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4-1-2004

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Recommended Citation

Dennis O. Lynch, *Daniel Murray and Los Tres Amigos*, 58 U. Miami L. Rev. 943 (2004)

Available at: <http://repository.law.miami.edu/umlr/vol58/iss3/8>

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A TRIBUTE TO DANIEL E. MURRAY

Daniel Murray and *Los Tres Amigos*

DENNIS O. LYNCH*

Think back to the year 1946. A young, handsome Daniel Murray has received an honorable discharge from the U.S. Infantry at age 21. Daniel fought in the Battle of the Bulge, and his bravery was recognized by two Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart, and the World War II Victory Medal. When he was ready to start law school, who does he meet but Clifford Alloway, another 21-year-old law student. Then in the fall of 1948, a new Assistant Professor shows up at the University of Miami School of Law –the infamous Professor Richard Hausler. And so we have *Los Tres Amigos*.

Immediately after graduation, Clifford Alloway earns an LL.M. from Michigan and joins the faculty in 1953. Daniel Murray enters private practice following graduation and starts teaching at the law school as a Lecturer in 1951. He permanently joins the faculty as an Assistant Professor in 1957, but all three were teaching from 1953 on. For over thirty years they are inseparable. They have lunch together almost every day, they are pillars of the law school, and they shape the legal minds of generations of law students.

We can only imagine how much trouble Daniel could have gotten into hanging out with Clifford and Richard if Daniel hadn't met and married his wonderful wife, Betty, in 1949. Richard, of course, married a former student, Jeannette (now Dean Hausler), shortly thereafter. (She always reminds us that she was not actually Richard's student). Clifford followed suit and married Mary in 1957. Our law school community has no idea how indebted we are to these three wonderful women for keeping *Los Tres Amigos* in line over the years.

All three became legends in their own time: Professor Hausler for his theatrical style of Socratic teaching, Professor Alloway for a variety of classroom antics that we will not go into, and Professor Murray (aka Machine-Gun Murray) for his rapid fire lectures in commercial law.

* Dean and Professor of Law, University of Miami School of Law. This eulogy was delivered March 4, 2004, at the Mass of the Resurrection for Daniel E. Murray.

When I joined the faculty in 1974, Daniel occupied an office that looked out on what was then known as the “slab.” When I would prepare to get on the elevator in the morning to go to my office, I often found Daniel’s office door open. It was like looking into a cave of books. Advance sheets, reporters and treatises on commercial law were piled everywhere. In the middle of it all would be Daniel at his desk in a bow tie reading a book or recent case or writing his next article on yellow legal pads of paper.

These books were not there for show. They were poured over and pondered. They were the raw material for Daniel’s research. Over the course of his career, Daniel published eighty-seven law review articles and co-authored a book on the administration of criminal justice. That is close to an average of three articles a year. He focused on legal issues of importance to the profession, and his articles were often cited as authoritative interpretations of the Uniform Commercial Code. Daniel was a true scholar.

Early in his career he took an interest in comparative law and received a Ford Foundation Fellowship to study civil and criminal procedure during the summers in Spain, Guatemala, Mexico, and Peru, but his real commitment was to commercial law and international sales.

As well as being a prolific scholar, Daniel was a dedicated teacher. We all know he was recognized several times as the school’s outstanding teacher in the classroom, but he was also very generous in spending time with students outside the classroom, as is demonstrated by his serving as the faculty advisor to the University of Miami Law Review for thirty-five years.

Daniel was the least flamboyant of *Los Tres Amigos*. Given the way he used to shudder at times when observing the antics of the other two, one could speculate that he outlived both simply to avoid having either deliver a eulogy about him. But if we asked ourselves what Richard, the most theatrical of the three, would have said it might go like this

...

Daniel, let me see . . .

“D” is for “dedication” because Daniel was always so dedicated to his students and the school.

“A” is for “academic” because he was such a careful and thorough legal scholar.

“N” must be for “noble” because Daniel was a person of great moral character.

“T” could only be for “intelligent” because of Daniel’s insightful scholarly articles.

“E” is for “educator” because he strived to excel as an educator,
and finally

“L” is for “love” because he loved his family, his students, his col-
leagues and the school.

We all loved Daniel as well, and we will miss him.