



THE FLORIDA BAR

THE PROFESSIONAL

A publication of the Center for Professionalism of The Florida Bar

Volume II, No. 8

THE FLORIDA BAR

April 2001

Historical Video Series: Coming Attractions

In this issue of *The Professional*, we're highlighting the Historical Video Series, a project of The Florida Bar Standing Committee on Professionalism. The concept for keeping an archive of taped conversations with some of the most inspiring members of the legal profession was introduced to the Committee by Paul Lipton, whose journal about his first interview begins below. We thought you might like to know about the most recent additions to the series.

In February, Supreme Court Justices Barbara Pariente and Peggy Quince were interviewed in separate conversations. Each of the Justices talks about early education and career as well as what motivates her in her professional and personal life. In March, Justice Harry Lee Anstead, whom some have called "The Father of Professionalism in Florida," sat for an interview, as did Federal Judge Patricia Seitz of Miami. The list is growing, and the opportunities for inspiration are many. And even as we add interview subjects to the

catalogue, we recognize the enormous historical value of these tapes: some of those who talked with us have passed away since we recorded their thoughts. We hope that you'll contact us here at the Center for Professionalism to borrow one of these videos; besides being a refreshing reminder of the things

that may have drawn you to the profession to begin with, each tape provides one hour of CLE Professionalism credit.

Please give us a call, fax or e-mail, and we'll be delighted to introduce you to some of Florida's leading lights in Law through the Historical Video Series.

Historical Video Series: Present at the Creation



LIPTON

This month, we're featuring a project of the Florida Bar Standing Committee on Professionalism: The Historical Video Series. These videotapes, which can be borrowed from the Center for CLE credit, feature conversations with some of the heroes and heroines of Florida jurisprudence. The list includes

former Attorney General Janet Reno, former Chief Justices Gerald Kogan and Major Harding and some of our number who are no longer living, such as Judge David Dyer and Judge Clyde Atkins. In this issue, we'll show you how it all got started with Paul Lipton's personal quest to interview Judge William Hoeveler. We hope you'll dip into this refreshing spring of information—especially since you'll now be acquainted with its source.

continued, page 2

ANNOUNCEMENT!

★ THE PROFESSIONAL goes quarterly! ★

Beginning in July, The Professional will be published quarterly in hardcopy and mailed to those currently on the Center for Professionalism's mailing list as well as to anyone wishing to receive it. The Professional will also continue to be accessible on The Florida Bar's Website. If you'd like to receive a hardcopy, e-mail blewis@flabar.org with a subject line of "newsletter" and we will add you to the mailing list.

Creation

from page 1

Birth is mesmerizing, wherever it occurs. In this very brief excerpt of a journal kept by attorney Paul Lipton, who is truly the father of the Center's Historical Video Series, we are allowed to be the ultimate insiders, present at the creation and inside the mind of the creator. The full account of Paul's first interview (with Judge William Hoeverler, who can be seen in a brief video clip on the Center's homepage at the Florida Bar Website) has not yet been published. But this excerpt reveals the longing to connect with that which is authentic and noble in the practice of law which perfectly parallels the mission of the Center for Professionalism and which made Paul's visionary project a natural addition to the Center's body of work.

An Interview with Judge William Hoeverler

by Paul Lipton



JUDGE
HOEVERLER

He fixed the microphone to the lapel of the suit jacket which hung on his shoulders like it was on an old metal hanger in the back of a crowded closet. He was an anachronism— an 18th century gentleman, a knight, a nobleman, a scholar in a time of jokers and knaves. An elder in a time when youth was worshiped. He held gems, nuggets, a cache of wisdom that we desperately needed. We are witnessing the Jerry Springer-ization of America: celebrity news, sleaze for sleaze's sake. Roman coliseums, only on television and in the form of talk shows.

We have entered the world of insanity for entertainment purposes and we are entertaining ourselves to death. The lines of decency

have been crossed where the famous and the infamous are the same and it is truly a strange time.

