



Thomas Armen Simonian

March 8, 1947 - October 31, 2021

Thomas Simonian, of Visalia, California passed away on Sunday, October 31, 2021 at Kaweah Delta District Hospital. He was born on March 8, 1947, the first son of Sarkis and Rose Simonian.

Thomas became a lawyer in 1972 and practiced law - first as a Public Defender, then in private practice with Joe Kalashian and Dennis Strong, next he managed the Visalia office of Borton, Petrini & Conron for a dozen years, finally opening his Arbitration & Mediation practice approximately 20 years ago at 1100 W. Center St. Visalia.

He was an avid hiker and backpacker, sports fan, voracious reader, and traveler all of his adult life. As a young man he played basketball and baseball on the city teams through recreation park. Tom played singles and doubles tennis with his wife Cynthia at the local racquet club and together they spent some part of each weekend gardening. Tom cherished spending time with family members, friends, and colleagues. He was close to a group of special friends that gathered for lunch whenever one celebrated a birthday.

Thomas leaves behind his wife of 49 years, Cynthia Fischer Simonian, their son Zachary Stuart, daughter in law, Santi, daughters Robin Rose and Sophie Crisp, son in law Michael, and four grandchildren: Aliya, Amelie, Jackson, and Harrison.

A funeral service for Thomas will be held on Friday, November 5, at 9 am at Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel in Visalia. Following this, graveside services will be held at the Visalia Cemetery at 10:30 am. At noon, a meal of consolation will be held at the Vintage Press Restaurant on Willis & Center Streets in Visalia.

Cynthia, together with Tom, have been actively working to build a Holocaust Memorial out of buttons to honor 6 million views who perished in the shoah. In lieu of flowers, please consider a gift to the California Holocaust Education Center. Construction begins mid-January of 2022.

Yehi Zichro Baroch - may his name be remembered for a blessing.

Services have been entrusted to Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel. Memorial Tributes and condolences may be offered by logging onto www.salseranddillard.com.

Previous Events

Funeral

NOV 5. 9:00 AM (PT)

Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel
127 E. Caldwell Ave.
Visalia, CA 93277

Graveside

NOV 5. 10:30 AM (PT)

Visalia District Cemetery
1300 W Goshen Ave
Visalia, CA 93291

Tribute Wall



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Thomas Armen Simonian*



Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel - November 05, 2021 at 11:10 AM



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of Thomas Armen Simonian*



Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel - November 05, 2021 at 11:09 AM

RA

“ It is with a very sad heart upon hearing the news of Tom's passing, that I can say he will be missed for his intelligence, compassion, understanding, and thoughtfulness - as this is what he provided me 'every time' I met him professionally or in town socially. As a local insurance adjuster for over 20 years, I mediated numerous liability and injury cases with him at his office, many of them settled based on his expertise and ability to resolve them during tenuous negotiations. Even in this environment, and during separate down-time discussions, he would ask about my family and our mutual love for the game of baseball. Him being an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan and myself being a Giants fan, we hashed out our differences there as well. If there was ever an acquaintance in the professional world that I only saw two to three times a year, Tom always left it saying will see you later "my friend". I will miss that dearly.

Rob Anderson - November 22, 2021 at 01:39 PM

RA

“ Rob Anderson lit a candle in memory of Thomas Armen Simonian



Rob Anderson - November 22, 2021 at 01:22 PM

AW

“ It's been decades since I met Tom. He arbitrated a personal injury matter for me and found for the other side. He patiently explained his reasoning, let me and my client down easily and softly, then spent twenty minutes with me alone giving me priceless advice on how to spot cases that should be left alone, for the sake of the potential clients as well as the prospective lawyer . . .
Over the years I was proud to consider him my friend. He was a mentor at law and life, and had such a resounding voice, though always soft-spoken
I was scheduled with Tom as mediator in a case set for November third. When a mutual friend gave me the tragic news, I closed my office door, made a cup of tea in his memory, and cried.
Early on, I learned that he had a taste for sweets--so I brought him our home-made pomegranate jelly at one of our early mediations. That became a tradition, and Tom reciprocated with various special delicacies--what a truly special relationship.
Tom is and will be missed by many.
Al Whitehurst

al whitehurst - November 15, 2021 at 08:07 PM

SG

“ I was greatly saddened to hear about Tom's passing. Over the past 16 years, I had numerous interactions with him as a mediator and always looked forward to his wisdom, insight and guidance in helping my own clients. He had a caring way about him. The best part of all those experiences were the times after work we were able to chat one-on-one about my life, his life, and life in general, whether we were talking about music (mostly!), law, philosophy, our families, cars, etc. Tom exuded knowledge, compassion and was a wonderful human being. I will truly miss all those special moments. I extend my deepest sympathy to his wife, Cynthia, and his family. May he rest in peace and I thank you so much for enriching my life.
Sargis Atanous

SGA - November 12, 2021 at 04:06 PM

PB

“ I was so very sad to learn of Tom's passing. Tom was always patient, soft-spoken and wise. He and my late law partner, Randy Penner, were good friends. I like to think that Tom and Randy are together again in the Beatific Vision, restored to health and vitality, joking and cracking each other up, in a place that knows no sadness.

