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Tribute to Professor Paul Giannelli

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Barbara R. Snyder[†]

In 1983, I was fortunate to begin my academic career at Case Western Reserve University's School of Law where I encountered an exceptionally brilliant, talented, welcoming, and collaborative group of colleagues. Several of them became some of my greatest mentors, including Paul C. Giannelli, the Albert J. Weatherhead III and Richard W. Weatherhead Professor Emeritus of Law and Distinguished University Professor Emeritus. Professor Giannelli intuitively understood the value of regularly giving new faculty members encouragement, feedback, and opportunities simply to discuss pressing legal issues of the day. Although new to academia, I immediately recognized that I would learn much from this extraordinary legal scholar and outstanding teacher, and I have continued to do so throughout my career.

Even several years later when I accepted a faculty position at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, I continued to appreciate and benefit from Professor Giannelli's wise counsel. When I began teaching an evidence course, Professor Giannelli, renowned for his expertise in evidence and criminal procedure, was remarkably generous with his time for discussion and suggestions. I not only am most grateful to Professor Giannelli for supporting my intellectual growth and the development of my teaching skills, but also for inviting me to become his co-author on the two-volume reference book, *Ohio Evidence*,¹ and the annually published *Ohio Rules of Evidence Handbook*.² Our collaboration spanned more than ten years, and Professor Giannelli continues to author both publications.

You know you have found an excellent collaborator when you are successfully able to produce a book working 140 miles apart—he in Cleveland and I in Columbus. We met in person occasionally when Professor Giannelli taught a bar review course in Columbus, but otherwise we relied on email and phone communications. Only shortly after I became president of Case Western Reserve University did we end this wonderful partnership because I no longer could devote the time it deserved. I imagine that my experience with Professor Giannelli

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1. PAUL C. GIANNELLI & BARBARA ROOK SNYDER, EVIDENCE (1st & 2d eds. 1996–2001).
2. PAUL C. GIANNELLI & BARBARA ROOK SNYDER, RULES OF EVIDENCE HANDBOOK (1996–2009).

is not dissimilar from that of his numerous other colleagues and former students.

Although he would be the last to tell you, Professor Giannelli's accomplishments are outstanding. He has written or co-written ten books and more than 200 articles. During his remarkable career, nearly 700 judicial opinions, including seven United States Supreme Court decisions, have cited his work.

In 2009, the Supreme Court relied on his book, *Scientific Evidence*,³ in its ruling that criminal defendants have a constitutional right to cross-examine lab analysts who present reports on scientific research, such as drug analysis, during a trial.⁴ First published in 1986, Professor Giannelli and his co-authors have written four subsequent editions of *Scientific Evidence*.⁵ It is the preeminent reference for trial lawyers and judges who want critical analysis of the latest developments in scientific evidence, from DNA technologies to how to work with expert witnesses.

Also, in 2009, the United States Senate Judiciary Committee invited Professor Giannelli to testify on strengthening the use of forensic science in the judicial system.⁶ In 2014, the United States Department of Justice and the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology appointed him to a newly created National Commission on Forensic Science, now dissolved. There he worked with colleagues to improve the practice of forensic science through the development of guidelines.

Professor Giannelli equally impresses in the classroom, consistently among Case Western Reserve's School of Law's most honored professors. He twice received the Teacher of the Year award from graduating classes as well as the same distinction from the Law School Alumni Association. Many, many students have remarked that he is the best teacher they have ever had and have endorsed his classes by urging others to take as many classes as possible from this "scientific evidence guru."

Professor Giannelli has the rare gift of not only having a brilliant legal mind, but also being among the profession's greatest colleagues and teachers. It is a privilege to contribute to this Case Western Reserve Law Review edition in honor of my friend and mentor, Professor Paul Giannelli.

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3. PAUL C. GIANNELLI & EDWARD J. IMWINKELRIED, *SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE* (5th ed. 2017).
 4. *Melendez-Diaz v. Massachusetts*, 557 U.S. 305, 320, 332, 334 (2009) (citing PAUL C. GIANNELLI & EDWARD J. IMWINKELRIED, *SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE* (4th ed. 2007)).
 5. See GIANNELLI & IMWINKELRIED, *supra* note 3.
 6. *Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: Hearing Before the S. Comm. on the Judiciary*, 111th Cong. (2009) (statement of Paul Giannelli, Professor, Case Western Reserve University).