

CRAFTING

CRAFT SUBJECTS are the great tributaries of wisdom, here applied to lawyers' moral imperatives.

CRAFT HAND SKILLS derive from carpentering, combined with a knack for summarizing the essence of big messy data from making countless trial exhibits.

CRAFT FORMS are tangible, using cool papers, like Japanese Chiyogami, no AI or machine-cut forms, expressed in hand-sewn chapbooks, cards, and stand-up displays.

CARDS FOR VA VOLUNTEERS

At a Denver VA *pro bono VA* legal clinic, lawyers and clients are matched with each other by the skill needed. Tim specialized in veteran benefits, while Casey dealt with civil-law issues. When everyone worked side-by-side they saw how, regardless of category, they were often saying the same thing — like talking people out of their too-clever ideas. That inspired the first card, by the esteemed Elihu Root. These gently suggest how lawyers might better serve, without being too highbrow. They were designed and given out at the monthly clinics, as a thank you to volunteers and the stalwart staff, leading to much good-natured conversation.

DESIGNED & HAND-MADE BY CASEY FRANK 2024

LAWTHICS™ 2003

CHAMBERS OF
JOHN L. KANE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
DENVER

December 16, 2024

Dear Casey,

Thanks so much for the wonderful cards. The subjects of the quotes could not be better nor more appropos. The Rule of Law and the traditions of advocacy are in serious decline and I think you are helping to stave off the disaster.

Best wishes always,

John



LAWTHICS



LAW IS BAKED ETHICS

BREAD MAY BE LEGAL OR NOT



Subway IP Co. Graphic

"Sandwiches served by the fast food chain Subway . . . fall outside of the definition of bread."

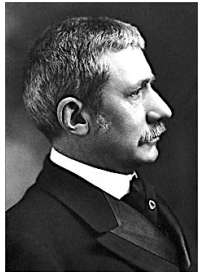
An Chúirt Uachtarach
The Supreme Court of Ireland

Bookfinders and Commissioners
29 Sept 2020, 4 & 48

IN OTHER WORDS, LAWS REFLECT SOCIETAL VALUES

"Political, social, and economic changes entail the recognition of new rights, and the common law, in its eternal youth, grows to meet the demands of society."

Louis Brandeis and Samuel Warren
"The Right to Privacy"
4 *Harvard L.R.* 193 (Dec. 15, 1890)



Lawyers need to be counselors deciding if they <u>should</u> act, before being attorneys determining <u>how</u> to best do a job.



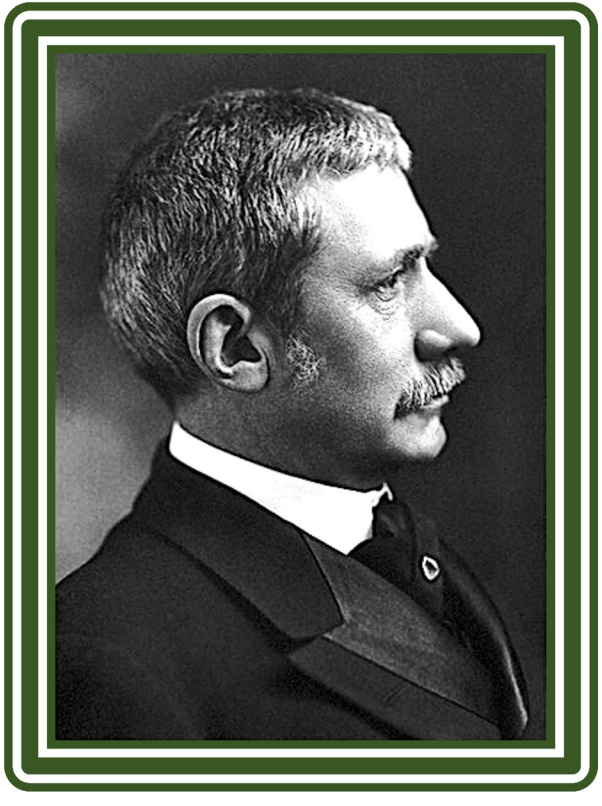
Lawyers may not have widespread respect but here's an aspect of the profession that is good advice for everyone.

The Taming of the Shrew
Tranio posing as Lucentio
Act One • Scene Two



Practicing as a competent lawyer is not that extraordinary. Any grander a self-image than a janitor is undeserved.

