Fred Schwartz, Friend, Colleague, Scholar, Teacher

Von Creel, Oklahoma City University School of Law

Available at: https://works.bepress.com/von_creel/25/
FRED SCHWARTZ,
FRIEND, COLLEAGUE, SCHOLAR, TEACHER

Von Russell Creel*

As Fred Schwartz retires, this writer has conflicting emotions. On the one hand, I wish Fred and Debra the very best in the years to come. At the same time, I know that Oklahoma City University School of Law is losing a fine teacher, an accomplished scholar, and a colleague who has made great contributions to the civility and collegiality that have characterized this faculty for many, many years.

Many attributes define Fred as a teacher. His mastery of the subject matter is, as Judge Dobie once wrote, “as clear as crystal and as crisp as bacon.” Fred is never happier than when discussing some exceedingly complex and challenging problem involving the Rule Against Perpetuities. And there is no question that Fred is a very demanding teacher. When a student has completed a course with Fred, he knows how to dot the I’s, cross the T’s, and parse the language of the will, the statute, the opinion, the rule, and the regulation with care. The classroom experience with Fred is more than learning the course content; it is also about learning a new language, a new way of thinking, a new way of communicating. Students come to class with minds full of mush only to leave thinking like lawyers. Appropriately for a property teacher, this is a class legacy for students, one unbound by the Rule Against Perpetuities.

As a scholar, Fred is eclectic and productive. He has penned articles on real estate law, the Rule Against Perpetuities, wills and linguistic

* B.A., J.D., University of Oklahoma. Faculty member, Oklahoma City University School of Law, 1971–present.
behavior,\textsuperscript{4} class gifts,\textsuperscript{5} revocation of wills,\textsuperscript{6} wills and negative disinheri-
tance,\textsuperscript{7} land use regulation,\textsuperscript{8} employment and housing discrimina-
tion,\textsuperscript{9} and spousal agreements and the Wisconsin Marital Property Act.\textsuperscript{10} Fred’s writings evince command of the material, tight organization, and clarity of style. His thesis is well stated, and the analysis of his position, and of opposing points of view, is rigorous and objective. And the scholarship more than carries the burden of persuasion for the article’s position.

Fred could be described accurately as the faculty “Quiet Man.” In meetings, he is always the epitome of civility when he speaks. And his remarks are always well organized, relevant, and succinct. I have served on a number of committees with Fred over the years, and I have never known him to be other than completely conversant with the agenda for the meeting, and well prepared for all matters under consideration.

For more than two decades, Professor Fred Schwartz has been a valuable and contributing member of this faculty. He has served the students and the school well and faithfully. Oklahoma City University School of Law is fortunate indeed that Fred Schwartz came our way.


\textsuperscript{7} Frederic S. Schwartz, Models of the Will and Negative Disinheritance, 48 MERCER L. REV. 1137 (1997).


\textsuperscript{10} Frederic S. Schwartz, Agreements Between Spouses Under the Wisconsin Marital Property Act, 68 MARQ. L. REV. 404 (1985).