Julian Levi Memorial

Leo P. Martinez
UC Hastings College of the Law, martinez@uchastings.edu

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We can all be very proud that Julian believed in us and made us a part of his life and mission. There is no doubt that we benefited immeasurably, as has every institution with which he has been associated. And, for myself, I can only say that I am most grateful to have been not only a colleague but a friend, for he taught me by his example and his indomitable spirit that "nothing is impossible and to always keep trying." A motto I intend to adhere to.

Speech by Dean Leo P. Martinez*

Julian Levi was a remarkable man. I still am shocked that he is not here. I will miss his savvy lawyering. I will miss his devotion to the adage that "old age and treachery will always overcome youth and skill." I will even miss his fondness for constant references to his beloved University of Chicago.

In my view one of the best measures of an individual is accessibility to all notwithstanding considerable accomplishment. It is that quality of Julian Levi that I will miss the most. While he was comfortable in corporate boardrooms, he was also a friend to common people and he was devoted to their causes. I remember a dinner in Santa Fe with him in the summer of 1995 and the fond greeting given by the staff of the restaurant, including the table clearers, to a customer who was clearly also a friend.

Julian's accomplishment is easy to chronicle. His passing was noted throughout the country. Long obituaries appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle,¹ the Kansas City Star,² the Los Angeles Times,³ the New York Times,⁴ the Washington Post,⁵ and Denver's Rocky Mountain News,⁶ to name just a few. One of them I believe best captures Julian's spirit and his legacy.

* Academic Dean and Professor of Law, University of California Hastings College of the Law.
6. ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS, Oct. 21, 1996, at 6B.
The Chicago Tribune reported that Mayor Richard M. Daley said of Julian the obvious. Mayor Daley described Julian as a person of integrity who was both dynamic and committed. Many of us would be more than happy with a eulogy that ended with that. But you realize, as did Mayor Daley that this description alone did not capture Julian. So Mayor Daley went on to describe Julian’s almost single-handed economic and racial stabilization of the University of Chicago’s Hyde Park neighborhood. Mayor Daley said of that accomplishment what I believe is the essence of the man we honor today. Mayor Daley said: “[Julian] had nothing to gain from what he did for the city and its university. He did it because it was good and because he could make it work.” Julian’s life was marked with this selfless devotion to public service and he accomplished that to which I can only aspire.

His Hyde Park odyssey is but one example of this remarkable man’s life. In 1975, when I was just entering law school, he wrote a tax article in the journal, Law & Contemporary Problems. In the article he talked not about using or exploiting the Internal Revenue Code for personal gain or for the benefit of his clients. No, his purpose was higher and in the article he talked of the effect of the tax laws in financing education and the need to encourage private support for education. In arguing for preservation of the charitable deduction for the benefit of higher education he said: “The euphony of the tax theologian in search of equity may well be abstractly pleasing but destruction and injury to colleges and universities, even if conducted in the name of populism or anti-elitism, would be devastating to the quality of national life.”

In the same vein, he was among the first to argue for accountability in higher education in an anthology on women in education. He wrote:

[Higher education] must say to supporters and detractors alike that the enterprise of higher education itself is an act of faith, not a guaranty. No college or university can contract with anyone that on graduation day it will deliver an output ... of certified educated bodies. ... The accounting then required [of higher education] is far

9. Id.
10. Id. at 116.
more rigorous: loyalty to a mission provided by a generous past and fidelity to a demanding future.11

While accountability necessarily included finances, accountability in Julian's vision also unquestionably dealt with education's need to account for broad representation in its ranks—a sharp contrast to the attitude that shows too much prominence today.

I could go on. I could tell of the countless hours that he spent with students, of his participation on the faculty appointments committee that for better or worse hired me to join this faculty, of the life he brought to the otherwise staid field of corporate law, of his incredible generosity to a wide variety of institutions, or of the role he had in starting Hastings' Public Law Research Institute. Unfortunately, if I went down that path you would listen to me for hours.

Instead I will tell you that our last conversation some weeks before his death dealt with his thanking me for the smallest kindnesses you can imagine. If in exchange he was part of my education I got the far better of the deal. I end with what will be my lasting picture of him. I hear him telling me, "Leo, at Hastings you should, like I did at the University of Chicago, use your talents for good because it's the right thing to do." Julian, I was blessed to have you be a part of my life and my education. I and we can never repay you for all you have done for us and this institution. Thanks and bless you, Julian.

Speech by Dr. Jack Barchas*

Julian Levi brought so much to the lives of others and to institutions that it is hard to imagine a world without his immediate presence.

You know of Julian's stunning impact on Chicago and the University of Chicago, his love of the university system of California and of this dynamic institution—from which my brother was a graduate—as well as his concerns for UCSF. And you know of his impacts on national and California politics and San Francisco. You also know his


* Chair, Department of Psychiatry, New York Hospital Cornell Medical Center.