



1996

An Administrator, a Teacher, a Lawyer, a Counselor and a Colleague

Steven P. Frankino

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.law.villanova.edu/vlr>



Part of the [Legal Biography Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Steven P. Frankino, *An Administrator, a Teacher, a Lawyer, a Counselor and a Colleague*, 41 Vill. L. Rev. 659 (1996).

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.law.villanova.edu/vlr/vol41/iss3/4>

This Tribute is brought to you for free and open access by Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Villanova Law Review by an authorized editor of Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law Digital Repository.

1996]

AN ADMINISTRATOR, A TEACHER, A LAWYER, A
COUNSELOR AND A COLLEAGUE

STEVEN P. FRANKINO*

WHEN Robert P. Garbarino was recruited by Dean Harold Gill Reuschlein to be a member of the first law class, there occurred a remarkable conjunction of persons and Villanova University. Dean Reuschlein established the School of Law and continues as a vital part of its community as Dean Emeritus. Bob Garbarino served as founding Editor-in-Chief of the *Villanova Law Review*, served as an active member of the Board of Consultors and returned to serve as Associate Dean. He continues as a Consultor. The School has enjoyed the singular blessing of the involvement of these "founders" for forty-three years.

It has been my privilege to work closely on a daily basis with Bob for the past nine and a half years. We shared a professional commitment to the School and developed a warm personal friendship. My service as Dean has been made easier because I had Bob's loyal support and benefited from his effective service. We developed a professional partnership, and today I greatly feel his absence from Villanova's enterprise of legal education.

Bob's contributions to the School were unique. He was an administrator, a teacher, a lawyer involved with the formation of lawyers, a counselor and a colleague.

As an administrator he managed a range of responsibilities from building maintenance to handling crises. His management of personnel was fair and supportive. From initial interview to retirement, employees depended on his evaluation, correction and encouragement. They responded with loyalty. In his administrative roles, we closely collaborated. We planned, designed and executed projects small and great. Our partnership was characterized by candor and cooperation. I never had a moment of doubt concerning his loyalty and support. A greater gift leadership cannot receive.

As a teacher Bob was an innovator and an enthusiast. He developed a course in Sports and Entertainment Law. So great was his impact that he and Professor Catherine Lanctot were able to nurture and support a third student-edited publication—the *Villa-*

* Dean and Professor of Law, Villanova University School of Law, 1987 to present.

nova Sports & Entertainment Law Journal was published in 1994 with appropriate recognition of Bob's and Cathy's roles. However, the previous four years were ones of struggle. Bob worked with the Sports & Entertainment Law Society since its foundation in 1990. He encouraged and nurtured the idea of the publication and called upon his unique experience as the first Editor-in-Chief of the *Villanova Law Review* to guide the students as they organized and sought approval of the *Journal*. His dedication found expression in his Practitioner's Note for the initial volume: "So You Want To Be a Sports Lawyer, or Is It a Player Agent, Player Representative, Sports Agent, Contract Advisor, Family Advisor or Contract Representative?"¹ I was struck by the categorization of the piece as a "Practitioner's Note." With 131 footnotes and an in-depth explication of an area of law, I was initially puzzled that a scholarly presentation would be so titled. I then followed the asterisk after "Garbarino*" to the bottom of page eleven where I read:

* Associate Dean for Administration, Villanova University School of Law; B.B.A., 1951, St. Bonaventure University (*cum laude*); J.D., 1956, Villanova University School of Law (Highest Class Honors), Editor-in-Chief, VILLANOVA LAW REVIEW. The author practiced in Pennsylvania for over 20 years as a business lawyer, including work in sports law and contract representation. Currently he serves as Chairperson of the Villanova University Professional Sports Career Counseling Panel and teaches Sports Law at Villanova University School of Law.

As I was also aware that Bob acted as counselor to the University's athletic operatives, I concluded that "Practitioner's Note" was not only appropriate, but also for him, an especially satisfying description.

As a lawyer engaged in the formation of lawyers, Bob had an enormous impact. He developed, nurtured and supported innovative curricular offerings in Interviewing and Counseling, and Lawyering Skills. He brought experience and depth to the training of students. The students responded with enthusiasm. Bob's classes were overenrolled and generously praised. He was able to bring experience in the formation of legal professionals and combine that with the excellent pedagogical skills of an outstanding teacher.

In the role of counselor, I was not alone as a beneficiary of Bob's practical wisdom and inclusive knowledge. The University's

1. 1 VILL. SPORTS & ENT. L. F., 11 (1994).

President and officers of administration, as well as faculty called upon Bob to advise and guide. A seasoned practitioner, he relished that aspect of his service. His eyes particularly smiled when the advisee was a student. Countless hours were devoted to counseling and helping students throughout the University. I perceived two groups particularly delighted him—law students and University athletes. How fortunate they were.

Of all his roles the one I personally cherished was Bob as a colleague. We worked together with uncommon ease. We shared all aspects of the School's enterprise. Whether entertaining alumni, challenging students, encouraging colleagues or managing persons, working with Bob was always a collaboration informed by respect. I salute my colleague. I thank him. I know the School of Law is better for his having served. I know that I am as well.

