

In Honor of Professor Lawrence Iannotti

by The Honorable Guido Calabresi†

Larry Iannotti embodies a combination of skills and virtues that is more unique than rare. A truly successful trial lawyer, he left the practice of law at an age when many would have thought retirement and relaxation would be appropriate. He, instead, went back to school to train himself to become a law teacher. And what a teacher he has been! How has he managed to be the kind of educator that he is, the kind of mentor most of us spend all our lives trying to become? The secret is that this is what Larry has always been, even in his youth. Teaching law at Cumberland has simply allowed him to put in a new context what has always mattered in his life.

I have known Larry since we were kids in New Haven—in the Boy Scouts. We were in different and “rival” troops. Mine was sponsored by an old New Haven church and had in it mostly children of wealthy families and Yale professors. Larry’s was sponsored by a church in what, today, we would call the inner city, and drew kids from first- and second-generation immigrant families. The fact of the matter is that his was the better troop. It was so because of their great Scoutmaster and because of Larry, who knew what it meant to teach, both by example and in more traditional ways.

The years passed and, when I was a professor at Yale Law School, Larry, though older than I, entered the School after a stint in the Navy. I guess I was nominally his teacher. But then, and later still when he was once again my student, while getting his LL.M. degree from Yale in his 60th year, he was, in every serious respect, *my* teacher. Whether in class or as guide to other LL.M. students who were the age of his children, he has always taught.

The Cumberland School of Law has been lucky indeed to have had the benefit of his teaching in an official capacity. All of us who have learned from him rejoice in honoring him as he retires from Cumberland. We look forward to having him teach us, yet once more, in whatever endeavors he and his beloved Lucie decide to take on next.

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by The Honorable Edward S. Smith†

On the occasion of Professor Iannotti's retirement, I have mixed feelings. On one hand I regret that we will no longer have his steady and competent hand to support, elevate and encourage all those involved in the advocacy programs at the Law School. On the other hand I feel great pleasure and privilege to have participated in a small way in the programs under his direction, especially the Appellate Advocacy classes and competitions.

The University and all persons connected with it will miss Professor Iannotti. His work has left a lasting impact on the fine reputation Cumberland enjoys on a nationwide basis.

I wish him all possible success, happiness and good health for the future.

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by Victor Kelley†

Someone once told me that there is never an occasion on which a good trial lawyer is at a loss for words. At this time, however, words do not come easily. The occasion marks Professor Larry Iannotti's retirement from the Cumberland School of Law.

I remember a luncheon at Samford University's Rotunda Club in the spring of 1990. Professor Robert Goodwin introduced me to Cumberland's new Professor and Director of the Center for Advocacy and Clinical Education, Lawrence Iannotti. While making small talk during lunch, Larry asked me about my background and how I had learned my profession. I told him that I learned trial advocacy from practicing law in the Marines for eleven years. Larry fixed me with a poker stare and replied that he was sorry that I had the misfortune of such a tenuous early education. Later, I learned that Larry, having graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy, served on active duty in the Navy. Belatedly, I knew that I had been had—the first of many times over the next six years.

I was instantly impressed with Larry Iannotti, although it was (and still is) clear that he was distinctly unimpressed with himself. Larry is a complex person; he is funny, interesting, professional, convivial, bright, enthusiastic, substantive, wry, a renaissance man. But most especially, he is my friend.

Professionally, Larry and I grew close over the years. I found myself seeking his counsel, sharing memoranda, evidentiary issues and war stories. Although Larry is not much older than I, I have come to consider him my mentor.

Probably more important than the success which Larry has brought to Cumberland's clinical program is the *way* in which he has achieved this success. Larry teaches—and teaches well. He teaches the law not by rote but by example. A clinician and scholar, Larry understands the interrelationship between the rules of evidence and procedure and very ably imparts his understanding to his students.

I will not forget our discussions, our professional relationship through the law school, our occasional libations in my office late at night after student trial competition, his plaid trousers, and evenings with our ladies at a favorite restaurant in rural St. Clair County. I will also not forget the fondness with which he and Lucie describe their adopted state when they discuss it with friends and visitors from

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the north country. And, I will long remember the energy which Larry spent integrating all of us adjuncts into the fold, treating us as if we were genuine and contributing members of Cumberland's faculty.

I could not have accepted any other reason for Larry and Lucie's leaving Cumberland, the state of Alabama, and their many friends here to return to their native Connecticut. The reason which prompted this move, to be close to their grandchildren and watch them grow up, also signifies the measure of the man.

Barbara and I wish Larry and Lucie all the best. They will be missed.