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DAVE CARROLL: A SPECIAL FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE

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I first met Dave Carroll in 1984, when I began teaching at the USC Law Center. I was immediately struck by Dave's great sense of humor, his kind nature, and his devotion to the Law Center and law teaching. During the next several years my admiration grew for Dave as a caring colleague, as an enthusiastic—and daring—bridge partner, and as a very good friend.

Dave was an unusually engaged faculty member who left his mark on all phases of academic life at the Law Center. He was especially active in the faculty appointments process, driving to school to interview candidates even when it was very burdensome to do so. He also was a hard worker on academic committees and a familiar face at faculty workshops.

More significant to me personally, Dave served as a mentor to the untenured faculty. He was extremely supportive to me and other new faculty members, giving advice and encouragement on both academic and personal matters. It was obvious to all that Dave wanted the junior faculty to succeed.¹

Dave also was a mentor to students. It is easy to see why he was so popular with them. Students knew that Dave had a genuine affection for them and enjoyed their company. He encouraged them in their efforts to do well in school, at work, or in their personal life. Students feeling overwhelmed by the law-school experience would leave Dave's office with a renewed sense of self-esteem.

Dave's enthusiasm for students extended well beyond the classroom. He often could be heard in lively discussions with students on subjects ranging from college sports to current events to recent movies. It was perfectly fitting that, before moving to Georgia, Dave chose to live in the Embassy Hotel, which also was "home" to many USC students.

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1. Professor Carroll also provided much advice and guidance to my wife, Linda Beres, in her first few years as a professor at Loyola Law School.

While Dave enjoyed his work, he never took himself or his profession too seriously. There is no better example of Dave's ability to poke fun at himself—and his job—than his cameo appearance in a movie produced by students and shown at the annual Law Center libel show. The plot of the film revolved around an investigation into the mysterious deaths of a number of USC law professors. Dave's portrayal of one of the victims was a delightful send-up of faculty members and law school grading. His suspicious screen death occurred moments after he had finished grading his exams by the long-rumored "staircase method."² Finally, by a throw of bluebooks, Dave "proved" to scores of students that their suspicions about the arbitrary nature of grading were in fact true!! I can still hear the howls of laughter and applause generated by Dave's brief—but memorable—appearance.

Dave also was known as being extremely generous. He frequently invited others to dinner and would insist on paying the entire bill. The same thing happened when he hosted bridge games at his house. Though Dave and I were supposed to alternate paying for dinner, it seemed that it was always Dave's "turn" to pick up the tab.³

Dave also often invited students and faculty to join him at his box at the racetrack at Santa Anita. My wife and I were fortunate enough to be Dave's guest on several such occasions. Going there with Dave was a truly entertaining experience. By the time we arrived, Dave would be waiting for us at a table he already had reserved. Invariably, he would be poring over the day's racing form.

I viewed the racing form as a completely indecipherable document, filled as it was with strange abbreviations and slang familiar only to the true aficionado. I bet on a horse because I liked its name. Dave, on the other hand, could explain the impact of a noon shower on the morning favorite and weigh the relative importance of the trainer and jockey on a horse's chances. As the horses were led around the track just before the race, Dave would wheel out on the balcony for a last-minute look at them. To my eyes, the horses looked equally able. Dave, though, seemed to be able to tell which ones looked jumpy, sluggish, or sore. "Number four looks good doesn't

2. Under the "staircase method" a set of exams is tossed down a staircase and grades are assigned according to where each exam has landed. The traditional approach awards the highest grades to exams landing at the top of the staircase. Many younger scholars, however, are reputed to award top marks to exams landing at the bottom of the stairs.

3. Professor Richard Craswell provided all beverages.

she,” David would say. “She sure does,” I would reply knowingly. I neglected to say, however, that they *all* looked good to me.

As elsewhere, Dave was a magnet for people at the track. Throughout the day, a steady stream of well-wishers would come up to greet us. Everyone seemed to know Dave and wanted to give him tips or get his analysis of the day’s races.

Dave also was an avid bridge player. Out of a mutual interest in bridge, Dave’s house soon became the center for regular games. In addition to a bi-weekly game for four, Dave started organizing informal duplicate bridge tournaments involving eight to twelve people. On several occasions, Dave organized matches between faculty and student bridge teams. Dave seemed happiest when the students won.

Dave Carroll is a much missed colleague and valued friend. His great sense of humor, zest for living and learning, passion for teaching, and deep sense of caring for others are just a few of the wonderful qualities he possesses. I consider myself lucky to know him.