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A Tribute to Barry Sullivan

Andrew W. McThenia

Washington and Lee University School of Law, mctheniaa@wlu.edu

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sibility. It is surely our responsibility, in Barry Sullivan's words, to make real "the right of individuals in a free society . . . to have their problems taken seriously . . ." ¹⁶ Paying attention when attention should be paid is an ethical imperative that is at the heart of being a lawyer. But it is also our responsibility, again in Barry Sullivan's words, to "strive for that panoramic view, transcending time and place, which is both the aim of liberal learning and a source of moral courage." ¹⁷ We must, in his words, do our very best "to 'see life steadily and see it whole.'" ¹⁸

Andrew W. McThenia, Jr.*

Saying Youall in Gaelic

What to say about someone from the coast of Massachusetts whose only real experience south of Newburyport prior to his arrival in Lexington⁹ was to look for his Irish kin in South Boston (not Virginia, but that small region of the Republic of Massachusetts south and east of Fenway Park)? Barry Sullivan really claims an island in the North Atlantic as home. He did spend a lot of years in Chicago, where he had an outstanding career with the firm of Jenner and Block, and he never lets you forget how well he knows Chicago politics. He was not only the first dean I ever knew who voted while presiding at faculty meetings; in fact he generally voted at least twice on all questions. During his tenure as dean there were basically two tracks to a faculty appointment at Washington and Lee; one ran from Trinity College, Dublin, the other from Jenner and Block, in Chicago.

Although he remains an unregenerate interloper, he really did try to fit into this culture. When he was here initially talking about the deanship, I was walking across the campus and saw him talking with then president John Wilson, who also has an Irish heritage. Thinking they might be talking about matters of importance to education (like faculty salaries) I decided to eaves-

6. Barry Sullivan, *A Tribute to Lewis F. Powell, Jr.*, 56 WASH. & LEE L. REV. 16, 18 (1999).

7. Barry Sullivan, *The Honest Muse: Judge Wisdom and the Uses of History*, 60 TUL. L. REV. 314, 355 (1985).

8. *Id.* at 318 (quoting E.M. FORSTER, HOWARDS END 269 (1959)).

* James P. Morefield Professor of Law, Washington and Lee University School of Law.

9. I know he spent some time in New Orleans serving as a law clerk to the Honorable John Minor Wisdom, but New Orleans doesn't really count as the south. It is too refined.

drop. What was going on, in fact, was that Wilson, who by then had been nearly fifteen years in Virginia, was teaching Barry how to say "youall" in Gaelic.

Barry did catch on and he gave us five wonderful years of leadership. He brought several important gifts with him to Washington and Lee.¹⁰ He has an incredible sense of professionalism. And I mean professionalism in the best sense of that word. Throughout his distinguished career in the law he has insisted that those of us who make a life in the law recognize the necessity for closer kinship between law and justice – which are all too often distant cousins. His work with the AIDS Coordinating Committee of the American Bar Association, his defense work in capital cases, his championing of individual rights and responsibilities while maintaining an incredibly demanding law practice say a lot about his life as a professional. His writing on the legal profession reflects the hope expressed by another Irishman:

History says, Don't hope
On this side of the grave.
But then, once in a lifetime
The longed for tidal wave
of justice can rise up
And hope and history rhyme¹¹

A second gift he brought was his rock-ribbed integrity. Most of us try to get through life hoping to hold on to some of our innocence, and that is a terrible trap. We never really figure out where the center is until we get beyond all that and come to know that "[t]he recognition of complicity is the beginning of innocence."¹² In the years I have known him, Barry has had no illusions about that. He never tried to cloak himself in the garb of innocence. He may not always be right, but he is unwaveringly straight. He knows that he came into this world with not much more than his integrity and he has determinedly lived knowing he will go out of it with that intact.

Somehow I think both his professionalism and sense of integrity are related deep down. They come from the same well. And I think the common source is vocation. He knows that his life is not his alone. Some time back I was called on to offer a table blessing at a meal where he was to be honored. It spoke to vocation. And I want to close with it.

May the light of your soul guide you.
May the light of your soul bless the work you do with the secret
love and warmth of your heart.
May you see in what you do the beauty of your own soul.

10. Perhaps the greatest gift to me, beyond his friendship, was coming to know his partner, Winifred Fallers Sullivan, also an erstwhile litigator and a serious scholar of both law and religion.

11. SEAMUS HEANEY, *THE CURE AT TROY; A VERSION OF SOPHOCLES' PHILOCTETES* (1991).

12. ROBERT PENN WARREN, *BROTHER TO DRAGONS: A TALE IN VERSE AND VOICES* 214 (1953).

May the sacredness of your work bring healing, light and renewal to those who work with you and to those who see and receive your work.

May your work never weary you.

May it release within you wellsprings of refreshment, inspiration and excitement.

May you be present in what you do.

May you never become lost in the bland absences.

May the day never burden.

May dawn find you awake and alert, approaching your new day with dreams, possibilities and promises.

May evening find you gracious and fulfilled.

May you go into the night blessed, sheltered, and protected.

May your soul calm, console, and renew you.¹³

Thank you for your years of service as dean and thank you for being my friend.

Maureen B. Cavanaugh*

[S]ee life steadily and see it whole . . . [only] connect.¹⁴

As a new member of the Washington and Lee Law School community, having joined the faculty only in the fall of 1998, it seemed most unlikely that I would be able to provide a comment adding much to those written by long-time faculty members for the *Washington and Lee Law Review* tribute to Dean Barry Sullivan. For example, I cannot comment on the entire tenure of Barry's deanship, having enjoyed only the last year; nor can I compare the law school under Barry with the law school under any of the previous deans. However, because my recent arrival does not allow me to take for granted the distinctive nature of the Washington and Lee Law School community, I can call attention to a community marked by a particularly noteworthy and palpable collegiality. If this community does not owe him the origin of this very collegiality, at least its current and continued health is attributable to Barry's stewardship. Equally remarkable to me is the vibrancy of its intellectual atmosphere, again not due solely to Barry,¹⁵ but certainly fostered by his active encouragement of that

13. JOHN O'DONOHUE, *ANAM CARA: A BOOK OF CELTIC WISDOM* 200 (1997).

* Assistant Professor of Law, Washington and Lee University School of Law.

14. E.M. FORSTER, *HOWARDS END* 269 (1959). The addition of [only] makes reference to the article with a title of that name. See *infra* notes 40-43.

15. Credit is surely also due to the vibrant role of the Frances Lewis Law Center for bringing occasional speakers, sponsoring Scholars-in-Residence, and for hosting symposia on a wide range of topics.