

Memos and Letters to Law Clerks

Miscellaneous

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Summer 7-1-1994

## Letter from RJM to Jeffrey A. Van Detta

Roger J. Miner

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
SECOND CIRCUIT  
UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12201

CHAMBERS OF  
ROGER J. MINER  
CIRCUIT JUDGE

July 1, 1994

Jeffrey A. VanDetta, Esq.  
Suite 2800  
1100 Peachtree Street  
Atlanta, Georgia 30309-4530

Dear Jeff:

Many, many thanks for your birthday wishes and for the new Learned Hand book. I had just started to read the Second Circuit Library copy and am most happy to have the book for my own library. Hand indeed was a complex character whose reputation was built in large part on what we today would classify as "media hype." Was he all that great and, if so, why? Maybe the book will tell us. When I told a colleague that Hand had failed in Albany, he said that Albany was at fault for failing to recognize Hand's greatness. The hype continues!

We look forward to the arrival of Dean Calabrese and Judge Cabranes, both of whom have been nominated to our Court. Only time will tell what kind of judges they will be. As you know, Judge Cabranes, now Chief Judge for the District of Connecticut, has been mentioned for the Supreme Court. Still open is the "Vermont seat," which became vacant when Judge Oakes took senior status. William Gray, a former U.S. Attorney in Vermont, had the strong support of Senator Leahy and was expected to be appointed. Unfortunately, he passed away as the result of a reoccurrence of leukemia. He was only 52 years of age.

On May 23, I delivered a lecture at the Supreme Court. The lecture was delivered at a brunch that followed an admissions ceremony for New York lawyers co-sponsored by the Supreme Court Historical Society, the Federal Bar Council, and the Second Circuit Historical Committee, which I chair. I was introduced by Justice Thomas, who was most gracious in his remarks. Justice O'Connor also attended. In the event that it may be of some interest to you, I enclose a copy of the lecture, which I expect to be published by the Supreme Court Historical Society.

I was sorry that you and Kathleen could not attend the get-together of clerks this year, but I very much understand the

difficulties that busy lawyers encounter in attempting to take some time off. I certainly hope that you will be able to make it on another occasion.

Mrs. Miner, Shirley and Mary Ann join me in sending all our best to Kathleen and you.

Sincerely,

*"the judge"*

RJM/mat  
Enc.