
Sidney I. Picker, Jr.

Tributes

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Case Western Reserve University School of Law

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SIDNEY I. PICKER, JR.

JULY 7, 1934–APRIL 28, 2020

PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF LAW

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

Sergei A. Belov

Dean of the Law Faculty, St. Petersburg State University



Sidney Picker was one of those people who made bridges between countries and continents. Many Russians—students in the past and successful lawyers today—were extremely grateful to Sidney and Jane for their outstanding project of RUSLEF.

Speaking on behalf of St. Petersburg State University, I must say that Sidney's everyday efforts, even when he was at the age when many others take a rest from any public activity, played a great role in keeping connections between the U.S. and the Russian academy, with American and Russian universities. That was Sidney who initiated and organized—together with his late friend Professor Musin—summer school programs at St. Petersburg University.

And what was of special importance, Sidney kept supporting these connections in recent years, when the U.S.-Russian relations have not been the best. I do hope and do believe that we will be able to pick up Sidney's cause and keep the projects of U.S.-Russian universities' collaboration going on.

Of course, I need to mention Sidney's personality. I was deeply impressed by his charming manner of talking even with me, a person who knew him for not so long and not so closely, but definitely will keep memories about him as about my very dearly beloved friend.

Michael J. Benza

Senior Instructor in Law, Case Western Reserve University

The great film starring Sidney Poitier is an apt homage to Professor Sidney Picker. Like Mr. Thackeray, Sidney engaged, encouraged, and motivated his students, sometimes by sheer force of will, to learn. And by that engagement Sidney earned, deserved, and won the love and admiration of generations of students.

I was one of those students. I am not sure really how I came to know Sidney and through him, his lovely bride, Jane. I look back over these many years of friendship, mentorship, and connection and cannot see a start. I was not then, nor am I now, an International Law person. But I took Sidney's International Law class. But that was not the start. I was active in student life but that was not the start. All I know is that somehow, some way Sidney found me since I was certainly not looking for him. And I am forever grateful that he found me.

Throughout law school Sidney became more and more integral in my education, my career, and my life. Sidney and Jane threw fantastic dinner parties. The kind from Hollywood glamour movies of the '50s and '60s. The kind where amazing and interesting people would come to a home for conversation, cocktails, intellectual stimulation, and wonderfully prepared food. No caterers involved, no professional bartender, no pre-packaged anything. Instead Sidney and Jane would select the guests, plan the menu, prepare the food, and set about being gracious hosts. Now I know this, not because I was ever on the guest list. Rather, I was the sous-chef, bartender, busboy, bottle washer, and general Boy Friday. But in that role, I got to meet CIA General Counsel Elizabeth Rindskopf Parker, the top legal minds from Cleveland like Jerry and Gale Messerman, and other guests from around the world. These events were exactly what you might imagine, filled with conversations great and small, libation without excess, and generally, an evening to remember.

It was in my third year that Sidney approached me to ask the question professors want answered from students they care about: "Michael (he always called me Michael), what are you doing after graduation?" Since I came to law school to be a public defender, I told him that I was hoping for a public defender spot but those would not be open until after bar results well after graduation. Sidney simply smiled. That conversation led to the perhaps the greatest offer a student could want: an opportunity to go to Johannesburg, South Africa in the years just before President Mandela's election.

In trying to think of how to describe Sidney the one word that kept coming around to me was "imp." I don't think there is a better word than that. An imp is generally defined as "a small, mischievous devil or sprite."* Like Shakespeare's Puck, Sidney never sought to offend but, if he could have a bit of fun, all the better. And my journey to South Africa was a perfect example. Sidney developed a plan whereby the Legal Resources Centre would agree to take me on because the Biskind Fellowship agreed to fund me. AND the Biskind Fellowship would fund me because the Legal Resources Centre agreed to take me on. This plan required bit of playing one off the other, but that was Sidney. The next thing I knew, I was leaving JFK Airport behind and on my way to Johannesburg. And better yet was Sidney's last statement to me before I left: "Michael, don't screw this up." Well, I didn't, so I was allowed to return.

Over the next many years Sidney and Jane were woven into my life. They met our children, helped shepherd my career at the law school, connected me with untold numbers of unique students through RUSLEF, and always, always, always maintained that friendship and connection. I would get the call "Michael, we have a student coming to Case. I want you to meet him/her." Or "Michael, we are coming up for our hospital tour, can we meet for lunch." A professor can teach you, a great professor can inspire you, and a professor like Sidney can change your life.

I will forever be grateful for his involvement in my life. I have no idea where I would be without him, but I know I am happier in my life for having him be a part of it. I will miss him, I will strive to emulate him, but there will never be a replacement for him.

* <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/imp>.

Geoff Budlender

Co-Founder, Legal Resources Centre, Johannesburg

I was a young lawyer at the Legal Resources Centre, South Africa's first public interest law centre, when Jane and Sidney visited us in 1980 and again in 1983. We didn't know about their deep experience and their many accomplishments. We missed that opportunity because they didn't talk about themselves. They were too interested in us, in what we were doing, and in what was going on around us. And we were rather too self-absorbed, or to be a bit more generous, too absorbed in what we were doing, to ask about them and to learn everything we could from them.

But we did learn many important things through the questions they asked. We learnt from their quiet observations and their penetrating questions about what they saw and heard, what we were doing, and why we were doing it. They illuminated what was happening in our world, what was happening to us as lawyers, and most importantly, what was happening to our clients. And, of course, we got to know these two remarkable people.

Later in the 1980s, when I was visiting Case Western, I had the opportunity to visit them at their home. I then learnt of their great generosity and hospitality. They were wonderful friends for us in many ways.

It was impossible to miss Sidney's sharp intelligence, his care for people and for principle, and his delightful sense of humour. He later became a director of an organisation based at Wilmer Cutler in Washington DC, which helped us to raise funds for the Legal Resources Centre, and which looked after and grew the money which was raised. They were hugely effective in this. The money they helped raise and grow is still helping to sustain the Centre in South Africa, almost 40 years later.

So, I salute both Sidney and Jane. To both of them I say thank you. And to Sidney I say, in the traditional Xhosa phrase on such an occasion, hamba kahle . . . go well.

Chi Carmody

Associate Professor of Law, University of Western Ontario

Since 2002 I've been the Canadian National Director of the Canada-U.S. Law Institute. I'm very proud to have an opportunity to speak to you briefly about Sidney Picker and his role in the work of the founding of the Institute, now part of the Cox Centre for International Law at Case Western.

There are great similarities between our two countries but also a number of profound differences. Immediately before coming to Cleveland Sidney had spent a year in Melbourne, Australia as a Fulbright Fellow researching Pacific trade, and he recognized that although many things might be the same in our English and common-law heritages, many might also be quite different and have worked out differently over time.

Those differences Sidney summed up in a speech he made four years ago as follows:

"In the U.S the individual is made the centerpiece of society, and, being distrustful of government, the U.S. established both separation of power and checks and balances to assure as little interference with the individual as possible. In Canada, by contrast, social values form the centerpiece of society, and while there is deep respect for the rights of the individual, there is a fundamental confidence that governance can be trusted ultimately to do the right thing . . . These differences, stemming from revolutionary versus evolutionary routes to sovereignty, develop different legal approaches to addressing similar social, political, economic and cultural issues which provided fertile opportunities for a comparison of legal solutions."

