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## Tribute to Professor Jonathan L. Entin

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*Sharona Hoffman*<sup>†</sup>

During my very first months as a faculty member at Case Western Reserve University School of Law, back in 1999, I learned that Jonathan Entin was the go-to person for almost any question that I had. He is an incredible resource for faculty members, staff, and students alike.

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1. Jonathan L. Entin, *The Curious Case of the Pompous Postmaster: Myers v. United States*, 65 CASE W. RES. L. REV. 1059 (2015).
  2. 272 U.S. 52 (1926).

<sup>†</sup> Edgar A. Hahn Professor of Law, Professor of Bioethics, and Co-Director of the Law-Medicine Center at Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

Jonathan has a photographic memory and encyclopedic knowledge of a large number of legal topics. There was essentially no question to which he could not provide a useful answer. Jonathan would refer me to cases and articles that he read years ago and name them with astonishing accuracy. He was also always generous with his time, enthusiastically agreeing to read article drafts and have conversations about legal theories and ideas. As a junior faculty member who was nervous about tenure track, I was extremely grateful for this support.

I got to know Jonathan particularly well during 2007–2009, when we worked together as co-associate deans. Jonathan was always supportive, patient, and quick to offer to undertake additional tasks, no matter how difficult or time-consuming they might be. He told me that he actually enjoyed slaving over the details of the class schedule and volunteered to take the lead on that. He also was committed to meeting with students individually to address their queries and requests, even when the matter could have been resolved much more quickly and easily through e-mail.

We spent countless hours together, and they were always punctuated by laughter and Jonathan's numerous amusing stories. My husband, Andy, noted that every time he called me at work, Jonathan was in my office, and I had to cut the conversation short. But Andy got upset about being deprived of my attention only once. One day he went to sleep at 11:00 at night, and I was talking to Jonathan about some crisis. Then he came down to breakfast at 8:00 the next morning, and I was talking to Jonathan again about whatever the crisis of the moment was . . . Indeed, I don't think Jonathan ever slept while he was Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. He worked tirelessly for the good of the institution.

After I stopped being associate dean and returned to being a regular faculty member, I experienced the benefits of having Jonathan in a leadership position. He was always responsive, kind, and helpful. When he was in the office, his door was always open and he was more than willing to drop everything and speak with me. When I sent e-mails, he answered almost instantaneously, even when I sent my messages late at night. Miraculously, it seems that Jonathan let nothing fall through the cracks. He thoroughly investigated and addressed every question, no matter how trivial the issue was.

Equally important are Jonathan's achievements as a beloved and much-appreciated teacher. In fact, even as my co-associate dean he wanted to teach four courses. This was one of our very few areas of disagreement. I didn't think it was humanly possible to teach that much and still be a competent and sane associate dean. Of course, Jonathan proved me wrong . . . The large number of teaching awards that grace his office are a testament to how much he is valued by all of his students, and he richly deserves all of those recognitions.

The only thing that is more impressive in Jonathan's office is the amount of clutter. In fact, it is legendary and was once declared a fire

hazard by university officials. Yet, it too proves the great powers of Jonathan's mind. Who else could consistently and instantaneously find exactly what he needs among the tall piles that populate every inch of space?

Professor Jonathan Entin has been everything one can hope for in a faculty member and a colleague. He is brilliant, dedicated, generous, and extraordinarily hard-working. He is the consummate institutional citizen and has made invaluable contributions to the school in every area that matters: scholarship, teaching, and administrative service.

I know all of us at Case Western will miss having Jonathan as a full-time faculty member. We are confident, however, that we will see him often and that he will continue to contribute to the intellectual life of our institution in every way he can.

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*Erik M. Jensen*<sup>†</sup>

I met Jon Entin in the fall of 1983, when I was a newbie at the law school and he was interviewing for a faculty position. Jon was the best-prepared faculty candidate I had ever seen;<sup>1</sup> he had obviously burned the midnight oil<sup>2</sup> doing his homework about Case Western Reserve University. Among other things, he seemed to have memorized several years' worth of *In Brief*, the alumni magazine. He knew more about my background than I did,<sup>3</sup> and his interview provided an opportunity for me to catch up on what had happened in my life.

The man was clearly desperate for a job.

Oh sure, he had an impressive resume<sup>4</sup>—or impressive to some, I've been told. He's a graduate of Brown (but *everyone* graduates from Brown);<sup>5</sup> a former graduate student at Michigan in sociology (sociology being the sort of stuff Brown folks do); former director of the ACLU in Arizona (observing lawyers in action and realizing that going to law

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1. He might also have been the first one that I had seen, so being ranked number one didn't mean much at the time. But no one has surpassed him since (at least not in level of preparation).
2. That was a very dangerous thing to do given what I assume was the condition of his workspace—i.e., a tinderbox. *Cf. infra* note 17 and accompanying text.
3. Jon's real calling should have been at Ancestry.com.
4. I'm referring to his own resume. He might very well have collected a few impressive resumes from other folks as well.
5. This footnote exists only to create a later cross-reference. In legal writing, you do what you have to do.