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Norman Redlich (Dean, New York University
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Recommended Citation

Charles L. Knapp, *Norman Redlich (Dean, New York University School of Law)*, 63 *N.Y.U. L. Rev.* 5 (1988).

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Author: Charles L. Knapp

Source: New York University Law Review

Citation: 63 N.Y.U. L. Rev. 5 (1988).

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Originally published in NEW YORK UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW. This article is reprinted with permission from NEW YORK UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW and New York University School of Law.

Norman Redlich made the vision a reality.

Sixth in a line of deans who have spanned three-quarters of the Twentieth Century, Norman Redlich has built on the foundation laid by his predecessors a great law school—great in its student body, great in its faculty, great in its alumni, and great in its physical facilities.

It is no surprise that Norman Redlich is the dean who brought this long effort to culmination. Norman Redlich personifies the Vanderbilt view of the lawyer and legal profession. Norman Redlich is a distinguished legal scholar. Norman Redlich is a talented law school administrator, fund raiser, and builder. Norman Redlich, as Corporation Counsel of New York City, was an outstanding practicing lawyer. As New York City Corporation Counsel, as a member of the Staff of the Warren Commission, and as a member of numerous public and professional commissions and committees, Norman was and is a dedicated public servant.

The Law School has been fortunate in its deans. Each has left a legacy on which his successors have built to create what today is the country's outstanding law school. Norman Redlich continued a great tradition and brought it and our Law School to new heights. The Law School community owes a large debt of gratitude to Norman Redlich and to Evelyn Redlich, who has worked so closely with Norman, for their outstanding accomplishments in enhancing our Law School and bringing it to the pinnacle.

We will miss Norman and Evelyn.

Charles L. Knapp*

Professor of Law and former Associate Dean, New York University School of Law

Every law school is proud of its law review, and NYU is no exception. In our case, however, we have both a *Law Review* and a "Law Revue"—an annual musical show written, directed, and performed by law students. Traditionally, a few faculty members also make brief appearances, and for years no Law Revue has been complete without a cameo appearance by Dean Norman Redlich. I recall particularly the year when the Law Revue was a parody version of *The Wizard of Oz*, and Norman soft-shoed his way through a law-school version of the Scarecrow's song, "If I Only Had a Brain." This brief moment in the annals of theatre of course exhibited a number of Norman's endearing qualities,

* Adapted from remarks delivered at the May 12, 1983 convocation honoring Norman Redlich's designation as the first Judge Edward Weinfeld Professor of Law.

such as his sense of humor and his lack of pomposity (not to mention his lack of perfect pitch), but to my mind it also suggests a metaphor which may help to explain why Norman Redlich has been able to play so strong and creative a role in the recent history of New York University School of Law.

Although known and loved as a fantasy for children, L. Frank Baum's *The Wizard of Oz* is in fact a parable, in which Baum presents a classic exposition of what it takes to be a whole person; a recipe, if you will, for success as a human being. To begin with, Baum said, you have to have a *brain*. Notwithstanding that musical lament to the contrary, Norman has a brain of uncommon distinction, as evidenced by his degrees from Williams College (magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa), Yale Law School (first in his class), and NYU Law School (LL.M. in Taxation). But Norman is also smart enough to know some things that lots of very brainy people don't know. One is that mere intellectual prowess is no excuse for arrogance. Confident of his own abilities, Norman is nevertheless always respectful of the ideas and achievements of others. Another is that logic and reasoning ability by themselves are not enough—that intellectual theories must be shaped with an eye toward the world as it is, and tested in the cold light of experience. In a 1978 symposium on legal education, Norman offered his view of the mission of a legal educator:

I think that we must work toward a different model of a great law teacher. Such a teacher makes the student understand the lawyer's role in the context of practice. As the profession changes, law schools will gradually redefine their missions . . . to accept skills training and the development of professional responsibility as full-fledged partners in the educational process. . . . Even the most stodgy law schools will gradually realize that the life of the law has been experience after all, that learning to think and learning to do are friends and not foes, and that in the years ahead legal education must do both or it will do neither.

Having a brain is all well and good, but the brain itself can be a dangerous instrument, unless harnessed to a set of human values, and directed by compassion. In short, as L. Frank Baum instructed us, you also have to have a *heart*. Here again, Norman Redlich passes Baum's test. Throughout his career, Norman has been involved with issues of social justice, reflecting compassion and concern for those in our society who are disadvantaged and discriminated against. In 1968, he became Director of the NYU Law School's Project on Urban and Poverty Law, which made important contributions to the VISTA program and led to a broadening of the horizons of legal education at NYU and elsewhere. He has long been an active worker in the area of civil rights and racial jus-

tice, and in the long struggle against capital punishment.

