Symposium on The Civil Rights of Public School Students

For Jack, International Lawyer and "Professor's Professor"

Ivan E. Bodensteiner

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FOR JACK, INTERNATIONAL LAWYER AND “PROFESSOR’S PROFESSOR”

Ivan E. Bodensteiner

Jack played a wide range of roles in his many years of service to Valparaiso University. I knew him best as a colleague on the faculty at the law school, where he taught a variety of courses, including Jurisprudence and International Law, both of which he viewed as important in providing students with broader perspectives. As a teacher, he moved the law school into the international law arena before this concentration had become popular in law schools.

Maybe more important than the courses he taught, Jack served as a mentor to several faculty members and many students. At a time when the number of law professors at Valparaiso University was limited and they were expected to carry a heavy teaching load, Jack understood the importance of faculty scholarship and he promoted it with new faculty members as they arrived at the law school. Jack played the role of mentor with new faculty members, encouraging growth through scholarship. Through this, he was instrumental in changing the culture at the law school.

Jack’s international interests and experiences as a Fulbright Professor on two continents made him effective as a mentor for international students as well as local students interested in a broader perspective of law. Students with an interest in international law as a career benefitted greatly from his counsel and his international connections.

As far as I can tell, Jack relished and thoroughly enjoyed the role of mentor, to both professors and students. Many benefitted from his advice and gentle nudges.

Attorneys sometimes honor attorneys who serve as a “lawyer’s lawyer.” Jack served us well as a “professor’s professor.”

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* Professor of Law, Valparaiso University School of Law.