Peter Sean Bradley

Peter Sean Bradley - November 11, 2021 at 02:52 PM

KH

“ It's hard to even know where to begin with someone like Tom. Such a kind man who made his mark all throughout the legal community. I met Tom for the first time over 20 years ago. I was a baby lawyer with Oren & Paboojian. Eric sent me off for my first mediation ever. Clearly, I had no idea what I was doing. Eric and Warren told me, "Don't worry. It's Tom. You'll be just fine." The case settled for 2k under my authority. Naturally, I thought that made me a superstar. What I never could have anticipated back then was that after that first mediation and in the ensuing years, I would come to consider Tom a dear friend.

It's hard to believe you are gone, Tom. Thank-you for your friendship. Thank-you for just being you. You are missed greatly. To Tom's family, thank-you for sharing him with all of us. We are all truly blessed to have had him in our lives.

Kara Hitchcock

Kara Hitchcock - November 09, 2021 at 01:32 PM

MF

“ We were out of town for the week when we learned of Tom's passing and were not able to make it to the service. I'm am saddened by the loss of my friend and colleague. His kind, humble, soft spoken honesty are virtues we can all strive to emulate in his honor. He made a difference to many lives. He will be missed.

Marshall Frasher

Marshall Frasher - November 08, 2021 at 12:33 PM

RC

“ Like so many lawyers in Central California, I have known Tom across a number of decades. I know the family is heartbroken because he often told me little stories and updates, which I believe demonstrated that his family was always foremost on his mind. In particular in the last few years, his joy in being the parent of his granddaughter and the enrichment of his life that served to both him and his wife. The video helps me picture this and I am appreciative of that sharing.

Many years ago, Tom came into my office to apologize for something he had done. That takes a big person who is mindful of the repercussions of their acts, which says much about Tom's integrity. That act made it possible for our relationship to continue without any regrets or resentments. I have always appreciated that. The family has much to be proud of with regard to Tom and how he lived his life.

I was out of state when I got the news of Tom's passing and did not return until after the service otherwise I would have delivered this message in person. My condolences.

Rayma Church

Rayma Church - November 08, 2021 at 11:46 AM

MM

“ I am deeply saddened by Tom's passing. I met him in 1969 when his cousin Brent Simonian took me to visit Tom and his family in southern California. He was always a soft spoken leader. He loved using pencils to the very end and listening to Ten Years After. He and his entire family hold a very special place for me in my life. I will always have fond memories of him and sharing that picture of the Beatles with me. mick marderosian

mick marderosian - November 07, 2021 at 10:01 AM

JG

“ I was saddened by the news of Tom's passing. He was a kind, humble, fair, caring, and wonderful man. He truly was a gentleman, and he loved his family. He had a way of making us feel as if we were family too.

It was an honor working with him at Borton, Petrini & Conron. I'll miss you Tom. My deepest condolences to Cynthia and the entire Simonian Family.

Julie Galindo - November 05, 2021 at 06:38 PM

DP

“ *My deepest condolences to Cynthia and family.*

Tom was my former partner, confidant, but most important, a good friend He was an excellent trial lawyer and very effective mediator. As a young attorney going back to 1982, I learned a lot from Tom about the practice of law. He was a good role model for younger attorneys, the consummate lawyer, and an exemplary senior statesman for the profession in later years. While we grew apart somewhat over time in later years, Tom would always make it a point to stop by when he was in our office in Fresno for a mediation, just to catch up on the news.

My thoughts and prayers are with Tom and his family. They can take solace in the fact that Tom was a good man that really cared, who will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

David Petrie

David Petrie - November 05, 2021 at 05:38 PM

CS

Thank you Dave... Tom respected and valued you , your friendship, and your work together.

Cynthia Simonian - November 07, 2021 at 04:33 PM

TR

“ *Tom will be missed by many, young and old. During our last conversation Tom told me "It's not a bad thing to be underestimated". Rest in peace my friend.*

Tomas Ross - November 04, 2021 at 11:41 PM

CS

“ I had the pleasure of working with Tom Simonian at Borton, Petrini & Conron from 1994-1997, in Visalia, CA. Words cannot express how much he will truly be missed. He was more than an employer to his staff, he was a true friend. Rest well, my friend.