"Michael Clayton" • George Clooney, Tom Wilkinson
Tilda Swinton & Sydney Pollack • Warner Bros. Release (2007)



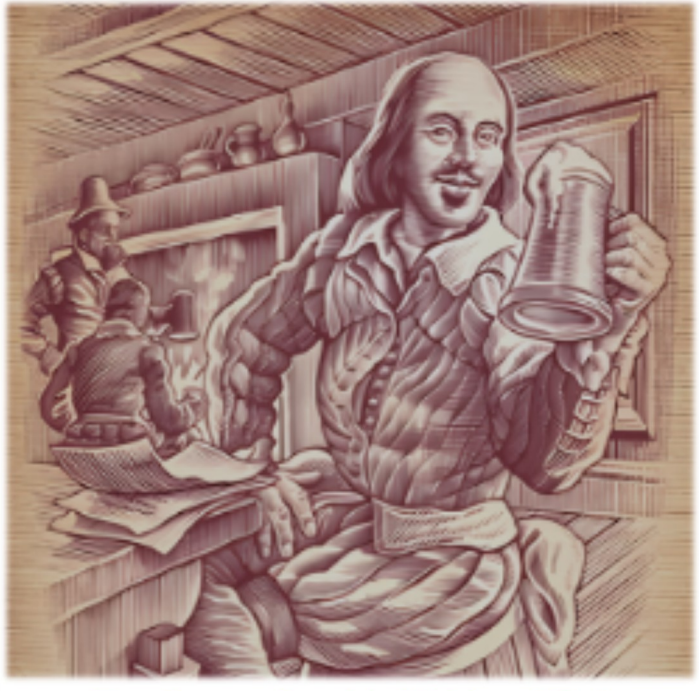
“About half the practice of a decent lawyer consists in telling would-be clients that they are damned fools and should stop.”

Elihu Root, Esq.

Esteemed Lawyer • Nobel Laureate
U.S. Secretary of State & Senator

Nobel Peace Prize Portrait (1912)

Philip C. Jessup, *Elihu Root*, vol.1
(Dodd: New York 1938) 133



***The George Inn*, his Habitual Pub**
Still Serving in Southwark, London

"Do as adversaries
do in law,
strive mightily
but eat and drink
as friends."

William Shakespeare



Michael Clayton was the top fixer at a powerful law firm. A VIP client struck a jogger when driving, fled, and was furious when told that his crime could not be erased.

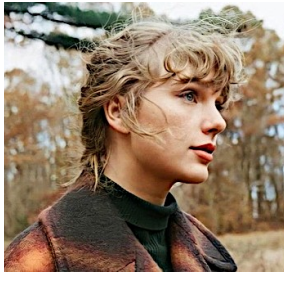
"I'm not a miracle worker. I'm a janitor. The math on this is simple. The smaller the mess, the easier it is to clean up."

GEORGE CLOONEY
AS MICHAEL CLAYTON



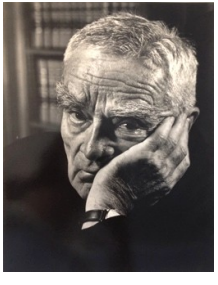
Burke presaged Elihu Root, framed the proper limits of a lawyer's role, and elevated the discussion to a higher moral plane.

Excerpt from E. Burke (1729-1797)
"Thoughts on the Present Discontents"
(London: Macmillan, 1878) vol. 1, 196
Portrait after George Romney (1790)



If we are indiscriminately trusting, we may get hurt.
It's wiser to blend our natural trust with objective scrutiny.

We solve problems cleverly after listening with kind ears.
We then hear the real issues. Our counsel is more helpful.



Judge Learned Hand had wisdom to share. This insight puts the legal world into context.

Speech at Solidarity Rally
World War II Still Raged
Over a Million People Attended
Central Park, New York City 1944



Edmund Burke

The Worthy Choice

"is not what a lawyer tells me I *may* do; but what humanity, reason and justice tell me I *ought* to do."