The idea of interviewing this man came from talking with my wife about videotaping older family members and preserving their views for history. I sold the idea to the local Bar Association and here I was in a room with the knight of days of old, a camera, my notes and a question to be answered. I would never be the same once the first question was asked and the compelling answer was given. Now I was sitting in front of the honorable William Hoeverler. He is a senior-status judge in the United States District Court, Southern District of Florida. He is recognized as one of the finest jurists in this country. He looks the way a federal judge should look. He clearly reminds me of an older Gary Cooper. Long, deliberate steps. Grey hair that lay on his head the way Cooper combed his hair. But instead of guns hanging from his hips in black holsters as the character Will Kane, William Hoeverler has thoughts, ideas, visions, and a clarity to his thinking that is overwhelming in its power. William Hoeverler is a graduate of Harvard Law School. He has a calmness about him that gives you a sense of safety in his presence.

The question that I wanted to ask was simply this: how did you get to be you?

How does someone get to be who they are? Especially the William Hoeverlers of the world. What makes Will Kane walk down the street alone in *High Noon* facing his greatest nightmares Is there a Will Kane in us? Is there a William Hoeverler in us?

William Hoeverler looked at me and asked, "Where do we begin?"

After a short introduction, I asked: is the legal profession in trouble? The answer was "Yes."

"Why?"

"It's the intangibles of life that are the most important that have been lost. Honor, decency, nobility, a sense of calling. You see, without

the intangibles of life, everything else is surface that does not attach to anything. The law has to be a calling. You simply need to help people. It's not a question of money. Lawyers have become too greedy. And I also don't believe that lawyers are as moral as they used to be."

"As moral?"

"Yes, as moral. There is a certain sense of morality that is required in everything that is done. What is the right thing to do? Not just the thing to do that will win the case."

I asked, "What does professionalism mean to you?"

"Well, professionalism is greater than ethics. Ethics are certain rules and regulations that a lawyer must comply with. But professionalism goes beyond that. It goes to the point of what simply is the right thing to do, the decent thing to do. The moral thing to do."

Throughout our discussion, the word "morality" came up, over and over again. I realized that William Hoeverler is a very religious man. He believes in a moral structure to this world. That there is a greater force at work that we are all responsible to, in the end. He is a generous man. Isn't it interesting that it would appear that people that have the greatest power are the most generous?

"In reality, there is a hole in the moral ozone in our society today. That's as simply as I can state it. There is a changing of the moral approach that people have to their respective responsibilities in today's culture."

I asked Judge Hoeverler where do we start to fix this moral decay.

"Clearly, we have to start in the law schools. The teaching has to be different than it is now."

"Students must be taught that the role of the lawyer is to see that justice is done. Whether that be in a house closing, a contract transition, or any form of litigation. Only when justice is done is there a sense that the system has worked and the moral fiber is maintained."

"Secondly, the judges have to be

stronger in the courtroom. They are no longer mere referees, but must become proactive to make certain that the system works. . . I have always thought that lawyers and the law profession were the greatest and was the greatest profession, perhaps short of the ministry, that one could get in. The practice of law is so involved in government, in justice. . . I thought lawyers were just great, when I was growing up. I still think they are great, but I think we are committing slow, painful death. Lawyers were men and women that commanded your respect. A lawyer is a professional, a servant, and someone who was interested in government and doing what was right in the law... I can honestly say that I don't think I ever went in the courtroom, whether it was a peanut case or a big case, that I did not feel the thrill of walking in the courtroom, of being a part of the system of justice that is, in my mind, the greatest system in the world. It is very important that we restore, not only in our own conception of ourselves, but in the public eye, we are so badly hurt in the public eye, our image. We should be looked at, and need to be looked at, as servants of the public, not as sharks and dishonest and all of the things that people think about lawyers at the present time. Much of it has been because there have been our members who have brought it upon us all. Not many people know how many lawyers provide pro bono work, the good things that so many lawyers do, and we need a public relations effort in that regard. Basically, we need to renew ourselves!"

