

Remembering Fred

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Some years ago I was asked by a distinguished law school to write a letter about Fred, who was being considered for an appointment to an important chair there—he received the offer but ultimately decided to decline. This is what I wrote:

I am happy to write you about Fred Zacharias. I have known Fred since he was a student at the Yale Law School and have kept up with him and his work ever since. Both he and his work are excellent; as a result, I rank him in the very top tier of law professors.

What characterizes Fred is a powerful combination of lucidity, originality, and wisdom. These qualities are by themselves unusual. But their combination, always rare, is especially so in the field of Legal Ethics. He writes well and inevitably has something to say. I particularly enjoy getting his reprints (which he has sent me regularly over the years), because I never fail to learn something from them.

I have no direct experience with Fred as a teacher. What I have heard, second hand, is very, very good and, given what I know of him, I would expect no less.

As a person and member of the faculty, Fred is superb. He would be a joy to have as a colleague and would contribute greatly from that point of view as well.

As you can see, I am an admirer and strong supporter of Fred and recommend him to you enthusiastically.

I include that letter today because my affection, indeed love, and respect for Fred have been longstanding. His death has been a tremendous loss personally and to legal scholarship. To think of the world of teaching and writing about law without him brings tears to my eyes. But I wanted, by printing the letter, to say how much he has meant to me, not just in retrospect but over many, many years. Fred represented, and his work

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will continue to represent, all that we strive for—all that is best—in the legal academy.

As his teacher and friend, I am glad to be able to join in this tribute and to say, once again, what I said to Fred so many times during his life: “Thank you, Fred, for all you do and all you are.”