

Symeon C. Symeonides\*

I am truly honored to be asked to speak today about a great man and a most dear friend.

I know that hyperboles are common in eulogies, and yet I do not hesitate to say that Fritz Juenger was a true giant of the legal profession, certainly in his field of comparative and conflicts law. His voluminous, original, and incisive scholarship and his teaching and lecturing throughout the world have left an indelible mark in this field. I really cannot imagine a meeting of the International Academy of Comparative Law (of which he was Vice President), or the International Association of Legal Science (of which he was also Vice President), or the American Society of Comparative Law (of which he was President and then honorary President), or the Conflicts Section of the AALS (which he chaired this past year), without his stentorian voice resonating throughout the room. Even when he was not presiding, Fritz's imposing presence was felt throughout the room. The power of his intellect, his great erudition, his sharp and witty comments, and his inimitable humor were disarming and endearing.

I consider it a great privilege to have had him as my mentor and friend. The mentorship was not formal, but it was real. I learned from him as much conflicts law as I learned from my formal teachers; and although this doesn't show, I was fortunate to have had some of the best in the world, in two continents. The mentorship did not translate into complete agreement. And that is to his credit. In fact, there were many disagreements. But he was always gentle with me. For example, he never called me ignorant—not to my knowledge anyway.

As for our friendship, it began *in rem* (that is, around the subject matter of conflicts law) twenty-three years ago, and quickly became *in personam*. He was a most generous and loyal friend. He believed very much in supporting and encouraging young scholars, in opening doors for them. I speak here today as one of those many, formerly young, scholars who are the beneficiaries of Fritz's generosity and support. I am so glad that, while he was still with us, I ignored his protestations and expressed to him many

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times my gratitude for his support and encouragement through the years.

When I heard of Fritz's passing on that dark day of January 26, 2001, I decided to notify everybody I knew who knew Fritz. So I sent an e-mail to all members of the American Society of Comparative Law, all conflicts professors in the United States, and many European scholars on my long e-mail list. I did so because I wanted to share the grief, but also because I wanted these people to know of the passing of this great man right away, not weeks later. Although I did not expect any responses to this e-mail, I was surprised by the high number of people who wrote back to share their grief and express their admiration for Fritz. I compiled these e-mails and sent them to Barbara Juenger as a small, spontaneous token of the appreciation and affection with which Fritz was held by his colleagues around the world. I would like to quote a few sentences from some of these e-mails:

"Thank you for undertaking the very difficult task of informing all of us of Fritz's death. Our discipline and we ourselves will miss him very much. I wholeheartedly agree with your assessment of the high quality of his published scholarship. He was one of the best." (Bob Sedler).

"How very, very sad! There Fritz was in New Orleans just a couple of months ago, fresh and charming as ever, outspokenly taking on the Academy, enjoying his life and opportunity to work for positive change." (Harry Krause).

"How terrible, how sad! We knew each other since 1956 or '57. It's hard to grasp, harder still to accept." (Peter Hay).

"This is such sad news. Before the recent AALS meeting, Fritz and I had a jolly telephone conversation, and he was in such a spirited form. I listened to the tape of the meeting last week and enjoyed a good laugh again at his humorous comments. He was a devoted and active member of the ALI and I always liked to see him approach the microphone to share his perspective and his wit with us." (Michael Traynor).

"He was a great and delightful human being as well as a great and perceptive scholar." (Lynn D. Wardle).

"Like so many of us in Europe, I have been an admirer of his personality and scholarship." (Attila Harmathy).

"He was a wonderful friend and mentor to me." (Edith Friedler).

"I did not know him personally. However, I appreciated highly his writings, always very clear, well reasoned and of great interest to us Europeans, quite open to comparative law." (Marc Fallon).

"I am so sorry! I shall deeply miss Professor Juenger and his very critical, witty and sharp mind and very fine sense of humor." (Talia Einhorn).

And finally this one:

"Fritz was such a fabulous guy. I will miss him. Please convey to his wife how much he has meant to many of us, both in the way we think in the law and even more importantly in how we lead our lives." (Richard Hyland)

Indeed, Fritz shall remain for us a shining example of how to think about the law, how to write about it, how to teach it, and how to conduct our professional lives. We shall miss him.

But of course no one will miss him more than his beloved wife Barbara. In the old days, in the old world, we used to say: "behind each great man stands a great woman." In this case, I say "great people come in pairs." Fritz and Barbara, that is how we have known them, two great people I feel fortunate enough to have known.

Barbara, thank you for sharing most of your adult life with our dear friend. Thank you for being his supporting partner and fellow-traveler in his formidable and productive journey. May your grief be softened by the knowledge that it is shared by so many in this community, throughout the country, and around the world.

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