He went on to observe that:

"Not only did I become aware of how foreign Canada and the U.S. were to each other. I became acutely aware that each was the single most important and influential foreign country to the other, at every level - geographic, strategic, economic, financial, social, political, cultural, and ecological."

It was out of these differences that Sidney came to define the work of CUSLI, with twin core objectives being: (1) to explore international legal aspects of the complex of relationships between the two countries, and (2) to use each other's national models for comparative law purposes.

The Institute's work is now in its 44th year and going strong. Today, as perhaps never before, the two countries are in need of each other and insights from each other. We live in a very different world from the one that Sidney first encountered in the mid-1970s in Cleveland. It is a world of possibility but also perils. We need to work together to realize its potential but also to avoid its pitfalls, of which there are many.

Thankfully, we live in a rich and richly endowed continent, a continent that shares and should share so much with all of its inhabitants, both indigenous and settler, black and white.

We at Western Law are continually grateful for Sidney's vision, his insight and initiative in making the Institute a reality so many decades ago and in perceptively appreciating the need for such an entity. It has enriched generations of law students and law teachers as well as members of civil society and government officials, who have benefited immensely from the interchange that his work promoted.

We are saddened at Sidney's passing but also realize that all of us we would not be where we are without his endeavors and so we thank him, and I thank you.

On behalf of our Dean, Professor Erika Chamberlain, and the Faculty we send our warm regards to the Picker family and to our colleagues and friends at Case Western Law, hoping that in this time of national and international adversity and trial we can continue to learn from Sidney's example and use his imagination, his creativity, his initiative to advance our own cause together.

Thank you.

Jonathan L. Entin

David L. Brennan Professor Emeritus of Law, Case Western Reserve University

Sidney Picker and I were suitemates for nearly twenty years. Although our primary areas—International Law for Sidney, Constitutional Law and Administrative Law for me— overlapped only slightly, we got to be quite close. Maybe we connected about Secretary of State Christian Herter, with whom Sidney worked during the Kennedy Round of international trade negotiations and whom I remembered as governor of my home state of Massachusetts.

Or perhaps it was Ruth Bader Ginsburg. I had recently clerked for her when I arrived at the law school; Sidney and his beloved Jane, a longtime professor at the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law at Cleveland State University, dealt with her earlier when she led the Women's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union. The Pickers consulted with then-Professor Ginsburg when they launched the Women's Law Fund. Jane led the Fund as it supported *Cleveland Board of Education v. LaFleur*,¹ which struck down a school board rule that required pregnant teachers to stop working by the end of their fourth month.² Sidney filed amicus briefs in the district court and the court of appeals on behalf of the Women's Equity Action League they coauthored the brief in the Supreme Court, where Jane successfully argued the case.³

But we also had some overlapping substantive interests. Sidney regularly taught a course on Future Interests, and I used to teach Property. On his wall hung a whimsical map of Future Interests Land, a creation of one of his favorite classes. The map contained stops for contingent remainders and vested remainders subject to partial or complete divestment, as well as for shifting and springing interests. And there was, of course, an enormous trap involving the Rule Against Perpetuities, a subject to which he devoted considerable class time.

Talking with Sidney and gazing at his map fortified my wavering resolve to cover perpetuities, including lives in being and fertile octogenarians, despite my initial hesitation.⁴ In particular, I would teach a case involving a racial restriction on housing. The court butchered the analysis, insisting that the provision was an unenforceable restrictive covenant when in fact it was an invalid executory interest that violated the Rule Against Perpetuities.⁵ And thanks to Sidney, I would feel confident about urging students to learn such doctrinal arcana so that they could slay dragons some day.

I also appreciated that Sidney founded the Canada-United States Law Institute (CUSLI), a joint venture with the University of Western Ontario. Of particular appeal was a conference comparing the roles of the Supreme Court in both countries.⁶ That program featured eminent scholars, such as Professors Laurence Tribe of

1. 414 U.S. 632 (1974).

2. See generally Tracy A. Thomas, *The Struggle for Gender Equality in the Northern District of Ohio*, in JUSTICE AND LEGAL CHANGE ON THE SHORES OF LAKE ERIE: A HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO 165, 166–74 (Paul Finkelman & Roberta Sue Alexander eds., 2012).

3. See *La Fleur* [sic] v. Cleveland Bd. of Educ., 326 F. Supp. 1208, 1208 (N.D. Ohio 1971); *LaFleur v. Cleveland Bd. of Educ.*, 465 F.2d 1184, 1185 (6th Cir. 1972); *Cleveland Bd. of Educ. v. LaFleur*, 414 U.S. at 633.

The case had other connections to this law school. One of the plaintiffs, Ann Nelson, was married to a CWRU law student. Sidney's dear friend Lew Katz, who has contributed his own tribute to these proceedings, was co-counsel at trial and in the court of appeals. And not long after Sidney retired, one of my students told me after I taught *LaFleur* to his class that he was the son of Ann Nelson but not the child at issue in the case.

4. I took no solace from the notorious California decision rejecting a legal malpractice claim because the Rule Against Perpetuities was too complicated for a reasonable attorney to understand. *Lucas v. Hamm*, 364 P.2d 685, 689–90 (Cal. 1962).

5. See *Capitol Fed. Sav. & Loan Ass'n v. Smith*, 316 P.2d 252 (Colo. 1957). For a detailed explanation of the infirmities of the court's analysis, see Jonathan L. Entin, *Defeasible Fees, State Action, and the Legacy of Massive Resistance*, 34 WM. & MARY L. REV. 769, 788–89 & n.86 (1993).

6. See Symposium, *Comparison of the Role of the Supreme Court in Canada and the United States*, 3 CAN.-U.S. L.J. 1 (1980).

Harvard, Peter Hogg of Osgoode Hall, and Eugene Gressman of the University of North Carolina,⁷ as well as leading jurists, such as Justices Potter Stewart of the Supreme Court of the United States, Brian Dickson of the Supreme Court of Canada, and Stanley Mosk of the Supreme Court of California. Even after Sidney handed off day-to-day leadership to our late colleague Henry King, he continued to play a leading role as chair of the Institute's advisory committee and helped to produce years of stimulating conferences on a wide range of binational and international issues.

In addition to his vital role in creating and maintaining CUSLI, Sidney played a vital role in two other initiatives. He was the founding director of the law school's Frederick K. Cox International Law Center. That leading center in its field would not have become what it is today without Sidney's enormously important work. And he was a driving force behind the Russia-United States Legal Education Foundation, which has brought many international students to American law schools.

If Sidney had not become a lawyer, he would have made a wonderful architect. I mean someone who designs buildings, not just institutions. You could tell that simply by looking at the elegant townhouse where he and Jane lived. Sidney designed the striking interior, with a cathedral ceiling and carefully designed windows that made for magnificent lighting patterns. As a result of his architectural inclinations, Sidney chaired our building and grounds committee forever. And he made a difference, especially when we were planning the addition to our classroom wing in the early 1990s. The original plan submitted by a prestigious architectural firm proposed a roofline that clashed with the existing building's profile. Sidney's perceptive objections got that problem resolved.

