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Frederick J. Lower Jr.

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A TRIBUTE TO WALTER TRINKAUS

*Frederick J. Lower, Jr.**

Walter and I began our full-time teaching careers on the same September day in 1968. Walter retired after teaching for fifteen years. When I think of him as the person, the man we miss, this was Walter Trinkaus, Catholic, catholic (both upper and lower case letters apply), lawyer, professor and kind man. An advocate from the "old school" of lawyering, a dignified gentleman but never stuffy, highly ethical and principled.

He had a ready smile and chuckle and always sported a twinkle in his eye. His mild manner sometimes veiled his keen intellect, as any adversary in litigation or a debate soon learned.

And he was always inquisitive. I spoke with Walter by telephone about a week before he died. His long illness had nearly taken its full toll. He was calling to say "so long." His voice was strong, his mind was sharp. After sharing events since our last conversation, his soaring curiosity came through. "Say, I'm studying Einstein's theory of relativity," he said, "can you recommend any books on the subject?" That was typically Walter.

When I think of Walter in place, at Loyola Law School, my memory focuses immediately on his office. Photographs of Walter's two daughters, his pride and joy, were displayed prominently on his credenza in ample, splendid frames. Then there was his desk. Walter lived with his own unique version of an "archaeological filing system." Incredibly, though, he was seldom foiled by it.

We treasure all these memories knowing that we who knew him well and worked alongside this man were privileged to have had that opportunity.

* Judge, Los Angeles Superior Court; Dean and Professor of Law, Loyola Law School 1968-1991.

