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Sidney B. Jacoby

*David L. Bazelon**

After World War II, Sidney Jacoby and I participated in a program to vest enemy-owned assets in the United States under the Trading with the Enemy Act. Our Office of Alien Property had vested as enemy property the stock in General Aniline and Film Corporation, an American corporation founded by I.G. Farbenindustrie of Germany. When a Swiss corporation, claiming to be neutral, non-enemy-tainted, and the owner of the stock, brought suit for return of the stock, Sidney Jacoby was a leading member of the team of defending lawyers through the many years the case was in the federal courts.¹ I as head of the Office of Alien Property was his client.

In his work as defense lawyer Sidney Jacoby excelled. This I took for granted. What intrigued me was that this ascetic-looking young man—he was thin, erect, with a delicate face and fine bones—had fled from Germany as a young lawyer to become a highly competent American lawyer in time to fight as a lawyer in the economic war against the Nazi military machine and in the war of law against non-law and disorder.

He left the Office—in truth, I left before he did—to become a teacher of law, and he is now at the peak of his career. His dedication to the law might have been continued in private practice; but for all his skills in advocacy, he

*Chief Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

1. See *Societe Internationale Pour Participations Industrielles et Commerciales S.A. v. Clark*, 8 F.R.D. 565 (1948); *Societe Internationale Pour Participations Industrielles et Commerciales S.A. v. Clark*, 9 F.R.D. 263 (1949); *Societe Internationale Pour Participations Industrielles et Commerciales S.A. v. McGrath*, 9 F.R.D. 680 (1950); *Societe Internationale Pour Participations Industrielles et Commerciales S.A. v. McGrath*, 90 F. Supp. 1011 (1950), *aff'd sub nom. Kaufman v. Societe Internationale Pour Participations Industrielles et Commerciales S.A.*, 188 F.2d 1017, *rev'd*, 343 U.S. 156 (1952); *Societe Internationale Pour Participations Industrielles et Commerciales S.A. v. McGrath*, 180 F.2d 406 (1950); *Remington Rand, Inc. v. Societe Internationale Pour Participations Industrielles et Commerciales S.A.*, 188 F.2d 1011, *cert. denied*, 342 U.S. 832 (1951); *Societe Internationale Pour Participations Industrielles et Commerciales S.A. v. McGrath*, 11 F.R.D. 294 (1951); *Societe Internationale Pour Participations Industrielles et Commerciales S.A. v. McGrath*, 17 F.R. Serv. 394 (1952); *Societe Internationale Pour Participations Industrielles et Commerciales S.A. v. McGranery*, 111 F. Supp. 435 (1953), *modified*, *Societe Internationale Pour Participations Industrielles et Commerciales S.A. v. Brownell*, 225 F.2d 532 (1955), *cert. denied*, 350 U.S. 937 (1956); *Societe Internationale Pour Participations Industrielles et Commerciales S.A. v. McGranery*, 14 F.R.D. 44 (1953); *Societe Internationale Pour Participations Industrielles et Commerciales S.A. v. Brownell*, 15 F.R.D. 83 (1953); *Societe Internationale Pour Participations Industrielles et Commerciales S.A. v. Brownell*, 145 F. Supp. 494 (1956); *Societe Internationale Pour Participations Industrielles et Commerciales S.A. v. Brownell*, 243 F.2d 254 (1957), *rev'd sub nom. Societe Internationale Pour Participation Industrielles et Commerciales S.A. v. Rogers*, 357 U.S. 197 (1958); *Kaufman v. Brownell*, 247 F.2d 553, *cert. denied*, 355 U.S. 842 (1957); *Societe Internationale Pour Participation Industrielles et Commerciales S.A. v. Kennedy*, 231 F. Supp. 132 (1964).

is more a man of ideas than of controversy. As a teacher he could continue the good fight without the hostages of loyalties to individual advantage.

I have read some of his impressive writings—books and articles. I keep handy his books on federal government litigation. And I have heard of his fame as a teacher at Georgetown and at Case Western Reserve. An endowed chair at the latter was some recognition of almost twenty years of devotion to the education of future lawyers, administrators, judges, and legislators.

There has been a pattern in his professional life—of steady devotion to the reign of law. When the German Reich destroyed both that nation's law and his apprenticeship as a judge, he came here and simply continued in the service of law and of civilization. He served as a law officer in the federal government for almost twenty years, and he has now served for almost another twenty as a law teacher.

He is entitled to more than the gratitude of all citizens who benefit from a reign of law. He is entitled to the deep and abiding satisfaction that comes from long years well-spent in the service of one's fellow men. And this despite one of the greatest of obstacles to self-fulfillment—expulsion from one's homeland.

We are all, as Franklin D. Roosevelt said, immigrants, and many of us have been refugees. But many immigrants receive shelter, comfort, and well-being, and give back only their personal virtues. Sidney Jacoby, driven from his homeland by the Adolf Hitler who said "I am the supreme law in Germany," gave to the country of his adoption himself and his rich gifts of mind and heart, in the service of the expounding of law in the interest of civilization.