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## Tribute to Professor Jonathan L. Entin

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contributions made in the fields of civil and human rights in Macon County, Alabama.

Indeed, Jonathan even made efforts on my behalf beyond the walls of Case Western. He helped to nominate me for the ABA's Thurgood Marshall Award, which I received in 2004. He published an extremely positive review of my book in the *Journal of Legal Education* when it was first published,<sup>2</sup> and published a transcript of the interview he conducted with me on the occasion of the book's republication.<sup>3</sup> He recommended to the deans that the Law Review Annual Symposium in 2016 be, "In Honor of Fred Gray: Making Civil Rights Law from Rosa Parks to the 21st Century." And, I suspect he played no small role in nominating me for the Case Western Reserve University Distinguished Alumni Award that I received.

Anyone who knows Jonathan can tell you that he made all of these efforts on my behalf for no other reasons than to be sure that credit was given where he thought credit was due; to make sure that the record reflected reality; and that the history of the Civil Rights Movement would be just a little bit fuller and richer. Jonathan has an enduring fascination with history, with detail, and with the intricate relationships among events and actors. He also cares deeply about social justice and the role of social movements, past and present, in achieving positive social change.

Concluding, I did not know until recently that Jonathan Entin was retiring from the faculty of the law school. I know he will be sorely missed. May I take this opportunity to thank Jonathan for what he has done as a member of the faculty of this law school, particularly his interest in civil rights, his interest in the time he spent with minority students and, personally, thank him for his interest in helping me maintain a closer relationship to Case Western Reserve School of Law. Have a wonderful retirement.

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*B. Jessie Hill*<sup>†</sup>

For me—as for many of his colleagues—Jonathan Entin is almost synonymous with Case Western Reserve University School of Law. He has been the quintessential institutional citizen: often the first face you see when you arrive in the morning (especially if your grades were due

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- Jonathan L. Entin, *Book Review*, 48 J. LEGAL EDUC. 153 (1998) (reviewing FRED D. GRAY, *BUS RIDE TO JUSTICE* (1995)).
  - Jonathan L. Entin, *Bus Ride to Justice: A Conversation with Fred Gray*, 64 CASE W. RES. L. REV. 733 (2014).

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that day!), and often known to hang around until well into the evening to support the many events, programs, and extracurricular activities that take place here on a regular—even constant—basis. And of course, he served for an extraordinary eight years as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

More importantly than all of this to me, though, is that Jonathan Entin has been a mentor and a close friend. I'm honestly not certain whether he knows how important his support and counsel have been for me since I arrived at the law school as a Visiting Assistant Professor in 2003. Since we are both constitutional law teachers and scholars, Jonathan has been one of the most direct and valuable sources of insight and help with both my teaching and my writing over the years.

I will never forget the time that I was still a junior professor, working on my second major article, and I was unsure whether to send it out to law journals in the fall submission cycle, or instead hold onto it until the spring. The article was mostly finished but still a bit rough. More significantly, an important Supreme Court case that had the potential to affect my argument was pending, and likely to be decided in the coming months. Timing was tricky. I asked Jonathan if he could take a look at the article and give me his advice. Not only did he agree to do so, but he almost literally dropped everything and read the entire ponderous thing, within about twenty-four hours. I don't recall specifically what he advised, but whatever it was, I'm pretty certain I followed it. And I've often wondered, in the years since, whether Jonathan even remembered doing that for me. This is the sort of thing he would do for his junior colleagues without giving it a second thought.

And then there is the matter of the associate deanship. It would be an understatement to say that I have come to appreciate Jonathan on a whole new level since assuming his former role. Though no one doubted that Jonathan was working hard as associate dean, I don't think many people appreciated just how many balls he kept in the air at once. By choice, Jonathan continued to teach a full load—even at times assuming an overload of courses—while managing to fulfill this extremely busy administrative role and never, to my knowledge, let a single ball drop. On top of all that, he kept numerous other aspects of the law school running, serving as Law Review advisor, moot court coordinator, judicial clerkship coordinator, liaison to Fisk University, Battisti lecture coordinator . . . It's difficult to find an aspect of law school life upon which Jonathan hasn't left his mark. More than once, as I transitioned into the position of Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, I exhorted Jonathan not to retire. Sadly, he demurred.

Given that Jonathan has long been not just a friend but also a mentor to me, it felt somewhat odd to assume his place—literally—this year when I moved into the associate dean's office. It was no doubt jarring to others, too. In fact, students and faculty alike would ask me, for the first several months, whether the mass of papers and books on the table in the office were left behind by him—a testament, perhaps,

to the extent to which the role of associate dean was profoundly connected in everyone's mind with Jonathan himself (and/or to the fact that many of my students and colleagues were apparently unaware of my own extremely untidy office habits). When I fessed up to owning the unholy mess, the comparisons to my predecessor invariably ensued. In these cases, however, I often felt compelled to point out two differences between Jonathan and myself: first, he knows where everything is in *his* piles; and second, I am convinced that he doesn't actually *need* to know where everything is, since all of the information in those piles seems to be carried around in his head as well.

Finally, it is easy to forget that, amidst the tremendous administrative and teaching responsibilities that he assumed at the law school, Jonathan maintained an impressive scholarly record. He is the sort of scholar who writes for the sheer joy of it—for the fun inherent in making intellectual discoveries and sharing them with others. For example, in one of his most recent contributions, *The Curious Case of the Pompous Postmaster: Myers v. United States*,<sup>1</sup> Jonathan examines the fascinating history of *Myers v. United States*,<sup>2</sup> puzzling over, and providing trenchant insights about, the relatively mundane employment dispute that led to one of the most significant executive power decisions of all time. Of course, Jonathan has written more substantial articles and book chapters, but this short piece shares with much of his work an astute attention to detail, which inevitably yields gems, as well as an encyclopedic knowledge of law and history, not to mention a delightful writing style.

I am very sad to see Jonathan leave the full-time faculty. I take some comfort in the knowledge that he is surely so embedded in the life of the law school that he will have difficulty extracting himself entirely. And of course, he is always welcome to return. Especially when it's time to make the schedule . . .

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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).

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