Sidney's leadership of the building and grounds committee also afforded him a marvelous teaching moment. Long before Ohio adopted statewide smoking regulations, the City of Cleveland enacted a workplace smoking ordinance.⁸ As a result, the law school administration banned smoking inside the building. At the time, many students, staff, and faculty were smokers, and they were understandably unenthusiastic about limits on their tobacco use. Sidney convened an open forum. After numerous objectors had their say, he asked whether anyone had read the ordinance. No one had. Gently noting the irony of lawyers denouncing a law they had not read, he presented the provisions showing that no space in the building qualified as a permissible smoking area. The forum ended abruptly if not entirely happily.⁹

More on his teaching: To every registrar's perennial dismay, Sidney was oblivious to deadlines for submitting exams. This was not because he was dilatory, but rather because he was a perfectionist. He once submitted an exam just minutes before the starting time—the test featured an article from that morning's newspaper illustrating an important issue he wanted the students to address.

I also have alluded to Jane Picker, and it is only fitting to conclude by noting that Sidney and Jane were always people of great principle. This commitment went beyond their work on *LaFleur*. Early in their time in Cleveland, then as now highly segregated residentially,¹⁰ they wanted to live in an integrated neighborhood. The president of the university had to intercede at the highest levels of a leading financial institution before they could obtain a mortgage.

7. Tribe had recently published the first edition of his treatise. LAURENCE H. TRIBE, *AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW* (3d ed. 2000) (1st ed. 1978). Hogg, the most cited scholar in the history of the Supreme Court of Canada, had just published the first edition of his treatise. PETER W. HOGG, *CONSTITUTIONAL LAW OF CANADA* (5th ed. 2007) (1st ed. 1977). Gressman was coauthor of the classic work for lawyers with cases in the U.S. Supreme Court, as much an academic trove as a practitioner's manual. ROBERT L. STERN & EUGENE GRESSMAN, *SUPREME COURT PRACTICE* (9th ed. 1997) (1st ed. 1950); see also STEPHEN M. SHAPIRO ET AL., *SUPREME COURT PRACTICE* (11th ed. 2019) (maintaining and updating the work since the death of the original authors).

8. Act of Feb. 9, 1987, Ord. No. 279–A–86, 74 CLEVELAND CITY RECORD 214, *repealed and replaced by* Act of Apr. 25, 2011, Ord. No. 473–11, 98 CLEVELAND CITY RECORD 634 (current version codified at CLEVELAND CODE ch. 235 (2020)); see also OHIO REV. CODE ANN. ch. 3794 (West 2018) (enacted 2006).

9. After Sidney retired, the university banned smoking everywhere on campus, a more stringent rule than anything required by local or state law.

10. In 1970, when the Pickers were looking for a house, the most common measure of residential segregation had Cleveland at 89.0 on a scale where 100 represents complete racial separation and 0 represents complete integration; in 2010, the same segregation index was 79.5. See DOUGLAS S. MASSEY & NANCY A. DENTON, *AMERICAN APARTHEID: SEGREGATION AND THE MAKING OF THE UNDERCLASS* 47 (1993); RICHARD H. SANDER ET AL., *MOVING TOWARD INTEGRATION: THE PAST AND FUTURE OF FAIR HOUSING* 405 (2018). Despite the decline in the absolute level of segregation, Cleveland remained noticeably more segregated than other metropolitan areas in 2010. See *id.* at 10.

Even after his retirement, Sidney remained engaged with the law school. He was a regular participant in the annual CUSLI conferences, and he faithfully stopped by the law school when he was in town for other reasons. When he did, he always made a point of seeking me out. It is hard to accept that I never again can catch up with him and his many adventures. But thank you, Sidney, for all the great memories.

Richard Fox

Emeritus Professor, Monash University Faculty of Law

I first met Sidney and Jane Picker at the start of my academic career in 1968, when I was a very junior staff member at Melbourne University Law School. They had arrived there as Visiting Professors on their first trip to Australia.

With Jan, my wife-to-be, we helped them explore the features of our city and its surrounds. Our outings together gelled into a friendship that has lasted over 50 years. We enjoyed their home hospitality in the USA and we reciprocated in our home on their return visits to Australia.

On their last trip to Australia, in 2015, they did me the great honour of arriving here in March when I celebrated my 75th birthday.

Sid's interests in international trade law that brought him to my law school was very different from mine in criminal law and procedure. Nonetheless, that original meeting with him had a profound influence on my life for two reasons that I wish to acknowledge publicly today.

First, Sid and Jane were older and more widely travelled than we two, who had never left Australia. One day on that first visit, Sidney suddenly declared: *Richard, I have concluded that this is a very strange country!* I demanded his reasons.

Well, he explained, *You Aussies seem to be more British than the British with your deference to Royalty; your retention of the British flag as part of your own national flag; and the powerful urges your academics, graduate students and performers have to get out of Australia to spend time in the mother country.*

So what's wrong with that, I protested. *Look at the World map, Richard. Understand where you are in the world. You are part of Asia, not Europe. Not Britain.* **Richard, you need to get to know your neighbours.**

It was an eye-opening piece of advice. Sid and Jane were not just Americans representing their country, but were also citizens of the world, and they were diplomatically teaching me that, as an Australian, it was my responsibility to broaden my vision as well. And all that before *Globalisation* became a common word.

Thereafter, my overseas trips always prioritised opportunities for regional travel to meet people in India, Thailand, Japan, China and the like. In the course of my academic life, my wife and I travelled to over 55 countries.

Second, While the Pickers were still in Melbourne on that first visit, I received news that I had been appointed to a position in Canada at the University of Toronto Law School. When Sidney learned that I and my newly-wed wife were intending to fly directly *East* across the Pacific to Vancouver and then on to Toronto, Sidney offered a second life-changing piece of advice: **Take the road less travelled by.** What do you mean? I asked.

Go in the opposite direction! he said. Go West via South Africa and the countries in the north: Rhodesia, Zambia, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Then to England before reaching Canada. That advice, supported by Jane, was based on their own experiences. Our acting on it produced a memorable trip. A perfect start to our marriage.

And whilst we were in Canada, who else but Sidney Picker would have invited us to cross Lake Erie to visit Case Law School with its friendly staff and surrounding attractions.

It was he who also assisted in my attainment of a Fulbright Senior Scholar Award to become a visiting professor at Case in 1979 and 1995 when I taught Criminal Law in conjunction with inventive and helpful Professors like Lew Katz and Kevin McMunigal.

The advice Sidney gave me to take a broader view of my place in the world and to boldly grasp opportunities and to welcome the chance to be different, is something I have diligently shared with my thousands of law students during 50 years of teaching and mentoring them.

Thus has the influence of Sydney Picker continued to spread, like ever-widening ripples of his wisdom, across the hemispheres.

I am grateful for this opportunity to speak in his honour and Jane's.

Lewis R. Katz

John C. Hutchins Professor Emeritus of Law, Case Western Reserve University

When Sidney Picker joined the Case faculty fifty-one years ago, Dean Toepfer said that Sidney, with his pedigree of Dartmouth, Stanford, Yale, the White House Trade mission, and a Fulbright in Australia, would never stay here more than a year. Fifty-one years later we celebrate Sidney's memory and honor him for his glorious thirty-three years at the law school despite Toepfer's prediction that he would choose opportunities and go elsewhere.

