

DEAN'S TRIBUTE

Lawrence Ponoroff*

AN ODE TO TED

It is with decidedly mixed emotions that I pen these words for this special festschrift issue of the *Arizona Law Review*.

You see, on the one hand, I am gratified to be part of an undertaking designed to recognize and honor the extraordinary academic and professional accomplishments and contributions of Ted Schneyer. At the same time, however, I am distraught about the circumstance that is the catalyst for this well-deserved recognition—that is, Ted's retirement from our full-time faculty at the end of this semester.

It's not that Ted hasn't earned the right to throttle back; to inhale the fragrant scent of the desert flora; or to spend more time with Kathy in Flagstaff—unquestionably he has. But, quite frankly my dears, I don't give a . . . , well what I mean to say is that I don't care about what he's earned or to what he's entitled; what I care about is that his retirement represents an enormous loss for us at the Rogers College of Law.

And I'd like to explain why I say that because it's not for the reasons you'd imagine, or at least not solely for the reasons that would most naturally come leaping to mind. It's not because Ted is a gifted teacher who is universally admired by his students. And it's not because he is one of the most respected legal ethics scholars in our country today. It's also not because of the invaluable service to the institution he's provided over the past quarter century that he's been a member of our faculty.

I mean, sure, I'll miss those things; but the real reason I consider his retirement such a huge loss reflects a uniquely decanal, and admittedly rather selfish, perspective. Granted, I haven't known Ted all that long, but, in certain cases, it just doesn't take long to get the true measure of a man. And this is such a case, not just because of Ted's many professional and scholarly accomplishments, but more importantly because of his fundamental decency, cordiality, and integrity, which shine through like a beacon on a clear night. That's the real loss, and it's what I'll miss.

* Dean, James E. Rogers College of Law, University of Arizona.

Just in the way he conducts himself every day, Ted serves as a role model to us all on conscientiousness, collegiality, and respect for others. If ever there was a picture associated with the phrase “gentleman and a scholar,” that picture would be a portrait of Ted Schneyer. Quite simply, it’s a loss not just because of Ted’s dedication to his craft and national recognition for excellence in his field; for me, it’s a loss because the College will be a less fun place to be every day that Ted Schneyer is not down the hall.

But, I know I can’t be selfish—or at least not completely so. I have to be happy for Ted, and, on the plus side, I won’t have to put up with his insufferable adulation of the Philadelphia Phillies! So what a wonderful way for us to recognize and say “thank you” to Ted for everything he’s meant to this law school.

I close with a personal note. I have only been here the last two of the 25-plus years that Ted has served on our faculty. That may not be a long time, but during that time it has been my privilege to call Ted Schneyer my colleague.