

We are in little Washington (NC to those who are foreign to our area). You can come anytime and are always welcome. I have had both Covid 19 shots and Judy gets her second on Friday. We have a house within a gated waterfront community and have a boat at the community marina. All of my classmates are welcome to join us. We only have 1 guest bedroom, so lodging is on a first come first served basis or by reservation.

We have fared well while the world around us is going crazy. I have simply followed the advice of Jesus and do not worry about tomorrow. As a consequence, I often get asked to "go back out and get my mask."

By God's Grace, I have lived a good life, and I am not going to ruin what is left by spending all my time worrying about whether I will die or not. It is a great time to live by Faith.

We have been blessed with 5 children ages 48-58, 13 Grand Children ages 8-32 and one step granddaughter has 2 girls. In the next few days, we will be welcoming our first Great Grandson. Judy is waiting for the call to go to Ohio. As for the rest of the world, all I can say is that it is mind boggling. I have been bragging about my law school friends, D.G. Martin and Stan Sanders, to anyone who will listen. I do not imagine we could be farther apart politically and have never let it affect our friendship. I do not understand how we have come to a point where so many people think you have to hate everyone who doesn't think like you think. Yale Law School was a wonderful place where you could vehemently disagree all day long and still love each other. I mean is not that what marriage is all about. Sorry that I took so long to get to the matter at hand, you're needing some words of wisdom or fancy.

I really wanted to send you something when Ralph Winter died and waited too long. Therefore, I am going to take advantage of this second chance.

I was taught how to play billiards by Ralph Winter and Bob Bork. We played a number of times per week for 3 years. About halfway through the fall semester of year 3, they asked me if I was going to take a class from them before I graduated. I told them that I was just saving the best for last. Then I was honest with them and let them know that I did not think I would ever have a use for evidence or antitrust except for the bar exam. They responded that they thought I would probably wind up selling used cars or insurance. I think they were jealous that Kessler was my favorite professor and that I took both of his insurance courses. I have always been a little disappointed that I never got to do either. However, I did wind up doing quite a bit of work for Bruton Smith, who is one of the largest car dealers in the country, and my daughter Cathy owns an insurance agency in Clinton, CT. The same address where my Connecticut Law firm is located. I also drafted a large number of Insurance trusts over the years and still do my daughter's company's legal work.

In any event, I did take a class from each my last semester. Early in my career, I shared an office with Bob Bork at Jack Hollerans' (class of 55, I think, with Guido) office.

As you know, by the time I graduated I had 2 children and not much money left. Therefore, I did not have enough money to buy books for both and chose to buy the one for antitrust. Ralph's class used a book written by Ralph. He had a large number of criminal cases in the book and most of them involved Italians. He called me his resident expert. (I was never sure if he was referring to New Haven, Italians, criminals or all of the above). In any event, he called on me about as often as Kessler did, and I can't say that it wasn't fun or enjoyable. We had a very good relationship. One day he called on me about a brand-new case at the very beginning of class. I responded, "Mr. Winter you know better than that". He responded, "Better than what"? I said 'calling on me before the case has been discussed. You know that I didn't have enough money to buy a book." He responded "Mezzanotte (no Mr.) I did not know that. What is wrong with you? Look at the people around you every day." A large number of people like Epstein and a group of other Law Journal members, who were there for the same reason I was, sat all around me. I asked him if he thought those classmates would be remembered by the rest of us and he said of course they would. I then asked if he thought I would be remembered, and he replied, "how could they ever not remember a character like you." I replied, "Mr. Winter it won't make any difference five years from now why they remember me, the important thing is that they do."

Fast forward about five or six years and I had a visit from Ralph with regard to his need for some tax planning relating to a business venture with his brother-in-law. When that was completed, he asked me to do an estate plan for him. Some months after the estate plan was completed and signed, he stopped by my office to ask for an invoice for the work I had done. I told him there would not be a charge and that he should consider the work as a return for the gift that he gave me for a grade in evidence. He asked what the grade was, and I told him a "C". He replied, "I gave you a C and you thought it was a gift and then you did my estate plan? How could that happen?" I then reminded him of our dialogue in class and we had a good laugh. We remained friends for a long time. He arranged, at his doing and without my knowledge, for me to start a tax department at Jacobs, Jacobs and Grudberg in New Haven. Later he sent a friend of his, who went to Harvard Law and had a masters degree in tax from NYU whose resume read like my practice, to work for me at my law firm, Mezzanotte and Leitze.

He had introduced me to Ira Grudberg while I was in law school because he was always trying to get me to go into trial work and join the barristers Union. Ralph and Ira were roommates at Yale and Yale Law School. They then married roommates

from the Catholic women's college at the top of the hill. I was told by Guido at our last reunion that he [Ralph] never really recovered from his wife's death before he died.

Probably a little-known fact: Ralph was called to Washington by President Nixon during the early stages of Watergate. He declined the request to represent him. Although he held political views similar to Nixon, Ralph was a man of principles and stood by them.

*- Recycled from Jim's Summer 2021 Class Notes*