We honor Sidney for having invented International Law in our curriculum and for fathering the International Law Journal fifty years ago. Sidney hadn't been in Cleveland long when he looked up from his Shaker Heights home and realized that Canada lay just north of Lake Erie. As part of his international law fiefdom, Sidney founded the Canada-U.S. Law Institute, the first of its kind. Sidney reasoned that it was absurd to be in Cleveland and almost see Canada and not focus on the special relationship with our most important neighbor. He got the institute off the ground convincing both the Canadian Embassy and the U.S. State Department that the other was contributing \$75,000 because it felt the endeavor so important. To save face, each contributed \$75,000, so as not to be outdone by the other. Once the project began, Sidney spent a year shlepping a small committee of law school faculty and a law student visiting several Canadian institutions to select just the right one. By some undisclosed formula Sidney decided that the perfect partner school was Western Ontario Law School, and he was right. Sidney's design focused on student and faculty exchange which thrived for many years, as well as the Canada-U.S. Law Journal, which focused on comparative legal issues of importance. Sidney also began the CUSLI conference which drew some of the most important diplomats, business executives and scholars to discuss issues critical to the relationship between both countries. In 1980 Sidney snared U.S. Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart and Canadian Supreme Court Justice Brian Dixon to highlight the conference. (On the day of Potter Stewart's talk, Sidney, who focused on every detail of the conference down to hors d'oeuvres and the color of napkins, lost Potter Stewart between the Terminal Tower building, where he was staying in a railroad's cushy suite, and the law school where his talk was to be given. It was just such *crise du jour* which provided the flavor to the very meticulous Sidney's endeavors).

It was a similar revelation that prompted Sidney and wife, Professor Jane Picker of the Cleveland Marshall Law School, to greet the fall of the Soviet Union with the realization that someone had better instill in young Russian law students the essence of democracy if Russia was to become part of the democratic west. To that end they created the Russian-U.S. Legal Education Foundation, and taught summer school at St. Petersburg University Faculty of Law and began bringing law students for a year to our law school and Cleveland Marshall School of Law. As before, they managed to talk the two law schools into providing free tuition for the visiting law students and eventually talked eight American law schools to provide scholarships for Russian students. They begged and borrowed the remaining funds to support those students' living and travel expenses from friends, alumni and even the American law firms in St. Petersburg and Moscow who would be the ultimate beneficiaries of those students' education. They have personally interviewed and selected each of the students. And they chose well.

The students we took invariably were the best or very close to the best LL.M. student of the year. Not only were they great students, they went home and became very successful lawyers. As this group of RUSLEF alumni grew, they truly welcomed Sidney and Jane as the Tsar and Tsarina on their annual visits to Russia. And the Russian legal community also took note of Sidney and Jane's accomplishments. They were each awarded Honorary Doctorate of Laws degrees, first by St. Petersburg University in 2002 (the year before the honorees were Russian President Vladimir Putin and the German Chancellor), and in 2013 they were honored by Yaroslav-the-Wise Novgorod State University. RUSLEF has created a generation of very successful Russian lawyers committed to democratic principles. The only mistakes Sidney made were that Russia has hardly developed into a democratic nation, nor is there a healthy family of western democratic nations left for it join.

If I stopped now I would not have conveyed the essence of Sidney Picker, the law professor. Sidney taught International Law and Future Interests (he taught the latter because of people like me who insisted that International Law was not law). His classes were informative and fun. His exams were a nightmare, page after page after page. He was always late and would spend the entire night before an exam alone in the law school.

In the morning he presented a secretary and the registrar the Herculean task of copying the exam in time for the 9 am test.

Sidney, who loved spending time with students, had an odd sense of priorities. Whatever came along was the priority of the day. If a student had a problem that for some odd reason took five or six(!) hours of discussion to resolve, Sidney spent those five or six hours no matter what else was on his calendar that day. One of his peccadillos, though, was the student who did not show up for an appointment. Lateness Sidney could tolerate, but the student who did not show up and did not call was beyond his patience. When he retired after thirty-three years there were lawyers in Australia, Canada, Russia and all over the United States who had spent hour after hour after hour with Sidney, interrupted only by Sidney's rushing to class, talking about the student's problems and plans. And amazingly, Sidney never hesitated to solve those problems and develop those plans and tell the student what to do. I've always hesitated to tell a student what to do; What if I was wrong? Somehow, Sidney always knew (or at least never thought he might be wrong), never hesitated, and all over Australia, Canada, Russia and throughout the United States are students who took Sidney's advice and have thrived. Sidney loved his students and knew best, and they loved him.

If a man or woman is lucky, he has one or two lifetime friends. I have been especially lucky because I have had six or seven special lifetime friends, and all have been professors or former students at this law school. Sidney was one of those special friends, and I would like to tell you a little bit about my special friend, Sidney Picker, the gadfly and meshugena.

Always impeccably dressed and well-groomed, Sidney I. Picker, Jr., was truly of the manor born. He was part of the twentieth century's other great American migration—the Jews in the movie business who made their way from New York to Hollywood. It was in Hollywood that Sidney enjoyed the good life and realized or decided that he was special and was entitled to be treated as such. Sidney's father made a great living making B movies at United Artists studios, owned by Sidney's uncle who bought it from Mary Pickford, John Barrymore and Charlie Chaplin. In those days, we went to the movies for a double feature—two movies. One got top billing, and the second was a B movie, made for far less money and starring lesser named actors. Sidney's father made a cowboy series starring a singing cowboy, Gene Autry. Autry's sidekick was a young Indian kid, played by child actor Bobby Blake, who went on to a long career and nefarious ending. Autry and Blake naturally had horses. During the making of the movies, whenever the director shouted "cut," Sidney walked over to Bobby Blake and grabbed his horse and rode it around the studio until they were ready to start shooting again. Growing up in Hollywood instilled in Sidney a certain sense of entitlement. Who wouldn't want to trick or treat when your neighbors were Lou Costello (of Abbott and Costello fame) or the luscious Susan Hayward (who gave out cameras to trick or treaters), for whom Sidney developed a lifelong crush and always cried when she, a convicted murderer, went to the gas chamber in the movie "I Want to Live."

When Sidney came to our law school in 1969, he brought with him a know-how in international trade negotiation, and most importantly his wife, Jane Moody Picker, who built her own career as a distinguished professor at Cleveland-Marshall law school: founder of the Women's Law Fund, and one of the first and distinguished litigators for women's legal rights, in Cleveland as well as in the United States Supreme Court. Of course, we couldn't hire Jane as a full-time member of this faculty because our then dean did not think women belonged in the law school (as they hadn't belonged at the Harvard Law School from whence the dean came). My wife Jan keeps reminding me that this is not about me, but to me Sidney brought a sense of fun to the law school. It was amazing that you could have a law school training first-class lawyers and have fun doing it. We wrote ditties about all of our colleagues, students who broke the mold, and we began a musical comedy about that dean and his secretary.

Sidney and Jane were outstanding hosts, opening their home to people with titles to young law students everywhere. Dinner parties at the Pickers were always a gracious, eclectic mix of people responsible only for never allowing lulls in the conversation. Jane and Sidney seemed to entertain effortlessly, much as they strode through life together. The young girl from Elyria, Ohio, and the boy from Hollywood were soulmates, partners in life. They made, and lived, their own adventures.

