



ADVANCE SHEET – December 20, 2024

President's Letter

We append here an essay by the late Attorney General Edward Levi on the separation of powers in historical perspective.

George W. Liebmann

<https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/ag/legacy/2011/08/23/12-02-1975.pdf>

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IN A LONELY PLACE

Screenwriter Dixon Steele (Humphrey Bogart), faced with the odious task of scripting a trashy bestseller, has hat-check girl Mildred Atkinson tell him the story in her own words. Later that night, Mildred is murdered and Steele is a prime suspect; his record of belligerence when angry and his macabre sense of humor tell against him. Fortunately, neighbor Laurel Gray (Gloria Grahame) gives him an alibi. Laurel proves to be just what Steele needed, and their friendship ripens into love. Will suspicion, doubt, and Steele's inner demons come between them?

In her essay "Humphrey and Bogey", Louise Brooks wrote that more than any other role that Humphrey Bogart played, it was the role of Dixon Steele in this movie that came closest to the real Bogart she knew.

WHEN: Friday, January 17, 2025 - 5:30 P.M

WHERE: The Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse (100 North Calvert Street) Main Reading Room of the Baltimore Bar Library (Room 618)

COST: Free – Soft Drinks & Snacks will be served.

RESERVATIONS: May be made at the Library, by telephone or e-mail. In order to keep track of attendance, **reservations are required**. For more information telephone 410-727-0280 or e-mail us at jwbennett@barlib.org.



News On The Lecture Front

In the last issue of the *Advance Sheet* I reported the good news that Baltimore Sun columnist Dan Rodricks had accepted our invitation to take part in the Library's Lecture Series. Well, as most of you know, that is not Mr. Rodricks pictured above, it is Chief Justice Matthew J. Fader of the Supreme Court of Maryland. The Chief Justice has graciously agreed to take part in our series and will be at the Bar Library on Tuesday, May 13 at 5:00 P.M. in the Main Reading Room of the Library. We will send out complete details several months before the event.

Old Fashioned In A Modern Sort Of Way

This past weekend, my wife and I found ourselves in a place we seem to be increasingly headed for, West Virginia. We were visiting her mother in Hagerstown and when it was time to leave we thought, why not. We were just a short hop away from one of our favorite places for pizza, the Abolitionist Ale Works in Charles Town. Ironically, neither my wife nor I are the slightest bit fond of beer or ale, and when we tried to get in the spirit of the moment with a pumpkin ale, after half a sip each, we both remembered just how extensive our disdain was.

After we left Charles Town we headed to Shepherdstown for something we do like, popcorn from Mountaineer Popcorn Company. Our favorite, their caramel cashew, goes a long way toward making West Virginia "Almost Heaven." As we made our pilgrimage to popcorn, we stopped at O'Hurley's General Store which is also in Shepherdstown located (if you are in the area)

at 205 E. Washington Street. The area is in fact "Washington Country." The town we were coming from, Charles Town, is just twelve miles from Shepherdstown and is named for its founder Charles Washington, youngest brother of President George Washington. If someone were to look up country store in the dictionary, there very well might be a picture of O'Hurley's. It is the real deal from its wooden floors, which appear to be as old as the building itself (meaning old) to the merchandise which is charming on a great many levels. It comes with a store cat (Murphy) who enjoys equal measures of sleep, treats and pets/pats. There is a large room with wooden, hand-made rocking chairs. On this visit a number were set out in front of a large fireplace over which was simmering a large kettle of spiced apple cider. The cakes and cookies were there too. The owner told everyone he wasn't that gracious a host, he was just trying to get us to purchase rocking chairs.

O'Hurley's reminds of a slower, dare I say, better way of life. Slow down and enjoy it before it is gone. Ironically, slower and steady seems to be the way to go to achieve greater production. For example, when doing legal research the faster you try to go, seemingly the slower things seem to go. Once in awhile I recommend that younger lawyers do something I rarely if ever see them do. Sit down with a book, whether it be a case, treatise, statute ... and a legal pad. Slowly peruse the material making notes as you go. Take time to think and absorb. To those that would say there just is not the time anymore, I would respond with how fast are you going if you are not going anywhere?

The Library has the books, all you need to do is bring the legal pad. If you forget one, you can have one from us. Sit down and try it out, you might see things with a perception that has alluded you. And if I have not convinced you, we subscribe to a substantial number of databases as well. We have a whole lot of stuff here both old fashioned and "fashionable."

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Joe Bennett

TIS THE SEASON

With the holiday season winding down, might I present you with a last minute opportunity to purchase a card, print or book for that friend or family member that is a member of the Bench or Bar. First: Bar Library note cards. A number of years ago the Bar Library commissioned local artist Martha Dougherty to render works of the Bar Library and Mitchell Courthouse. They were so well received that additional images of the Museum of Baltimore Legal History, Ceremonial Courtroom 400 and the Supreme Bench Courtroom (Courtroom 600), were completed. In turn, these images were used to create Bar Library greeting cards. These marvelous representations evoke a dignity and sophistication that make them ideal for just about any occasion. The cards are blank inside (a brief description of what is portrayed is set forth on the back), allowing you to put whatever you might want, such as a particular holiday message or greeting. They sell for \$1.50 each or \$14.00 for a box of ten,

which, as anyone who has recently purchased a card can tell you, is quite a bargain. Perhaps instead of, or in addition to, sending them a card, you can send them a box of cards for their own use. Remember the cards are appropriate for far more than just the holidays. Second: in addition to the cards, prints of each of the scenes are available at a cost of \$75.00 to \$175.00 each, depending upon the size. They make a wonderful gift for anyone associated with the legal profession. This is especially so for that senior Baltimore lawyer who undoubtedly spent a large part of their early career doing research in the Bar Library or coming to the Mitchell Courthouse for trials and various ceremonies. To purchase, just stop by the Library, phone us at 410-727-0280 or send an e-mail to jwbennett@barlib.org. Curbside pick-up is available.

Joe Bennett

Books – The Perfect Present

As part of a literacy campaign we were all told that “Reading is Fundamental.” We found out during the pandemic, that it really is not a bad way to spend time. Many of the speakers who have appeared as part of the Bar Library Lecture series have done so in promotion of a book they had recently published. The Library obtained numerous copies for sale at the lectures and retained those that were not sold so that those who could not attend might have the chance to purchase them at a later time. Thus was born the Bar Library bookstore. The following are available for purchase. For yourself or for someone who is interested in the law or history, stop by and visit our store. If you already know what you would like, just let us know and we will get it to you – including that favorite modern day favorite – curbside pick-up. Just call 410-727-0280 or e-mail us at jwbennett@barlib.org.

Abraham Lincoln & Treason In The Civil War (Hardcover) (Signed By Author) \$35.00

Abraham Lincoln & Treason In The Civil War (Softcover) (Signed By Author) \$20.00

American Constitutional History: A Brief Introduction \$30.00

Ancient Law \$75.00

Art Of Cross-Examination \$95.00

Baltimore Lives \$30.00

Birthright Citizens \$20.00

Blackstone’s Commentaries On The Laws Of England (4 Volume Set) \$500.00

Brady v. Maryland: A Fiftieth Anniversary Commemoration \$20.00

Daggers Drawn: 35 Years Of KAL Cartoons In The Economist \$35.00

The Death Penalty As Torture \$20.00

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