

9-1-1990

An Open Letter to Barbara Mofsky and the Friends and Family of Jim Mofsky

Jordan Bittel

Follow this and additional works at: <http://repository.law.miami.edu/umlr>

Recommended Citation

Jordan Bittel, *An Open Letter to Barbara Mofsky and the Friends and Family of Jim Mofsky*, 45 U. Miami L. Rev. 17 (1990)
Available at: <http://repository.law.miami.edu/umlr/vol45/iss1/7>

This James S. Mofsky: A Tribute is brought to you for free and open access by Institutional Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Miami Law Review by an authorized administrator of Institutional Repository. For more information, please contact library@law.miami.edu.

An Open Letter to Barbara Mofsky and the Friends and Family of Jim Mofsky

JORDAN BITTEL*

My first reaction on hearing of Jim's death was one of *anger*! Why was one of my dearest friends and advisors being taken from me? Why are you and the children being deprived of his love, devotion, and attention? Why should so many of his wide circle of associates and colleagues be denied his wisdom and counseling? Why was his life . . . just blossoming . . . cut so short?

And then, on reflection, and the passage of a few days . . . the anger dulled . . . and I began to have feelings of warmth and gratitude. Gratitude because I had been one of the few people fortunate enough to have known Jim for twenty years.

It began twenty years ago . . . just as it began for thousands of his students. Yes, I was a student in one of his classes . . . but unlike most of his students . . . I was already a practicing attorney . . . and older than the professor.

It was no accident that I audited one of his classes at night. I had heard that there was a very bright young fellow teaching courses in securities law at the Law School . . . and in words Jim might have used . . . "there was very little down side risk" . . . and so I enrolled in the course. Little did I know how much that seemingly insignificant move would affect my life.

It was not long before I realized that this young professor was more than just bright. He was enormously talented, insightful, and caring. He was in love with teaching, and he was a gentle, kind human being.

He was still single then . . . and after the evening classes we began returning to my home near the University to unwind with a nightcap . . . to discuss world affairs, legal matters, and other issues . . . and to visit with my wife, Judy.

We nurtured our friendship and it grew . . . it included all of my children. He unstintingly gave his time to them with counsel and advice; he encouraged me to go back to school for a Master's Degree and helped me all of the way; he acted as a midwife between Soia

* Jordan Bittel is Of Counsel to the law firm of Shutts & Bowen, in Miami, Florida.

Mentschikoff and me until I joined him on the faculty at the Law School.

In short . . . for twenty years he had an enormous impact on my life and the lives of every member of my family. And I am grateful for every minute of those twenty years. And it continued—that impact—for the full twenty years. Just last month, when Judy and I flew to Miami from Colorado to visit with you and Jim after learning of his illness, he wanted to make certain that Judy had filled in and mailed back the arbitrator/mediator application he had forwarded to her.

But needless to say Barbara, his life impacted many more people than our two families. He was an inspirational teacher, confidante, and quiet leader to his many students—thousands of them now spread all over the world—as well as his colleagues at the Law School. The manner in which he lived his life—and his acts of kindness—will live on in the memories of all those who knew him. All of those persons give thanks for having known him and having shared a piece of his life.

So it is then, that my original anger turned to gratitude—and Jim—if you can hear these words, please know that:

We loved you

We will not forget you

We will miss you

and Jim,

Thank you for everything.