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Chief Justice, Rhode Island Supreme Court

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DEAN LOGAN

Paul A. Suttell*

I do not remember the first time I met Dean Logan, but I do recall that he was the first person to call me after my appointment as Chief Justice. David always had a keen appreciation of the important and unique relationship between the law school and the Rhode Island Judiciary—and he nurtured it assiduously.

As the state's only law school, Roger Williams occupies an envious position in Rhode Island's legal landscape. Our courts offer numerous opportunities for the school's externship programs. Significantly, and of great benefit to both the courts and the law school, many of Roger Williams' top graduates have begun their legal careers by clerking either in the Supreme Court or in the trial courts. On the other side of the coin, the law school has provided the opportunity for many of our judges to flex their academic muscles by teaching law courses as adjunct faculty members.

David understood the symbiotic nature of this association and the unrivaled opportunities it afforded his students. As a result, we soon developed a very cordial, working relationship.

It is perhaps not surprising that our "professional" relationship would grow into what I consider to be a warm, personal friendship. That growth was no doubt accelerated by our mutual love of music, which occasionally found expression at the Narrows Center in Fall River. Whether it was Aaron Neville singing his distinctive style of New Orleans R&B or Shelby Lynne covering Dusty Springfield songs, our tastes spanned the gamut from roots to rock and roll and just about anything in between.

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I recall one such occasion when we went to see a performer better known—perhaps justifiably so—for his writing ability than his singing virtuosity. As we were waiting for the show to begin, David pulled out of his pocket a yellowing copy of a review he had written of the same performer over fifty years ago for *Rolling Stone Magazine*. His review had not been flattering. David then asked, in what I took to be not so much of a question as a challenge, “shall I ask him to autograph the review?” Sure enough, as I left the Narrows that evening, David was standing in a line, waiting to have the review signed.

I suspect the performer took it all in stride and probably laughed when David showed him the ancient review, a review which oddly enough could have been reprised for that evening’s performance. But just in case he was not in such a good humor, I thought a little distance might be appropriate.

I will miss our trips to the Narrows. On the other hand, David will be living in one of my favorite cities and one of the truly great music cities in the United States. I can always use another excuse to visit Asheville.