



1998

A Judge's Perspective

Myron H. Bright

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Recommended Citation

Myron H. Bright, *A Judge's Perspective*, 43 Vill. L. Rev. 1 (1998).

Available at: <http://digitalcommons.law.villanova.edu/vlr/vol43/iss1/1>

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VILLANOVA LAW REVIEW

VOLUME 43

1998

NUMBER 1

Dedication

A JUDGE'S PERSPECTIVE

MYRON H. BRIGHT*

MY wife, Frances (Fritzie) and I met the new Dean of Villanova University School of Law, Steven Frankino, and his wife Rosemarie, at an Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference at Colorado Springs in the summer of 1987. We westerners, the Brights from North Dakota and Steve Frankino originally from Montana, clicked into a warm relationship from the very beginning. The meeting evolved into an interesting relationship with Steven and Rosemarie and the Villanova University School of Law. During the next school year, Steven invited Fritzie and me to visit the law school and participate in a jurists-in-residence program.

We visited Villanova in March of 1988. Judge Edward Becker, Circuit Judge for the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, and I presented the judges' perspective to the students and faculty through class presentations, informal visitations and special programs designed to acquaint students and faculty with the world of judging.

Fritzie and I spent much of our nonteaching time with Steve and Rosemarie. I learned a good deal about Steven in those few days and I share my observations with the readers of this tribute.

Steven is a friend to all. We particularly noticed that Steven lent a friendly ear to students and faculty alike. Steven is also a leader in legal education. It quickly became apparent that the students and faculty held him in high regard. His mission was clearly to make Villanova a better place to teach and learn the law.

Steven is an innovator. He recognized that the jurists-in-residence program brought a valuable resource to the law school. In initiating the program, Dean Frankino stated that its purpose is "to bring to legal education the dimensions of those who have been actively engaged in deciding cases."

Steven has an active interest in his students. He introduced me to a student, Stephen Harvey, whom I hired as my law clerk for one year in August 1989. Stephen Harvey was my second Villanova University School

* Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

of Law clerk. Previously, Paul Risko had clerked for me from 1982 to 1983. Stephen Harvey and Paul Risko served me well and ably, demonstrating that Villanova trains its students very well.

After my visit, I left Villanova with the impression that Dean Frankino headed a fine law school. I have followed his work over the years. He has done very well as a Dean and is an inspirational leader of a first-rate law school.

I join with others in commending Steven P. Frankino. Well done!