Elaine Milliken

Elaine Wallbank Milliken, attorney and daughter of former Michigan Governor William Milliken, died of cancer on Wednesday, October 6. She died at her parents home in Traverse City with her parents and her companion Kristin Martinez close at hand. She was 45.

Milliken grew up in Traverse City and graduated from Smith College and the University of Michigan Law School. Her first job as an attorney was in the public defenders office in Detroit. Later she moved on to Washington, DC where she became chief counsel to the powerful Senate Rules Committee, a position she held until 1986. She left the Senate staff to become a consultant. One of her greatest accomplishments was her work with the Michigan Rape Reform Task Force that produced Michigan's current criminal sexual conduct act—a model that was used in many other states.

A devoted activist Milliken worked on environmental, women's rights and human rights issues. She loved to cook and loved animals. She was particularly fond of the outdoors and loved to garden, hike, swim, snorkel and cross country ski.

Milliken is survived by her companion Kristin Martinez, her father former Governor William Milliken, her mother Helen Milliken, a brother and many friends in Michigan, Washington, DC and Danby, Vermont

Private services were followed by cremation with interment of the remains to be in the family plot on Mackinac Island.