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A Tribute to Professor Larry Kalevitch

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A TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR LARRY KALEVITCH

MICHAEL FLYNN*

It is truly an honor for me to write this tribute to Professor Larry Kalevitch.

This is a time when the legal profession and legal educators lament the loss of both the formal and informal mentoring processes for young lawyers. I am of another time! I had the great good fortune when I began my career as a lawyer to be mentored by some exceptional lawyers in the Washington State Attorney General's Office. I particularly, with much fondness, recall Rich Montecucco and Mort Tytler, two very different people who introduced to me the practice of law.

My good fortune continued when I arrived as a raw law teacher at the NSU Law School. A healthy part of that good fortune came from the counsel, criticism, and comments of Professor Larry Kalevitch. We both taught courses in the same subject area—commercial law, him from a businessperson's point of view, and mine from a consumer protection point of view. Larry always welcomed a good, friendly, heated debate, ones which I came to cherish. From these debates, I learned how to engage my students in the same kinds of dialogues and debates in class. This represents only a small part of what Professor Kalevitch taught me about being a law teacher. His willingness to take me under his wing when I needed mentoring, encouragement, or just plain help makes Larry a true colleague. I will always be grateful for what Larry has given me, as will his students and many other law professors, both from NSU and beyond.

I would be remiss if I did not end this tribute with a story, because with Professor Kalevitch there are many stories. Several years ago Larry and I were preparing a videotape covering Article 2 of the Uniform Commercial Code. This videotape was allegedly one segment of an entire teaching package that was to be made for a trip that Larry, myself, and other faculty members were scheduled to take to Russia. We talked about the production of this videotape, which we were told should be essentially a "talking head" performance. Neither of us liked the idea of just being talking heads! We decided that to appease the people in charge that we would alternate segments in which all of the provisions of Article 2 of the Uniform Commercial Code would be covered. Then we decided to recreate for posterity part of our continuing debate over the application of the Code provisions from the businessperson's and the consumer's perspective. For this part of the video-

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tape we each donned appropriate attire—hardhats. The hardhats clearly identified which side of the debate we each represented. What transpired was our takeoff of the Saturday Night Live point-counterpoint segment usually performed by Dan Ackroyd and Jane Curtin. You can speculate who was who in our debate. Needless to say, because of the rather salty language, this part of the videotape took several repeats and skillful editing to produce the final version. It was all we could do to keep from laughing during the entire taping. We both agreed that we should not quit our day jobs to go into acting or stand-up comedy!

This videotape is working proof of one of Larry's comments to me—you can take the work seriously but do not take yourself too seriously. This is a lesson and an experience I will always take with me!

My good fortune of being mentored by Professor Kalevitch ended much too soon. There is so much more I want to learn from him. I miss his counsel, his criticism, and our debates. Professor Kalevitch's legacy lives on, in part, in my teaching and in me. I can only hope that one day I will have the opportunity to give back what Larry has given me—the opportunity to be a mentor to my students; and perhaps, a mentor for a fledging law professor, like I was when I met Larry.