

Thank You, Thank You Very Much

Judge A.C. McKay Chauvin

Everyone is likely familiar with the oath administered to all constitutional officers in Kentucky, to include judges, at the outset of their service. Judges have to be duel-free faithful and true citizens of the commonwealth willing to uphold the U.S. and Kentucky Constitutions, and otherwise do what they do to the best of their ability.

I took that oath when I took office, but I also made a second solemn vow ... the same pledge that all elected officials everywhere take on the first day on the job that their constituents elected them to do ... to never under any circumstances and no matter the intensity or duration of any pressure applied, pass up an opportunity to take credit for other people's hard work.

I have not broken either promise. I have yet (as of this writing) to fight a duel with deadly weapons. I have consistently shown reverence and deference to the aforementioned constitutions, and have tried to do my best ... such as it is ... at all times. I have also successfully taken credit for the incredibly hard work that Patrick Michael and other members of the Jefferson Courtroom Upgrade Project (JCUP) have put into designing, raising funds for, and building the best trial courtrooms in the country.

There are, on average, 133 weeks spent in trial (that's approximately 181 jury trials) each

year in Jefferson County. A steadily increasing percentage of the people who are called to serve on those juries have come of age in the multi-multi-*multimedia* age we all live in now. That means that the days in which lawyers could effectively try cases using nothing more than a stentorian voice, a magic marker and a flip-chart are over.

In order to communicate effectively today, lawyers are obliged to make more and better use of audio-visual technology. Because our courtrooms were neither built nor equipped to facilitate that kind of communication, *somebody* had to do *something*.

That *something* was the user-friendly state-of-the-art trial presentation system created by JCUP that makes it possible for lawyers to speak in the language most jurors are most likely to understand. That *somebody* was Patrick Michael.

There are two kinds of people in the world: (1) people who think there are two kinds of people in the world, and (2) people who don't. But if the people who think there are two kinds of people in the world were to sub-divide their world into "talkers" and "doers," Patrick Michael would be a big-time doer. The rest of us mere mortals on the team have been inspired and humbled by the thought, passion, creativity and uncompromising professionalism he has brought to JCUP.

Patrick has invested hundreds of hours in the project without any compensation other than the satisfaction of a job extremely well done. His commitment reflects well, not only on him (and whoever raised him to be him), but by extension, on his law firm (Dinsmore & Shohl), and the legal profession generally. The direct beneficiaries of all of his hard work include the lawyers, judges, jurors and litigants who will make use of the JCUP system to its intended good effect of promoting communication and understanding in the courtroom. The ultimate beneficiaries will be the people outside the courtroom and beyond the courthouse who expect and deserve a justice system that goes to appropriately great lengths to advance that level of communication.

I could go on and on about the debt of gratitude I sincerely believe we all owe Patrick Michael and the JCUP team, but I have to go. I am accepting a very nice award from the King of Sweden for inventing the internet.

For more information about JCUP, visit www.loubar.org and www.mckaychauvin.com.

Chief Judge A.C. McKay Chauvin presides in Division 8 of Jefferson Circuit Court. ■



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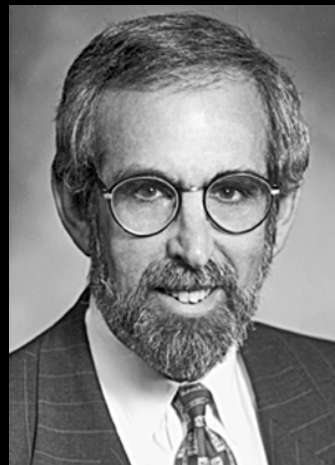
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