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Credit for Good Time

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CREDIT FOR "GOOD TIME"

*David Barnhizer**

Being a law school dean is like serving a prison sentence. Generally I assume "only mad-dogs and Englishmen" desire to be law school deans. If someone voices decanal ambitions my first thought is that they must be a bit "touched". Why otherwise would someone elect to be a law school dean? The job is generally thankless and the reasons not to be a dean are many. Dealing with law professors is one of the most compelling. Quick to anger, slow to forgive, certain that their project deserves priority over anyone else's, law professors are aristocratic prima donnas. University administrators provide a bureaucratic challenge of a sometimes impenetrable quality. A law dean must wend his way through a jungle of special interests set with snares to trap the unwary. Other schools within the University typically resent the higher pay, easier schedules and different rules applicable to the law schools. Alumni seek special arrangements and favors. Budgets rarely are able to keep up with steadily increasing costs.

Remaining sane as a law school dean after ten years of such tasks requires a great deal of luck and survival skills. Being an effective, facilitative, humane leader in a situation akin to Chinese water torture reveals qualities few possess. Bob Bogomolny has such talent. Bob spent ten years nurturing the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. He contributed immeasurably to its growth and quality. He supported and challenged law faculty to work hard at teaching, scholarship and public service. He raised money, provided vision, worked and fought with the university and performed all these tasks with skill, wit and dedication.

Bob is an exceptionally talented man and a special friend. Many people pass through our lives. Most have little impact. Occasionally a unique person adds an unforgettable element. Bob has been such a person for me and for many others.

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