Lessons Learned from Matt

A. Howard Matz

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.pepperdine.edu/plr

Part of the Judges Commons

Recommended Citation
A. Howard Matz Lessons Learned from Matt, 34 Pepp. L. Rev. Iss. 2 (2007)
Available at: https://digitalcommons.pepperdine.edu/plr/vol34/iss2/5

This Tribute is brought to you for free and open access by the School of Law at Pepperdine Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Pepperdine Law Review by an authorized editor of Pepperdine Digital Commons. For more information, please contact Katrina.Gallardo@pepperdine.edu, anna.speth@pepperdine.edu.
Lessons Learned from Matt

Judge A. Howard Matz*

I tried several cases before Judge Byrne in the mid-1970s, but not until I became a judge in 1998 did I begin to interact with him when he was “sans black robe.” I wish I had more time to grow closer with him, for he became a powerful influence. On every occasion I turned to Matt Byrne for advice about judging, he told me what he honestly thought I needed to know, not what I wanted to hear, and he responded fairly . . . after first listening carefully. On everything having to do with the court, he approached each issue with one overriding perspective: What’s in the best interest of the court and of those who serve it or must rely on it? He accomplished a distinguished record as a trial judge, and as Chief Judge he was largely responsible for renewing the court’s sense of mission. And although Matt Byrne was a fiercely proud man, he never let his ego blur his vision.

For me, these were valuable lessons. Lasting lessons. I am grateful to him for imparting them.

* Judge A. Howard Matz is a judge in the Central District of California. Before entering the judiciary, Judge Matz was a partner in Bird, Marella, Boxer, Wolpert & Matz and served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California.