The hour was over in a moment. The lights were turned off and the camera stopped filming. Renewal. To go back and find the reason why you start on this journey.

The judge unhooked the microphone from his lapel as I did from mine. My mind was swirling at the things that he had talked about. The ozone layer, morality, renewal, honor, nobility, service to the public, and being a decent human being. William

Hoeverler is a true hero. He is Will Kane on the dusty streets of *High Noon*.

With the videotape of Judge Hoeverler under my arm, I went before The Florida Bar Standing Committee on Professionalism, and sold them on the concept of interviewing the elder states- people of The Florida Bar... They wrapped their arms around the concept, invited me to become a member of the Standing Committee on Profes-

sionalism of The Florida Bar and commissioned me to start interviewing other heroes.

Character counts. William Hoeverler's lesson is clear that character counts. who you are and what you stand for permits you to stay balanced in the very rough seas of today's society. Where are the young statesmen and women? Who can we turn to in times of crisis? Without character counting, without a solid and clear foundation of decency and morality, culture crumbles.



On the Calendar

April 5 - Tampa

Practicing With Professionalism

* * *

April 10 - Ft. Lauderdale

"Train-the Trainer" Diversity Workshop

* * *

April 19- Miami

"Practicing with Professionalism"

* * *

April 25 - Orlando Airport Marriott

**Supreme Court's Commission on Professionalism
Standing Committee on Professionalism
Spring Retreat**

* * *

June 20 -23 - Orlando World Center Marriott
The FLORIDA BAR ANNUAL MEETING:

June 20 - 10:30 -12:30

**Commission of Professionalism
Subcommittee Workshops**

June 21 - 8:30 - 12:00

Master's Seminar of Professionalism presents
"Successful Lawyering in a Diverse Society"

June 22 - 8:00 - 10:00

Standing Committee on Professionalism

* * *

Call the Center for Professionalism at (850) 561-5747
for more information on any of the above programs.

News from the Center: Meet the Staff

One of the interesting things about being part of a small staff is that you get to wear a bunch of different hats. (I hear the solo practitioners shouting "Amen!") It's like that at the Center for Professionalism, too, and lately a burgeoning clutch of caps has been seen on **Paula Stephenson**, the Center's Resource Specialist. Hats have been flying at her steadily for a couple of years now, and so far, there hasn't been one that doesn't seem to suit her. In addition to her work as liaison for a number of sub-committees within The Supreme Court's Commission on Professionalism and The Florida Bar's Standing Committee on Professionalism, Paula is adding emerging and different roles for the Center to her repertoire. Since they may bring you into contact with her, we thought you might enjoy knowing a little more about her.

Paula has been a member of the Center for Professionalism's staff since 1999. Among the projects she helps administer is MAPP-- the Mentoring Attorneys Professionalism Program --a pilot program in Miami, Tampa and Pensacola, to encourage mentor/protegé relationships between young lawyers and more seasoned practitioners. Paula also helps oversee The Florida Bar's Professionalism Award, the Law School Essay Contest and the Law School Faculty Professionalism Award.

Recently, Paula has been on the road in the forefront of the Center's new training package on diversity issues, "Successful Lawyering in a Diverse Society," helping Diversity Trainer Wilhelmina Tribble and Center Assistant Director Terri Anderson graduate the first class of certified diversity trainers in Tampa on February 6 of this year. Later that day in Tampa and the next day, after a drive to Orlando, Paula taught a group of Florida Bar staff how to run the computer, projector and video equipment that is the life support system of manda-



Paula Stephenson,
Resource Specialist

tory *Practicing With Professionalism* seminars all over the state. Back in January, she was pressed into service at the very last minute when a speaker for a Tallahassee Inns of Court presentation on professionalism became unavailable. Paula rounded up another attorney volunteer to speak, gave the introduction, ran the equipment and generally salvaged the evening.