Compassion for the needs of others, even when allied with intellectual prowess, is still not enough to achieve our full human potential. The third ingredient in Baum's recipe is *courage*—the willingness to risk danger and defeat for the sake of larger goals. Here again, Norman's record is exemplary. In his years as Dean of the Law School he has exhibited a most remarkable strength of character in dealing with the many issues which a Dean must attempt to resolve. While striving always to understand and appreciate the ideas and concerns of his faculty colleagues and of the other members of the Law School community, Norman has never hesitated to take a stand which he believed to be right and in the best interest of the Law School merely because it might be unpopular with one or another of his constituencies. Indeed, it is some measure of his tough-minded independence that, more than once, segments of the faculty and of the student body have been convinced—simultaneously—that Norman Redlich was a tool of the other.

This might appear to complete Baum's catalog of necessary human qualities, but one more remains to be noted. You will recall that the principal protagonist of *The Wizard of Oz* was Dorothy, the girl from Kansas. She clearly had an excellent brain, a warm heart, and courage to spare—and yet her quest for something more was the generating impulse for the odyssey through Oz. She was searching, of course, for a *home*. From Archimedes onward, anyone aspiring to move the world has needed a place to stand—a context in which to place himself, which gives him meaning and to which he gives meaning in return. In this respect also, Norman Redlich has succeeded on a number of levels.

He has, first of all, a home in the Constitution. He understands and reveres it, because he sees in it the means by which the powers of the governors and the rights of the governed can be creatively harnessed for the good of all. He has a home in the legal profession. Never losing his feeling for the practitioner's perspective, Norman has constantly striven in all his professional roles to raise the level of morality in the practice of law from what the system may tolerate to what the people deserve. He also has, happily for us, a secure home in the world of legal education. From his combined perspective as academic and practitioner, he has been uniquely qualified to lead this law school in its development as a model for others who seek to improve training in the skills of law practice without sacrificing the intellectual rigor of academic inquiry. And finally, of course, Norman has a real home, with his family. All who know him know how important Evelyn and their children are in sustaining and inspiring Norman in his journey through life.

Every year at convocation, Norman as Dean has spoken a few words to the departing graduates. More than once, I have heard him

admonish them to prepare for the inevitable moment in practice when an important decision, involving a difficult moral choice, must be made. At such a time, he has said, each of us must answer these questions:

“Who am I?”

“What do I stand for?”

“What am I doing here?”

Norman Redlich knows who he is, and what he stands for. What we are doing here, in this series of tributes, is testifying to our affection for him, our pride in his accomplishment, and our gratitude for his efforts on our behalf.

Eleanor M. Fox

Member, Law Center Foundation Board of Trustees, Associate Dean and Professor of Law, New York University School of Law

Norman Redlich began his tenure as Dean of New York University School of Law with a vision. The vision cannot be captured in terms of a goal or an outcome. Rather, the vision involves a dynamic process. At its base is a conception of the law and of the lawyer's role in society. Law is writ large and writ small. Writ large, law not only governs social orderings but protects our liberty against government power and can evolve to enhance social justice. Writ small, law responds—or should respond—to the problems of the individual in society. Law is not a product of theory; it is a product of people, experience, and social needs. It is not static and it does not move towards a single perfection. Moreover, law does not devolve upon us without our input or participation. Law is shaped by lawyers and jurists, for better or worse.

Thus, we as lawyers have a charge. We must serve our clients. To do so we must be fact-skeptics and theory-skeptics. We must be listeners and must respond to our client's needs, not to our own ambitions for fame or fortune. We must be the conscience of our clients. And on that grander plane—the law writ large—we should work to protect our individual liberties as citizens, and thus to protect freedom in the face of recurrent pressures for expanded government power; we should exercise our moral judgments; and we should work, in our own ways, for a better system of law and system of justice. What we do as lawyers will make a difference.

It is, then, the mission of the law school to train and guide its students so that they are both prepared and inspired to accept the lawyers' charge. Norman Redlich has spent his years as Dean developing and energizing a Law Center equal to this mission. He has worked to inspire scholarship by the law faculty, to attract to the faculty the country's