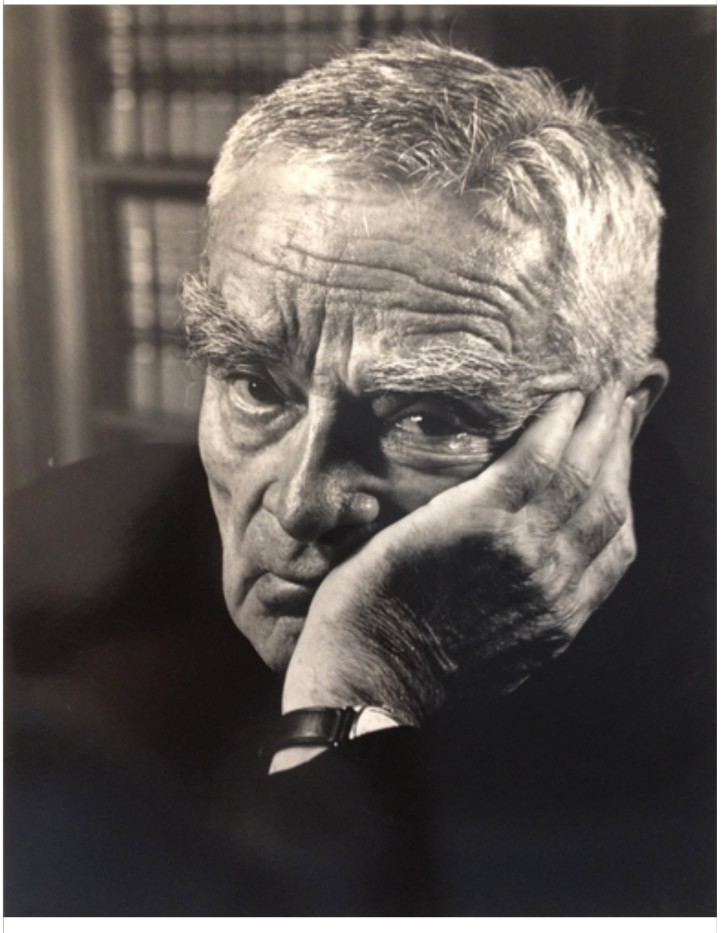


Taylor Swift in *marjorie*
recalling her grandmother

evermore track & photo (2020)

"Never be so kind
you forget to be clever."

"Never be so clever
you forget to be kind."



Judge Learned Hand
(1872 - 1961)

"LIBERTY

lives in the hearts

of men and women;

when it dies there,

no constitution, no law,

no court, can save it."

❤️



We naturally rely on people
to stop on red & go on green.

≈

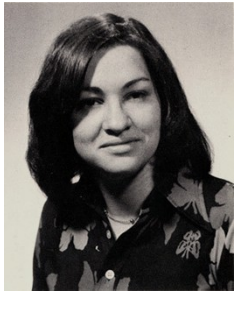
Yet if we are indiscriminately
trusting, we may get scammed.

≈

It's wiser to balance our natural
trust with objective scrutiny.

≈

This goes for ordinary tasks, and
the highest levels of statecraft.



Princeton University
1976 Class Photo

Hispanic Outlook in Higher Ed.
Interview, 2002

Appointed, U.S. Supreme Court
President Barack Obama, 2009



Doveryay no Proveryay

Trust . . . but Verify!

Russian proverb President Ronald Reagan repeatedy recited during negotiations with the Soviets to reduce nuclear weapons.

Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev teased him: “You say that every single time I see you!”

The 1987 I.N.F. Treaty resulted, greatly reducing the spread of such weapons.

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Future Lawyer Sonia Sotomayor