I could focus all day about Sidney's hijinks. Sidney was a master complaint writer. He wrote outraged letters about every perceived insult or vendor's inadequacies. United Airlines' then president wrote him a letter apologizing for just serving peanuts on the delayed flight from Maine to Cleveland. He was so effective at these letters that I told him his tombstone would say, "A Man of Letters." Sidney always paid for the best and expected to be treated as such. When he was kept in the waiting room an inordinate amount of time waiting for his doctor, he sent the Cleveland Clinic a bill for his time. Amazingly, it worked. For as long as he was that

doctor's patient, the doctor's office would call Sidney to come because he would be seen in the next fifteen minutes. When Sidney and Jane's house on Van Aken Boulevard was flooded while they were travelling, the insurance company fixed every bit of the house and refinished every piece of furniture except for the master bedroom, which had been spared and where Sidney and Jane lived for close to a year while the work was done. While Sidney's standards were high and demanding, a year to redo the house was excessive. The contractor who just couldn't finish the work to Sidney's standards would show up every morning with coffee and donuts for Sidney and Jane as a peace offering. They built their next home in Cleveland Heights, one of the first urban cluster homes in Cleveland. In the contract, Sidney arranged for a seven-foot fence around their small backyard. Since his became the only fence dividing the common area, it was not popular with the other residents, but Sidney insisted upon his contractual right. Sidney was so particular about every detail of that house, Jane realized she had to send Sidney abroad if the house was ever to be finished; thus, Sidney had his maiden trip to China.

There are multiple examples of Sidney the gadfly here at the law school. We used to have a police training institute at the law school, called the cop shop. Police cars were parked all over East Boulevard and Ford Drive, most illegally. One morning, Sidney looked out of his office window and saw an officer park his department's car in a no parking zone blocking a pedestrian walkway. Sidney called the local television stations and registered a complaint. It must have been a slow news day because a TV truck pulled up to the law school and started filming the illegally parked police cars. It was quite a sight to see the officers running from their classroom to move their cars. There are multiple other examples but my favorite occurred not too long before Sidney retired. As a money-saving gesture, the university shut off the hot water in the restrooms one winter. It was especially cold washing one's hands in cold water. We all grumbled, but Sidney called OSHA and filed a health complaint. The hot water was turned back on the following week.

I hope I've given you a brief portrait of the many sides of my dear friend Sidney Picker. I miss him so very much.

Rosemary McCarney

Inaugural CUSLI Student and Lifetime Admirer of Sid and Jane

I spoke to Sid just a few days before his death - we plotted and planned and committed to get together when the famous longest, undefended, “open” border that he spent so much of his life considering—in fact reopened—unfortunately, Sid couldn’t wait.

Sidney - What I can say about Sid is what I **know** (not remember) because to this day it continues to happen—whenever I think of Sid, I smile! It just happens! And I expect and hope that it will continue to happen for the rest of my lifetime. He was just that kind of timeless person—full of fun and full of joy.

The other thing I know about Sid is that he did not just LOVE Jane, he **adored** her—it was in his grin and that enormous roll of his eyes (which we all know and experienced) whenever she challenged him—and that happened frequently—and for good reason . . .

While some couples bicker, Sid and Jane bantered—it was always done with humour, encyclopedic recall of the subject at hand and self-deprecation, and always that spark of brilliance they each had and shared.

I was 22 years old when I came under Sid’s spell—a young Canadian law student restless in third year and ready for something new. Everyone thought I was crazy to head off to Cleveland and CWRU and follow this man who I barely knew, in my last semester of law school no less—but I did, and it changed my career trajectory and tweaked my world view forever and for which I am infinitely grateful.

Sid and Jane welcomed the young, naïve, somewhat audacious Canuck (Sid’s term of endearment for me) into their classes and into their home. I think they felt acutely responsible for my safety and happiness—or was it professional self-interest? After all I was the first Canadian student to venture south of the border as part of CUSLI and they needed to return me home intact and without any diplomatic incidents and as a strong advocate for this great experiment called CUSLI which was just getting started. They were very successful in that endeavour as I became a lifelong advocate for the CUSLI model of transborder institutional relationships based on shared ownership.

Sid often said my views on Canada-US relations were outrageous! I used to say to Sid that Canada was geographically “challenged,” because we had the Americans in our basement and the Russians in our attic and they were both **very** noisy tenants. So, what did Sid do? He institutionalized all three of us in CUSLI and then RUSLEF and made us get along!

A world without Sid is for sure a diminished world but all these Canadian and Russian students (his offspring) like Dmitry, Francois Philippe, and others who spoke of his influence, and hundreds more that he worked his magic on, will hopefully build on the legacy he gave us, of a smarter, more optimistic, and, yes, peaceful world.

Salut and deep affection to Sid and a warm embrace to Jane from Barry and me.

Thank you all for the wonderful stories of Sid and a life led fully and joyfully.

Stephen J. Petras, Jr.

*Director, The Frederick K. Cox International Law Center
United States National Director, Canada-United States Law Institute*

The first time that I met Professor Sidney Picker was during the first week of orientation at Case Western Reserve University School of Law at the start of the Fall Term in 1976. I was just starting out in my legal studies and knew that I wanted to get involved in international law. Therefore, I went and looked for Professor Picker as the only international law professor at Case Law School. My first meeting set my whole course of study and placed me on a path of international law that I have never left.

After introducing myself and explaining my interest, Professor Picker did not challenge my interest or, fortunately for me, inquire as what I knew about international law. At that point in my life, I knew almost nothing. Rather, he jumped right in by advising me about two things. The first was to immediately sign up to take Comparative Law by a visiting professor from Italy. That was Professor Giovanni Bognetti of the University of Pavia.

I followed that advice and immediately went to sign up for the course. However, because I was a first-year student, I was not eligible to take this advanced course. That was a great disappointment to me. Dejected, I went back to Professor Picker and explained my situation. He brushed that off instantly and told me to audit the course. He did not take “no” for an answer. As he explained, certainly Professor Bognetti would not mind. So, I went to see Professor Bognetti and explained the situation. He was happy to have me, and his course was fantastic. Although I got no credit, it was the course that launched my fascination with international law and issues.

The second thing that Professor Picker advised me of was his involvement with creating the Canada-United States Law Institute. His excitement about this new institution captured me from the start. He had a vision for examining the issues between the two nations and bringing together legal experts to advance the relationship. I had no idea how important this new institute would be to me, but I knew then that I wanted to be involved. Here I am as the United States National Director, the position first held by Professor Picker at the start of this great institution.

Without question, Professor Picker played a major role in my international law career. He was the person who encouraged me to seek a summer position in Europe after my second year. That summer I was a law clerk in the legal department of a major Finnish corporation at its headquarters in Helsinki. Once I got back to Case Law School, Professor Picker wanted to hear all about it.

Professor Picker, thank you for introducing me and so many Case students to International law, its practice, issues, and discipline. And I especially thank you for your love of international law that you passed on to all of us who had the fortune to know you.

Elizabeth Rindskopf Parker

*Dean Emerita, McGeorge School of Law, University of the Pacific; former General Counsel,
Central Intelligence Agency and National Security Agency*

Some lives are so deeply and richly lived, with such an impact on others, that remembering them is not just a duty or an obligation. It is a learning experience in understanding what a life well-lived means. Sidney Picker, Jr. was such a person. And how appropriate to learn life's lessons from one whose life was as a teacher, in Sidney's case, of international law. And so, I thank Deans Michael Scharf and Jessica Berg, and Case Western Reserve University School of Law, for this opportunity to recall my colleague, my friend and my mentor, Sidney Picker, Jr.

Others have shared their detailed reviews of the many academic accomplishments in Sidney's impressive professional life as an expert in international law. Let me only add that I believe Sidney will be remembered for his special talent for combining theory and practice in countless trend-setting projects, from the Canada-United States Law Institute to his work with Jane Picker in creating a unique project to support dozens of Russian students in a year of law study in the United States. It was for this reason that I invited Sidney to join my revival of an international law advisory board when I joined the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, as dean in 2002. But I should also mention Sidney's idea and invitation in 1992 that I teach the nation's first comparative law course in national security law with David Bickford, then Legal Adviser of Britain's MI-5 and MI-6, a proposal, I should add, that a few years later colleagues at the Columbia School of Law rejected because, while they said they found interesting the evolving relationship of international law enforcement and foreign intelligence, "there was no law there." By that time David and his wife Cary had already become the Pickers' dear friends, with frequent visits, both in Sanibel and during the Pickers' annual stays in London each June.