Carla M. Smith - November 04, 2021 at 07:57 PM

LJ

“ Lee M. Jacobson purchased the Sweet Solace S pray for the family of Thomas Armen Simonian.



Lee M. Jacobson - November 04, 2021 at 06:58 PM

CG

“ Church Law Group purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Thomas Armen Simonian.



Church Law Group - November 04, 2021 at 04:07 PM



“ Tom will be missed by so many. He was a good, honest and caring gentle man.
As long as I've known Tom, he would call me every year to wish me a Happy birthday since mine was the day before his!
I enjoyed his company and working with him over the last 17 years.
You will remain in my thoughts and my prayers go out to his family.
Karlyn Palazzo

Karlyn Palazzo - November 04, 2021 at 02:31 PM

ZS

*Thank you for sharing such warm memories of my Dad and his life, everyone's touching comments mean alot to me and my family,
Zachary Simonian*

Zack Simonian - November 05, 2021 at 09:54 AM

FN

“ I met Tom when I started working as in-house counsel for Farmers Insurance. I had been practicing law for around six years and Tom was always a comfort to work with on mediation. He always had such good advice and was never confrontational. He spoke of his wife and kids often. Mediating a case at his Visalia office was an added treat as it was always calming to be there. I will miss him dearly and offer my deepest condolences.



Frank Nunes - November 04, 2021 at 01:13 PM

CE

*“ I will miss you the rest of my life. I love you,
my friend.*



Carla Epstein - November 04, 2021 at 02:40 AM

CS

*Tom loved you and your family too..
We all needed and wanted him in our lives forever. I know we share in
the heart break of losing him.*

Cynthia Simonian - November 07, 2021 at 04:36 PM

CE

We certainly do. I think of him so often. Trying to hold back tears now.

Carla Epstein - February 04, 2022 at 09:56 PM

JR

“ *This is John Rozier, a retired Visalia attorney. I am so sorry to hear of Tom’s passing. When Tom began his mediation business I decided to give him a try and became his first client. When I retired five years ago he was the one who gave me a hug and wished me well. Some weeks it seemed like I was in his office twice a week and he always tried every strategy to resolve a case. His mediation sessions were like therapy. We would pretend to be discussing the case at hand while making the other side would cool their heels—and the discussions would go far afield. He always spoke of his son, his two daughters and his wife with great affection and he will be missed by all.*

John Rozier - November 04, 2021 at 01:57 AM

CS

Thank you John for your kind and tender words.. Our grief is comforted in reading of your love for our Tom..

Cynthia Soimonian - November 06, 2021 at 01:49 PM

DO

“ I was so very sorry to hear of Tom's passing. Tom used to visit our reporting office in Fresno when he had mediations, and it was always a pleasure when he came to the office. He would make a cup of tea when on breaks, and visit about so many different things. I remember when he got his new Mustang and he talked about how he liked to drive a manual transmission car because it was more fun. The day our office closed we spoke on the phone and I was able to tell him how much I had enjoyed getting to know him over the years. To his family I offer my sincerest condolences and prayers for you during this time.
Donna Weidenbach

Donna - November 03, 2021 at 09:07 PM

CS

Thank you Donna for your kind and loving words about our wonderful Tom.. You have given us a moment of comfort during this painful time of loss.

Cynthia Simonian - November 06, 2021 at 01:59 PM

AE

It is only now, some five months later, that I can read these beautiful tributes, and not cry. In fact, all of these wonderful words bring a smile to my face.

I worked for Tom at Borton, Petrini & Conron what feels like a lifetime ago (and yet, like it was only yesterday). That was my first job working for a law firm - and true to Tom's nature, and as attested to by so many, Tom offered me guidance and patience in the laid back, hip way that he always did. Even back then, he wore his beloved cowboy boots. I mean, how cool is that!

It was nearly impossible not to become friends with Tom. Tom always asked about my family and those he knew who were important to me. He LOVED to talk about beautiful Amelie and how much he and Cynthia enjoyed being her parents. He would tell me about the wonderful times they had on family vacations, and how much fun they had whenever they got together with their family down south. I know Tom had a special place in his heart for his brother, and how much he looked forward to their hiking trips and just hanging out with him.

To the entire Simonian family - I am so very sorry for your loss. I hope with time comes continued healing, and may your memories of him bring a smile to your face.

Alisa Evans - March 31, 2022 at 06:33 PM