

BERNARD G. SEGAL: LAWYER

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This is the first time the *Law Review* has dedicated an issue to a lawyer. Teachers, deans, judges, public officials, yes. But never before a practicing lawyer.

Strange? Perhaps not so strange. A lawyer's life is measured out in so many clients, so many problems, so many cases. Clients and issues are transitory. Even in the landmark case, we recall the judge, rarely the lawyer. Practitioner of a mysterious art, advocate for the unjust as well as the just, restrained from explanation by obligations of confidentiality, seldom popular with the populace: no wonder history marks few lawyers unless they step out to use their craft not just for client's goals but for society's good.

Bernard G. Segal, as we know, has used his lawyer's skills for society's good and in causes not always popular: champion of civil rights before its time, pioneering proponent of legal services for the poor, heroic figure in raising the quality of the Federal Judiciary. Few lawyers have worked harder or achieved more for the public weal. But others in this tribute have written of those contributions.

I write of Bernie Segal as a practicing lawyer. Because he merits attention as a lawyer. Because we find in him our idealized vision of the lawyer: a probing intelligence, sure in judgment, zeal in his client's cause, a passion for preparedness and hard work, and a writer and speaker of exceptional lucidity. To this add: compassion and warmth, indignation at injustice, and an uncanny ability to persuade. These are rare qualities in isolation; when they converge in one person, as they do in Bernie Segal, the result is extraordinary, indeed awesome.

Bernard G. Segal began private practice after heady service almost straight out of law school as a Deputy Attorney General under Pennsylvania's great Attorney General William A. Schnader. That was the beginning of a remarkable friendship. When Bill Schnader started his law firm with Francis Lewis in 1935, he took Bernie with him. No two men could have had a closer relationship

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or one more felicitous for their law firm. When Mr. Schnader passed away in 1968, Schnader, Harrison, Segal & Lewis had become one of the City's major law firms, with fifty-seven lawyers. In the thirteen years since then, with Bernard Segal at the helm, the law firm has grown to 140 lawyers, with national and international clients, and offices in Philadelphia and Washington. Today, the firm's work is largely managed by committees, but Bernie still keeps track of all that goes on, inspires growth, animates ideas, and has the same zest for practice and new clients that he had some fifty years ago. One can still call Bernie at 1:00 a.m. and interrupt nothing but his dictation.

Even after practicing with Bernard Segal for a quarter of a century, I am still astounded by the range of his knowledge and the diversity of his interests. Leave aside his enormous pro bono involvements in a score of civic, professional, and community activities, to all of which he contributes innovative ideas and incredible energy, and consider the law itself. In an age of specialists, he remains a generalist, but a generalist with the rare ability to quickly become a specialist in any particular matter by virtue of his high intellect, singular concentration, prodigious memory, innovative use of analogy, and firm grasp of the jurisprudential concepts that underly any specialty.

He is consulted by members of his firm regularly, not just in deference to a senior, but for the value of his insight and counsel. You can go to Bernie Segal with an intricate problem over which you have struggled for days. You present the matter objectively, giving both sides, asking for advice. In moments he has stripped away the irrelevant, reached the heart of the matter, raised five questions you had not thought of, and suggested two approaches better than the one you had decided upon. If you oppose his solutions, you are in for a battle; he thrives on advocacy, debate, challenge, opposition. Bouts with Bernie Segal have honed many lawyers, sharpened his partners and associates, and are intellectually stimulating, exciting, rewarding, and exhausting. It takes a certain fortitude to enter his arena.

Appellate advocacy is surely Bernie Segal's greatest love in the law. He has been involved in nearly fifty cases before the Supreme Court of the United States, hundreds more in other courts. Whether the argument is before the highest court or one of lesser stature, Bernie Segal's discipline is the same: consummate preparation, knowledge of each jot and tittle in the record, mastery of each relevant case and concept, vigorous discussions with colleagues over

every possible question, painstaking dictation of a presentation which is hardly referred to once the argument begins. Now for the argument itself: delivered in forceful style, progressing with unlabored logic, linking the immediate issue with broader generalities, ascending easily to controlling principles, using questions to advance the cause, conveying to the tribunal that here, at last, is the eloquence of right reason and truth. He is among the foremost advocates our profession has produced.

I have left for last Bernie's uncommon talent for friendship and humanity. He is a generous and giving friend to an extraordinary number of colleagues, public figures, young students, and ordinary people. So many of us call on Bernie for help on personal matters because we know that he responds not only with good counsel, but also with his own deeply personal involvement. Bernie is an enormously busy man, but if we need him he is always available no matter how pressing his schedule. His friendship is never perfunctory. If a colleague needs a doctor, he will spend hours to find the right one and then contact the doctor himself. Many people call on him to give career guidance to their children and Bernie invariably winds up acquiring the youngster as a new friend. When he gives advice to someone in trouble, it is not for one time only but until the trouble eases. He is as unstinting in his help to a young lawyer or secretary as to a senior colleague or client. He has the weakness and strength of compassion. He can not resist a cry for help. His store of humanity is inexhaustible.

Bernie Segal is the stuff of legends. In his case, they are all true. I have never met a finer lawyer, never learned more from anyone, never had a more loyal friend.