The relationship that flowered so rapidly with the Bickfords was typical, another excellent example of Sidney's greatest legacy and his bequest to us all: the constantly widening circle of friends and family he leaves behind across the globe. And so, my thoughts today are about Sidney as a man my entire family came to love as deeply as anyone we have known. For my daughter, he helped to replace the father she lost as an infant. To me, an only child, Sidney took the place of an older, much wiser, brother. Obviously, we were not alone. For while Sidney and Jane may have had no children of their own, the extended family they created over the years knew no bounds, either by blood, relationship or, for that matter, geography. Where this remarkable couple was concerned, there were no strangers. They opened their hearts and their homes to a multitude of family and friends.

I met Sidney and Jane in July 1972 in Cleveland where I had come to learn about Jane's recent creation, The Women's Law Fund. Over the years Jane and I worked on a variety of sex discrimination lawsuits. In doing so, almost without my realizing what was happening, a family relationship developed. Not just countless trips to Cleveland, but almost annually over four decades, my daughter and I spent many holidays with the Pickers in Maine, Mexico and eventually Sanibel. In the early 1990's, when I was then CIA General Counsel, I taught my course on three separate occasions, the third time at Cleveland State on a semester-long fellowship during the six months when Sidney and Jane provided me lodging. I came to know the Pickers, both dedicated international law professors, and their remarkable symbiotic relationship, well. They complemented each other famously. Hardly identical in personality, still it could be difficult to know where the thoughts and passions of one started and the other's ended. Theirs was a seamless relationship.

Such persistent and intimate contact offered a window into this exceptional couple. Of the two, Jane might initially be the more prominent in social interactions; getting to know Sidney was a more gradual process, but one well worth the effort. Gradually, the renaissance range of Sidney's interests and activities revealed themselves.

He was a legendary collector of old toys, with one room in their home reserved for their display. Few adults could resist the temptation to admire and touch the toys. As children, my daughter and then her sons, found them irresistible. Magically, the toys always returned to their precisely assigned places in a museum like setting when, against all rules, they had been disturbed.

The toys were but one focus of Sidney's joy in searching through every junk shop we ever passed. His eye was unerring and a full range of charming chachkies graced the Pickers' home and Maine cottage. I greatly admired Sidney's talent and unique sense of interior design. And I treasure several of the items given me on permanent loan. With the attention to detail that characterized all that Sidney did—not to mention his dedication as a professor of trusts and estate law—he bequeathed one particularly attractive historic map of the Rhone River to me in his will. Although I had had the picture on a long-term loan for decades, Sidney had not lost track of it—or my love for it.

Antique hunting with Sidney was a special pleasure, something I looked forward to in our annual trips to Maine. I always hoped for a rainy day when Sidney and I might while away a few hours in the aptly named "Chicken Barn" near them, an emporium of thousands of delightful, discarded items from earlier years. And I particularly remember one exciting day with Sidney and Jane at a Maine farm auction. Somehow Sidney could spot the best items in any cornucopia of thrown-away items from long ago times. He easily identified treasures where others would see only uninteresting piles of junk and these treasures then reappeared to grace their beautifully appointed house and dining room table. While I do not recall Sidney ever being active in the kitchen as a cook, he did control all such table settings at their legendary dinner parties, bringing out delightful items as center pieces, always carefully coordinated with cutlery and dishes. In another life, Sidney could have been a talented interior designer, worthy of a place in *Architectural Digest* or the *New York Times Sunday Magazine*.

But Sidney's sense of design did not stop at collecting "put-about." He could visualize space and design homes, a talent on display in the house he and Jane built in Cleveland, the cabin they remodeled in Maine, and finally the retirement home they built on Sanibel Island. Builders wondered who the architect for these various structures had been when asked to implement Sidney's designs. Sidney's concepts, developed over endless hours on his laptop computer, were on particular display in the cunning diagonal placement of a swimming pool under their Sanibel home, a clever space-conserving measure to address Sidney's requirement for a swimming pool which would be long enough to support his lifetime commitment to lap swimming.

Clearly swimming was a passion of Sidney's and an almost daily event. So that they would always be ready on a moment's notice, his swimming trunks appeared permanently to be hung from the back-window hook of his brown Mercedes sedan, otherwise always in impeccable order. In Maine, almost until his last year, swimming also involved a daily half-mile swim to the island in front of their house—a feat, despite being an able swimmer myself, I was only able to manage once.

The Pickers were passionate travelers, perhaps something that would be expected of two international law professors. I found out about their extensive travels early in our relationship. One night after dinner, Sidney opened a closet door to reveal a treasure trove of carefully placed slides, an archive of chronically arranged and perfectly described little boxes of countless slides for the home slide shows then popular as after-dinner entertainment. Memorably Sidney showed pictures of a remarkable do-it-yourself bus trip they had taken as a young couple from India to London, along the Khyber Pass into areas now denied for any who might wish to follow them today. Was there anywhere they had not been? Well, yes, Sidney said, mentioning Antarctica. But that destination, too, was accomplished some years ago, shortly before their 6 month around-the-world cruise in celebration of Jane's 80th birthday.

Discussing their travel experiences was unlike such conversations with others, never boring, always full of insights, observations and descriptions of new friends made along the way. But one comment of Sidney's stands out. In a low voice one evening Sidney turned to me and, looking at Jane, said, "She changed my life." He was referring to Jane's bold embrace of all travel, not surprising for the daughter of a foreign service officer, but perhaps unexpected for this son of California, notwithstanding his several later Fulbright grants and visitorships abroad.

California—Los Angeles in particular—where Sidney had grown up, had made a powerful impact on him, even though once graduating from Stanford Law School, his professional life was largely passed on the East Coast after earning a master's degree from Yale where he had also met Jane, a fellow law student. His father, a prolific producer of B-grade movies, had moved his family from New York to California when Sidney was a young boy and Sidney grew up in a world that created a life-long love of movies. Turner Classic Films was likely his favorite channel and he would have been well-qualified to provide the commentary required to accompany any film on view there. His description of the stars he had known in his youth, Elizabeth Taylor was my favorite example, created the impression of a fascinating early life. Sidney was the middle of three sons and that fact, plus Jewish tradition, made unusual the "junior" reference in his name. I like to think that, as another example of family devotion and a tribute to his late father, Sidney always referred to himself as Sidney Picker, Jr. He

relished taking advantage of this vast store of knowledge, inherited from his father, when in retirement on Sanibel he was able to organize an annual Oscar event.

But as with all things, Sidney never bragged about his experiences and connections. They came out only after close examination. Above all, notwithstanding his erudition on a wide variety of topics, from international and comparative law to the movie industry, Sidney was an outstanding listener, a wise counselor, thoughtful to the needs of others, reflective and quiet, although not without a sense of the absurd, as Lew Katz has so well described, or the ability to laugh at himself and, of course, his beloved Jane. A conversation with Sidney was like a warm bath—reassuring, gentle, supportive. It was Sidney and Jane to whom I first introduced the man who would become my second husband in 1997. Sidney's ever thoughtful response made him the natural person with whom to share my life's events. And once again, as so richly described in this set of remembrances, I was not alone.

