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William G. Coskran

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WALTER TRINKAUS: A LAWYER'S LAWYER, AND MUCH MORE

*William G. Coskran**

Dear Walter,

Only after you left us did I realize that I took your presence for granted. There are a few people in my life that I felt would always be there if I needed them. It was a comfort to know that you were there to provide example, help, advice, insights, perspective, humor, comfort, or whatever else was needed. Your absence makes me realize how much I enjoyed and relied on your presence. You were like the tall, broad tree that provided a delightful environment and protection from the elements.

You were truly an advocate and counselor in the best sense of those words. It is amazing that you always had the patience and energy to share your time and talents with so many people. You never gave the impression that you were too busy or too important to help. You treated the person who emptied your wastebasket with the same dignity and respect that you treated the folks with big titles. Also, you devoted equal care and concern to freely solving their problems. You were a one-man legal-aid office before the bar associations formalized pro bono as the thing to do. You always did it quietly and without interest in personal recognition. Service was part of your nature, not part of your job description.

Law and lawyers have become narrowly specialized over the years. It was always a pleasure to see you set about solving a problem in a novel area of the law. You found joy in dealing with issues that you encountered for the first time. This is an era in which we pit chess masters against awesome computers. The computer was no match for your mind, experience, imagination, and common sense. You always sought the difference between right and wrong and never confused this with the difference between correct and incorrect.

You provided us with an example of steadfast loyalty—to your God, family, friends, clients, students, and to your principles and faith. You demonstrated a deep respect for life and those who live it.

* Professor of Law Emeritus, Loyola Law School.

As your time with us neared the end, you demonstrated the confidence of a man who knows where he has been and where his soul is going.

You enriched my life, and I am grateful.

Thanks!
Bill Coskran