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REFLECTIONS ON PROFESSOR LEE

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When we think of Professor Lee, we think of a great storyteller. Thus, it seems appropriate to share our thoughts of Professor Lee through stories of our own.

* * *

Professor Lee approached what could be considered some of the least salacious courses, such as Business Associations, with a wry sense of humor. He rewarded only attentive listeners with snippets of his dry wit, which he surreptitiously sprinkled throughout his lectures. However, on one occasion, his humor could not escape even the least-attentive listener, except one.

In the spring of 2001, one student, whom we shall refer to as “Andrew,” arrived his customary five minutes late to Professor Lee’s Conflicts of Law class. Andrew proceeded to devour one foot-long Subway sandwich, a bag of chips, and a 12-ounce soda. He then promptly fell asleep, face down on his desk. Professor Lee was unfazed until the snoring began, at which point, without skipping a beat, Professor Lee looked over at the sleeping Andrew and exclaimed, “Well, that’s never happened to me before,” and he continued on with his lecture. With only a few minutes remaining in class, Professor Lee motioned to the conscious class members to quietly exit the room, leaving Andrew to his peaceful slumber.

* * *

Fortunately for us, but perhaps unfortunately for Professor Lee, we were the editor-in-chief and managing editor during Professor Lee’s first tour of duty as the North Dakota Law Review Advisor. He practiced a hands-off approach, yet he was always available to dispense his practical wisdom. It became apparent early on that Professor Lee was aptly suited

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for the role as the advisor to a group that obsessed over creating a perfectly punctuated and precisely prepared publication.

Needless to say, we often sought guidance from the guru in the corner office, whose perfection and preciseness were literally written on his office walls. During one of our first meetings with Professor Lee, we noticed a piece of paper taped to a file cabinet behind us. The paper provided in full as follows:

kär i

When asked the reason for such a unique posting, Professor Lee responded that it was a visual cue for him to properly pronounce the name Kari.

* * *

Upon our return from a law review conference in Florida, we presented Professor Lee with a token of our appreciation. From the Okefenokee Swamp, we had carefully carted the “tchotchke:”¹ a shellacked alligator head. He named it Jerry.

* * *

Nearing the end of our terms as editors for the Law Review, we once again traveled to a law review conference, which was held in Baltimore, Maryland. Professor Lee gladly created a detailed, alternate itinerary for our time in Baltimore, his old stomping grounds. For those of you traveling to the Baltimore area in the near future, here are the highlights from “Lee’s Guide to Baltimore:”

Chiaparelli’s Restaurant
237 South High Street, in “Little Italy”
(410) 837-0309

Great Italian food, and if you go DO NOT MISS the “house salad,” also known as the “dinner salad with house mix dressing.” [This salad also substitutes for dessert.] You could get out of there for about twenty-five bucks a head if you do not do any drinking of spirituous beverages.

1. Professor Lee’s description, not ours. Once we looked the word up in the dictionary, we discovered its meaning: “a knickknack, collectible, trinket, etc.” WEBSTER’S NEW WORLD DICTIONARY 1372 (3d. College Ed. 1988).

Harborplace

These are large pavilions containing boutiques and shops and restaurants, and in one of them are a couple of outposts of a restaurant called Phillips, Phillips Seafood, Phillips Crab House. These places have good seafood. They are OK local chow.

Lexington Market

The best crab cake in town, and you should try very hard to go and get it, is at Faidley's Seafood in Lexington Market. Lexington Market is a European style market—stalls owned by the public authority and leased to vendors. It is spread out over three buildings, and Faidley's is the southwestern most corner of the complex. One of the Faidley's counters is a sandwich line. Buy the deluxe imperial top-of-the-line crab cake, determined by price. Expect to pay around \$12. They will try to sell it to you on crackers; I recommend that you ask for it on white bread with mayo and tomato.²

We heeded Professor Lee's advice, had a fabulous time in Baltimore, ate the best crab cakes in town, and even attended part of the conference.

* * *

In a profession where we are often faced with serious topics and stressful situations, we are grateful to Professor Lee for teaching us that: you can find humor in anything, do not take yourself too seriously, life is too short not to have a lot of fun along the way, and always opt for the deluxe imperial top-of-the-line crab cake.

2. Excerpts from Memorandum from Professor Lee to authors (Spring 2001) (on file with authors).