Sidney's last years were punctuated with health challenges that worried us all. It was for this reason that my husband and I dropped everything and rushed to visit Jane and Sidney in Maine a year ago this past August. But contrary to the worries that had been created by a remarkable series of terrifying health events while the Pickers were on their annual trip to London and then Russia to hold their annual reunion with the Russian alumni of their successful RUSLEF program, Sidney was again himself. Warm, welcoming, with easy conversation, happy to see us, to put us at our ease. The consummate host. My wonderful friend. The brother I never had.

His loss cannot be filled. And once again, in this thought too, I am not alone.

Albie Sachs

Former Justice, Constitutional Court of South Africa



I'm not surprised that there are so many speakers paying tribute to Sidney Picker. And I am sorry that I won't myself be able to be one of them. I send the following message:

I loved visiting Case Western and loved receiving visitors from Case Western. Ambience, style, thought, and content all went together. Things that were serious could be fun; things that were fun could be serious. At the center of it all was Sidney Picker, warm, radiant, progressive, humane, and profoundly thoughtful, qualities we desperately need today.

With deeply affectionate memories of Sidney, and love to all who were close to him.

Michael P. Scharf

*Dean and Joseph C. Hostetler-BakerHostetler Professor of Law,
Case Western Reserve University*

CWRU School of law lost a treasured emeritus faculty member on April 28, 2020, with the passing of Sidney I. Picker Jr. And I lost a dear friend. I write this tribute both as Dean of the Law School and as the professor who was brought in to replace Sid when he retired from the faculty 19 years ago. In his 32 years as a law professor, Sid left an indelible mark on Case Western Reserve University School of Law and its graduates.

Sid told me how he had hailed from a family of film producers. He joked that he was considered the “Black Sheep” of his clan because his passion lay outside of Hollywood in the world of international law. Prior to joining the CWRU Law faculty in 1969, Sid served on the staff of the United States Trade Representative during the “Kennedy Round” of GATT Trade Negotiations and later in the General Counsel’s office of the Export-Import Bank of the United States. From D.C. his path led to Cleveland.

Soon after obtaining tenure here, in 1976 Sid founded and served as the initial U.S. director and advisory board chair of the Canada-U.S. Law Institute (CUSLI), which is jointly operated by Case Western Reserve University and the University of Western Ontario. The story of how Sid convinced the Canadian and U.S. governments to provide funding for the creation of CUSLI is the stuff of legends. In 2013, the Institute established an annual award in Sid’s name, given to individuals in recognition of outstanding contributions to support the advancement of the Institute and Canada-US relations. In 2019, one of Sid’s favorite students, Francois-Philippe Champagne (’94), was appointed Canada’s Minister of Foreign Affairs.

In addition to establishing the Canada-U.S. Law Institute 44 years ago, Sid also served as the first director of the Frederick K. Cox International Law Center, established in 1991 with a \$3 million endowment from the Gund Foundation. The Cox Center is the hub of our international law program, which now includes CUSLI, the Institute for Global Security Law and Policy, the War Crimes Research Office, the Yemen Accountability Project, an endowed lecture series, a foreign policy talk radio program on NPR, three award winning international law moot court teams, the Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law, and the Canada-U.S. Law Journal.

In addition to his activities at the law school, Sid had wide-ranging experiences in the field of international law. He served on the first NAFTA Chapter 20 dispute resolution panel in a case brought by the United States against Canada in 1996. In 1995 he served as a consultant to The World Bank on Russian legal education as part of a World Bank legal reform loan to Russia. He also served on the boards of such nonprofit organizations as the Washington-based SALS (“Southern African Legal Services”) Foundation and ACSUS (“Association for Canadian Studies in the United States”).

Sid was a member of the first American Bar Association (ABA) international trade visits to the Soviet Union in 1973 and to the People’s Republic of China in 1979. He was awarded two Fulbright Grants to Australia, in 1968 and 1985, to teach and research on Pacific Basin trade and on East-West Trade. He served as scholar in residence at the Legal Resources Centre in South Africa in 1980 and he has taught and lectured at Westminster University in London, Universidad Gama Filjo in Brazil, and at the law faculties of St. Petersburg State University, Novgorod State University and Volgograd State University, all in Russia.

Sid was responsible for bringing the first U.S. Supreme Court and Canadian Supreme Court justices to CWRU Law School (Justices Potter Stewart and Brian Dickson, respectively, in 1980) as well as the first International Court of Justice U.S. and Russian judges to the Law School (Judge Stephen Schwebel and Judge Vladlen Vereshchetin, respectively), and he organized the first National Security Law course to be taught at the law school by the then sitting General Counsel of the CIA, Elizabeth Rindskopf who commuted weekly from Washington to Cleveland.

In his later years, Sid and his wife, Professor Jane Picker, established the Russian-United States Legal Education Foundation (RUSLEF), which has to date brought over 30 Russian law students to CWRU, and hundreds to a consortium of other law schools. A three-page story about the Pickers’ work with RUSLEF appears in the Law School’s 2019 Alumni Magazine, “In Brief.”

After retiring in 2001, Sid and Jane moved to Sanibel Island, Florida, where they continued to run and expand the RUSLEF program. In the recent alumni magazine article, Sid summed up what he considered the

importance of the project: “In two or three generations, the Russian practice of law will be much different than the way it is today. It’s gradual change, student by student, person by person.”

In 2002, in recognition of his pathbreaking work on behalf of Russian legal Education, Sid together with his wife, Jane, were awarded Honorary Doctorates of Law by St. Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg, Russia. They are the only Americans to be awarded such degrees and the only husband and wife of any nationality to be awarded such degrees in the almost 300-year history of the venerable university which was founded by Peter the Great.

When I joined the faculty of our law school in 2002 and took over the directorship of the Cox International Law Center, Sid reached out to provide mentorship and advice. He cared deeply about the future of the institutions he had created and wanted to make sure that I was able to build upon his successes. In countless conversations during his visits to Cleveland, over the phone, and at his new home in Sanibel Island, Sid shared his wisdom about how to get things done at the law school and his ideas about future initiatives for the Cox Center and Canada-US Law Institute.

Diminutive in physical stature, Sid was a Titan in the field that he loved. I never could attempt to fill Sid’s shoes, but he made it easy to stand upon his broad shoulders. And building on Sid’s foundation, in the past few years, the Law School’s International Law program has attained a top ten ranking.¹¹

11. PRELAW MAGAZINE, Winter 2020, at 51.

Dmitry Tetyushev

Ernst & Young

My name is Dmitry Tetyushev.

I'm partner with EY (Ernst & Young) and currently hold the position of EY Law Asia Pacific Leader. I'm based in Singapore (for over three years now).

I'm part of a huge global organization of 250,000 people and look after a small part of it with approximately 30 partners and 300 lawyers located all the way from Japan on the north and New Zealand on the south and Myanmar on the east and again New Zealand on the west.

I have been with EY for 24 years (including 14 years as a partner) now and was for 12 years Law leader for Russia and CIS before moving to Singapore in 2017.

And why is it important?

For the very simple reason—I would not have been where I am today if it was not for Sidney. I do believe that education, hard work, and responsibility is important in life. But also, what is important, is a bit of luck which help all your best qualities to bring personal growth.