In the first couple of days in March, she took her tech training show on the road again for Bar staff at the Ft. Lauderdale branch, helping to multiply the number of presentation teams who can now go forth able to officially --and capably!--present professionalism programs. On March 9, she became a speaker herself, assisting Tallahassee Branch Staff Counsel Ken Marvin in presenting a professionalism seminar for First Circuit State Attorneys and Public Defenders in Panama City.

Paula's home is decorated with two beautiful blonde children, daughter Weslie and son Trail, and the music from a Yamaha grand piano. That, and a passion for her Kentucky Wildcats, are the living souvenirs that go with her degree in Piano Performance from Morehead State University in Morehead, Kentucky. And her

training in musical arrangement seems to parallel a real gift in social arrangement; Paula has never met an event or party she wouldn't like to plan, and we at the Center are the fortunate beneficiaries. The logistics and energy employed to launch a major meeting or an honors banquet make lesser mortals quail, requiring, as they do, strategies worthy of Napoleon. But not Paula. And she actually makes it look easy.

She says it's the people she works for and with who give her the drive to keep doing her best. "When you have committee and commission chairs and members of the caliber we do, who are taking time away from their own work for the sole purpose of enriching others, for making the profession a better place to live, so to speak, how can you not give your best? When I watch Ross (Goodman, Vice Chair of the Standing Committee on Professionalism) or Michael (Josephs, Standing Committee chair) or see the diversity training that Wilhelmina Tribble and Judge (Lisa) Kahn and Diane Van Ness and (Center assistant director) Terri Anderson have put together, which is already having a tremendous impact on people, I get energized for the next thing, whatever it is, and want to know how I can help."

This stylish helper knows the value of inspiration. Next to the beautiful framed portraits of her children and their drawings hangs a copy of Rudyard Kipling's *If*. There are mottoes of encouragement subtly woven into her office surroundings. Maybe the most telling is this small one by her phone: "Accept no one's definition of your life. Define yourself." For Paula Stephenson, that's a clarion call to charge hard up the highest road possible. We're grateful for her excellent service -- and her generous spirit -- as we encourage ourselves and you, whom we serve, to take that uphill road along with her.

Share your
professionalism
achievements, thoughts
and suggestions!

Write to us at:

The Florida Bar,
Professionalism Center,
650 Apalachee Pkwy.,
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2300;
or e-mail blewis@flabar.org.



THE FLORIDA BAR

This newsletter is prepared and published by The Center for Professionalism of
The Florida Bar.

Director: Blan Teagle

Assistant Director: Terri Anderson

Course Developer & Newsletter Editor: Beverly R. Lewis

Resource Specialist: Paula Stephenson

Administrative Secretary: Phyllis Laurienzo

Design: Lynn Brady

The Florida Bar's Center for Professionalism

Phone: (850) 561-5747

Fax: (850) 561-5750

Newsletter Editor: Beverly R. Lewis

E-Mail: blewis@flabar.org

How can you get a CLE credit while driving?

Historical Video Series (On Audio Cassette)

Hearing an interview with one of Florida's leaders in Professionalism as you roll down life's highways sure beats most of what's on the radio these days . . . and assuming you can find a decent station, you can't get CLE credit for listening to Fleetwood Mac. In Florida, anyway. We've got the tapes, you want the credits — take the high road to work!

Each tape is one(1) CLE Credit in Professionalism. Cost: \$20.00 ea.

Interviews with:

- Janet Reno
- Justice Major B. Harding
- Judge Gerald Wetherington
- Justice Raymond Ehrlich
- C. Harris Dittmar
- Judge Jacqueline R. Griffin

Send Check or Money Order to:

The Florida Bar
Center for Professionalism
650 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, Florida 32399