

Jack Kernochan - Teacher, Scholar, *Amateur*, Friend

by Louis Henkin*

What can one say about Jack Kernochan that does not go without saying?

Jack Kernochan has been a master teacher for generations and generations of law students. He has been a master scholar, from his early essay on judicial review to his magisterial writings on intellectual property. He exemplifies quality and inspires and insists on it in others. He has promoted, organized, edited and improved the work of others — of countless students and of many colleagues. For half a century he has been an exemplary citizen of Columbia, his community, his country and the larger world.

No part of Jack Kernochan's distinguished career has been less distinguished than its varied other parts. Some of us remember particularly, with undimmed warm recollections, months and years of collaboration in the Legislative Drafting Research Fund. Jack Kernochan, Director, built happy teams in a happy ambience for important work. He selected projects, colleagues and student assistants with artistic care. They worked hard and collaborated successfully, educated each other and produced studies of scholarly quality and societal significance. Their products over many years remain, and deserve to be, in law and other public affairs libraries, and on or near desks of those concerned with societal problems. Those who produced those studies recall the LDRF experience with warranted nostalgia and Jack Kernochan, the man who managed it all, with deep affection.

It is difficult to "sum up" Jack Kernochan and impossible to do so without missing the subtleties, nuances and the specious contradictions. In the law as in the arts he has been *amateur* as well as professional, with the highest standards of achievement. He has been loyal to Columbia and the Law School but sharply critical if he detected any slip from greatness. He has been warm, kind and generous to his students, but he insists that they do their best. He is addicted to his work and his music, but he is fun, funny, bawdy. In one of his many dimensions, there are no tensions, no contradictions, no "buts." Jack Kernochan is a friend, *par excellence*.

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