This luck came to me in 1994 when I was a student at the law department of Volgograd State University. I heard that there was scholarship available if you want to go and study at the law school in the U.S. By that time, the U.S. was not completely new to me as before I was high school exchange student. But one year of law school in the U.S. sounded like a complete fantasy. Anyhow, I applied, passed the test, and was accepted! Recalling this time, it was quite surreal and hard to believe. In fact, I did not believe it until I boarded the plane.

I still remember the route. It was Moscow to Frankfurt, Frankfurt to Atlanta and then to Cleveland. When I landed, I met a wonderful couple of law professors in charge of this program—Sidney and Jane. They have remained my mentors and friends ever since.

In 1994 there were ten of us in this program, and I was the only one from Volgograd. The rest were from St. Petersburg, which is a very important city in Russia, much more important than my home town. One may think that I could have been bullied and there was a bit of that, and today, yes, I have lost contact with some of them. But most of them are my friends. In fact, one of them worked with me at EY, the other one is still my best friend for more than 20 years and lives in two cities, London and St. Petersburg.

It was not always easy. After all, at that time there were no mobile phones, the internet was something of a novelty, and it was not available. I spoke with my parents once a week for about thirty minutes and was handwriting my letters. I think that my English was o.k., but of course I was not prepared for legal terms and definitions, and it took me a while to get used to that. One may say that I'm still not prepared, at least if you listen to my two daughters who after three years of international English-speaking school in Singapore are making fun on my accent and mistakes which I still make.

But it was wonderful year. One of the best years of my life. Fun, interesting, learning something new each day, making new friends, travelling around the country during the breaks. And of course that was because of what Sid and of course Jane have done for us, mentoring and coaching, always looking after us, helping us in any way possible, including giving us their car to travel around, up to the point when we burnt the clutch on the highway near Syracuse.

1994-1995 passed very quickly. I came back home, graduated in 1996, and was a bit at a loss for what I should do next and how I could apply what I had learned in my home town. Then luck came again, and it was the same people!

Sidney together with Jane, in constant pursuit of finding more Russian students to come to the US, travelled to St Petersburg in 1996. They met with a man called Todd Madden, who was the partner in charge of a newly established Arthur Andersen office in St. Petersburg. They asked if there was an employment opportunity and indeed there was! I was invited for the interview, I came and passed it and started my career with Andersen on November 1, 1996.

The remaining 24 years passed very quickly. In 2000 I moved to Moscow with Andersen, in 2002 we moved to EY and the rest you know.

But it is very, very clear to me. If I had not met Sidney in my life I would not be where I am today. And I will be forever grateful. As I'm sure there will be tens of other Russian students who have got a chance in their lives.

Sid was a passionate person. He had values, he believed in them, and he pushed the execution of his values. He, together with Jane, has made countless trips to Russia, even when it was difficult for all sorts of reasons—health, political, economic. Always he wanted to bring students to the U.S., as he always believed that talking to each other, educating, and learning from each other was the key to success and what we would call normal relationships. And these values have now been shared with a lot of Russians who will make sure that those values will be executed upon.

His passion knew no boundaries. Let me give you an example. Previous EY Chairman and CEO Mark Weinberger is a Case Western Reserve Law School alumnus. When he was elected, Sid wrote him a nice email with congratulations (on which I was copied). Further, Sid referred to me (and a few other colleagues from the program who were employed by EY) as a proof that EY has clearly benefited from the program. He called me managing partner of Russia (which I was not) and basically left Mark no choice but make a donation for the Russia United States Legal Education Fund. I was petrified thinking that this is it! My days are numbered, since Mark will never forget that he lost money because of me. It has a good ending. To be honest with you, to this day I don't know if Mark has made a donation, but he sent a personal email to me, saying that he had received a very nice email from Sidney and that we both (me and Mark) had been trained very well! I still have this email, as a job protection, in case the firm will decide to fire me.

Sidney was a beacon. Unimposingly he taught a lot of people to care, to help, to give, to communicate, to educate, and to learn. And I can talk on behalf of all of the Russian students who have ever met him that he will always be remembered by all of us and by me.

David Wardell

Class of 1982, Baker & McKenzie

Sid was a friend and a mentor to me in many ways. A true gentleman and scholar, he was a multi-faceted, highly intelligent, kind and generous person but in my remarks today I would like to focus on just one of his remarkable traits as a human being: Nice. Sid Picker was a truly nice man.

Today in this world, and in particular in this country, it is as important as ever in my view to extoll the virtues of being nice. Often nice is denigrated or otherwise marginalized as a form of weakness. But as we saw with our friend Sid Picker, nothing could be further from the truth. Nice is many things, of course, it is generosity of spirit, kindness, empathy and interest in things other than oneself. And so I am reminded of an observation made by the late Justice Potter Stewart in an entirely different context. Nice is difficult to describe but you know it when you see it. For those of us lucky enough to have met or known Sid Picker, we got to know nice.

The arc of my life intersected with Sid Picker even before I arrived at Case in the fall of 1979. A good friend of mine from college, who was the captain of the Princeton men's swimming team, attended Case Western Reserve Dental School after college. When I knew that I would be going to the Law School, I got in touch with my friend to let him know that we would again be going to the same university. He immediately told me that the first thing that I should do at the Law School was meet Sid Picker. He said that he had met Sid at the pool, given that both he and Sid were avid swimmers, and that Sid was a really nice guy whom I had to meet.

So the first thing I did when I came to campus was to knock on Professor Picker's door to introduce myself. As a first-year law student even before classes had started, I was somewhat apprehensive about disturbing a professor at work in his office. Well, that was my first glimpse of the niceness of Sid Picker. He stopped doing whatever he was doing and graciously had me take a seat in his office. He was truly interested in our mutual connection and expressed genuine interest in me and my future at the law school. I was astonished and impressed with his clearly instinctive generosity of spirit.

The fall of my second year I saw Sid frequently because his office was next to Lew Katz's, for whom I worked as a research assistant. Once again our paths crossed when I decided that I wanted to apply to attend the second semester in Canada as part of the Canada-U.S. Law Institute program with which Sid was heavily involved. When I discussed this with Sid, gracious as ever, he enthusiastically supported my idea and immediately took me to see Rosemary McCarney, who also kindly supported and assisted with my application to the program. This was yet another example that I will never forget of Sid being Sid, that is being nice and of the effect that it had on me and my life.

After returning from my time at the University of Western Ontario, Sid and Jane had me over to their house for dinner so we could discuss and share ideas and experiences in the context of international interaction.

Many years later we were again back in contact when I was transferred by my job to London for six and a half years. Sid and Jane had a timeshare in London and once again, his instinct to get together, to talk, to listen demonstrated to me the power of nice.

Our lives continued to intersect when my career took me to an international law firm, BakerMcKenzie, where I have been for the past eleven years. I got to know a partner in our Moscow office, Alexey Trusov, and quickly found out that we shared a common bond, Sid Picker. Alexey had gotten an LL.M. at Cleveland-Marshall, where he got to know Jane and Sid. He thinks the world of both of them. Once again I was in touch with Sid to tell him about our mutual friend Alexey. He expressed his honest happiness that his two friends, Alexey and I had gotten together and had themselves become friends. That is what a nice person does. Here was a concrete example of the fruit of international legal exchange and experience. And, in particular, Russian/U.S. legal exchange which, as we know, was a vision and passion for him and Jane.

And so in closing, I would like to express my sympathy to Jane and to everyone attending this memorial on our loss of Sidney Picker but at the same rejoice in the knowledge that the power of nice, what it is and what it can do, lives on through the memory of Professor Sidney Picker.