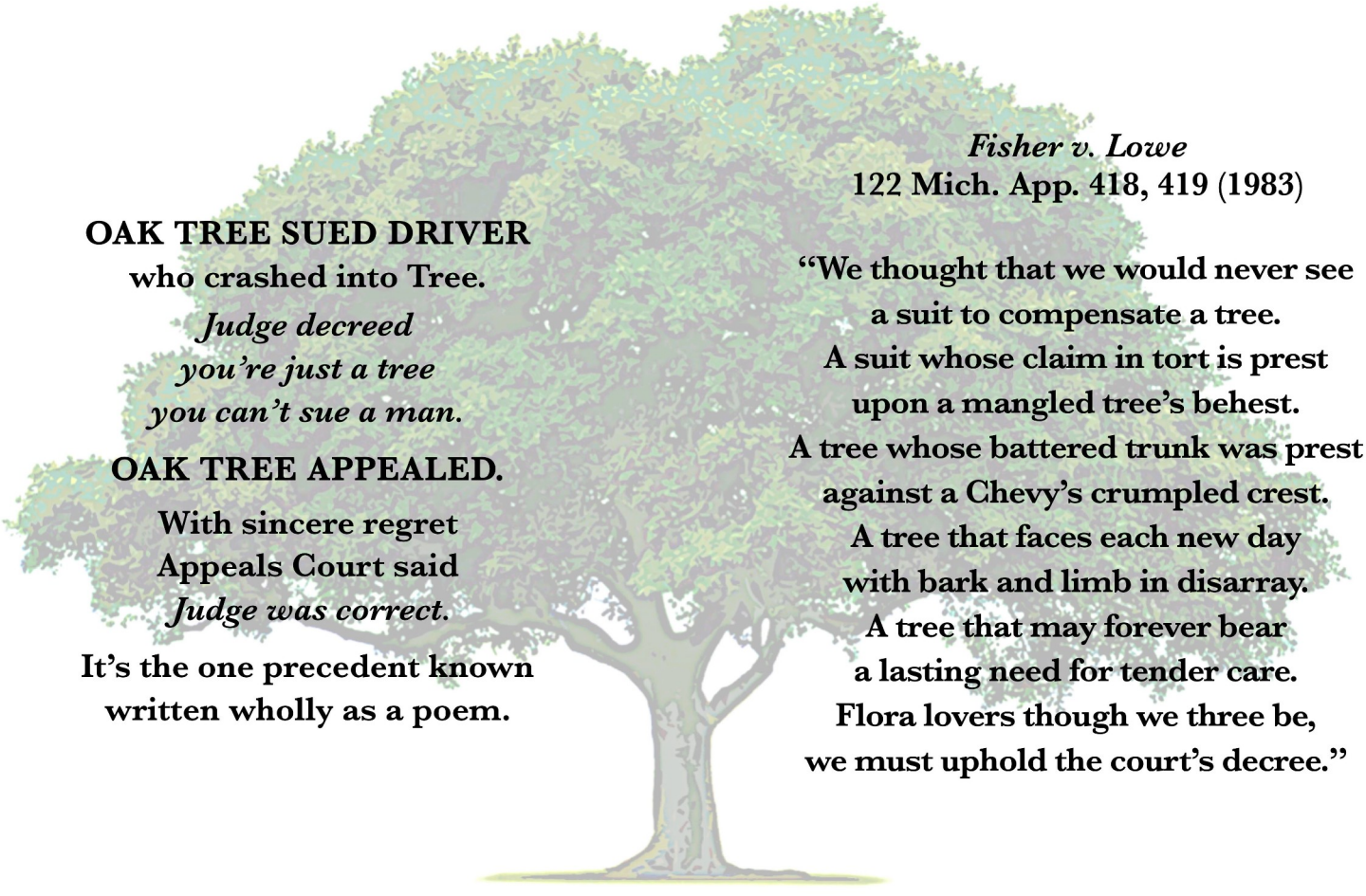
"We educated, privileged lawyers have a professional and moral duty to represent the underrepresented in our society, to ensure legal and economic justice for all."



Mindful crafting conveys sympathy through this judicial poetry. “The medium is the message” as Marshall McLuhan famously said.



Decades after the last case, when a tree couldn’t sue a person, the arboreal sympathies of this court were in full bloom.



OAK TREE SUED DRIVER
who crashed into Tree.
Judge decreed
you're just a tree
you can't sue a man.

OAK TREE APPEALED.
With sincere regret
Appeals Court said
Judge was correct.

It's the one precedent known
written wholly as a poem.

Fisher v. Lowe
122 Mich. App. 418, 419 (1983)

"We thought that we would never see
a suit to compensate a tree.
A suit whose claim in tort is prest
upon a mangled tree's behest.
A tree whose battered trunk was prest
against a Chevy's crumpled crest.
A tree that faces each new day
with bark and limb in disarray.
A tree that may forever bear
a lasting need for tender care.
Flora lovers though we three be,
we must uphold the court's decree."





Decades later - on Earth Day!
a court decided a grove of
trees was highly valued
& deserved protection
• citing Dr. Seuss •

"I am the Lorax.
I speak for the trees.
I speak for the trees,
for the trees have no tongues!"

Lackman v. Muff
14-1150, n.1 (Iowa App. 2015)
Dr. Seuss, *The Lorax*
(Random House: NY, 1971) 29
Universal Studio Lorax