will never be another lady as special as she was. I love you Louise K. Sira. Forever in our hearts.*

---

**Beth A Austin** - October 04, 2020 at 08:36 PM