TRIBUTES

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD GREENBERG

NORMAN LESTEIN* 

After completing more than twenty-five years as a faculty member of the Indiana University School of Law at Indianapolis, Harold Greenberg retired at the end of December 2002. His legacy of solid teaching, scholarship, and service will endure.

Harold and I overlapped in our tenure at the law school, as he was a member of the faculty when I became dean of the school in 1988. At the time, he was one of the school’s seasoned faculty members, and he was someone upon whom I learned I could always rely.

First and foremost, I knew that I could always count upon Harold in the classroom. Throughout his career at the law school, he was a mainstay of the law school’s contracts and commercial law curriculum. Early in his career he also taught administrative law and in recent years, due to his keen interest in sports and entertainment law, he developed the law school’s course in that area.

His student evaluations were consistently positive, his classes were popular, and students elected to take his courses when the opportunity was available. In short, Harold was a first-rate teacher. I was told many years ago by the former dean of my law school that “the first duty of a law professor was to be a good teacher.” Harold’s teaching exemplified that admonition.

But his teaching was not limited to the classroom. Because he enjoyed teaching so much, for many years he lectured at continuing legal education programs, usually on contracts and commercial law subjects. He also was a frequent lecturer at one of Indiana’s bar review courses.

Harold’s teaching at the law school did not stop at the classroom door. He was interested in students and dedicated to their advancement. This was evident to me on the many occasions when I saw him visiting with students in his office, in the halls of the school, and over coffee.

Harold’s dedication to students was most evident in his commitment to the law school’s moot court program. Beginning in 1980 until his retirement, Harold served as adviser to the school’s Moot Court Society. During the past several years, he shared the responsibility with another faculty member, who was groomed to take his place. Under Harold’s tutelage, there was significant growth in the number of students participating in moot court, so that today it is one of the

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school’s largest co-curricular activities.

Teams fielded by the program also prevailed in many competitions. For example, for four consecutive years, from 1992 through 1995, teams from the school’s Moot Court Society were regional champions of the ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition, which was no minor league feat. With each of these victories, Harold delighted in telling me of the success of the school’s teams.

I spoke with Mitzi Martin, a partner at Baker & Daniels, about Harold’s importance to the school’s Moot Court Society, which Mitzi headed as Chief Justice in 1984-85. She credited Harold’s “incredible enthusiasm for moot court and encouragement of students” as critical to the program’s success. Due in no small measure to Harold, she explained that moot court was “the single most rewarding facet of her law school experience.” Mitzi volunteered that there are many graduates of the school’s program who attribute a measure of their professional success to their involvement with moot court.

Harold also was a scholar. In addition to a book on Article 2 of the Uniform Commercial Code, he frequently published law review articles dealing with a range of UCC issues. He also prepared teaching materials for his course in Sports and Entertainment Law, as well as written materials for his frequent continuing education lectures.

One aspect of Harold’s career at the law school is undoubtedly unknown to persons who have not served on the faculty. During all of his years as a faculty member, Harold served as the faculty’s secretary. That role suited Harold fine, just as it did his faculty colleagues. It meant that the faculty could count on minutes of faculty meetings being accurate, of sufficient length, and prepared in timely fashion.

As secretary, Harold also oversaw various sensitive faculty votes related to hiring and the election of persons to serve on the Executive Committee of the faculty. Because he enjoyed the complete trust and confidence of his colleagues, these were tasks that everyone was glad to entrust to Harold.

It is not surprising that Harold has contributed in so many important ways to the law school. Based upon his academic success as a student, it was entirely predictable. Harold obtained his undergraduate degree summa cum laude from Temple University and his law degree from the University of Pennsylvania, graduating third in his class. After law school, he clerked for a prominent justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and practiced law in Philadelphia. By the time he joined the school’s faculty, he was an experienced practitioner and a partner in a Philadelphia law firm.

Although Harold has retired from the law school, he has not stopped teaching. During the spring semester of 2003, he was welcomed as a visiting professor at a law school in a climate much warmer than Indianapolis. For the next several years he plans to visit at other law schools, and these schools—wherever they may be—will be fortunate to have his services.
In addition to teaching, Harold undoubtedly will continue with some of his other favorite pastimes, including theater, sports, and travel to England. The love for his pedigreed dachshunds will surely continue as well.

Meanwhile, the law school to which he contributed so much will miss his steady contributions, and his faculty colleagues will miss his constant good cheer. We join with his former students in offering thanks to Harold for a job well done and in wishing him well.