



1988

# Tribute to Forrest B. Weinberg

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## Recommended Citation

N. Herschel Koblenz, *Tribute to Forrest B. Weinberg*, 36 Clev. St. L. Rev. 483 (1988)  
available at <https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/clevstrev/vol36/iss4/4>

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## TRIBUTE TO FORREST B. WEINBERG

N. Herschel Koblenz\*

I first met Forrest Weinberg almost thirty years ago when I came to Hahn Loeser & Parks to interview for a job. As the youngest partner, Forrest had the responsibility of shepherding nervous interviewees to the various partners' offices. Forrest quickly put me at ease, and after I joined the firm we became close friends.

I soon began to see the qualities that made Forrest such a respected lawyer in Cleveland. First of all, he was a scholar. He was one of those special people who loved research, and he truly enjoyed learning about, writing about, and teaching about the theories and policies underlying the law. His expertise in corporate and commercial law was well known, and he took great pride—deservedly so—in being the principal author of the Ohio Close Corporation Law.

If you knew Forrest, you knew of his constant striving for perfection—from himself, from other lawyers in the firm, and from all who worked for and with him. In a day of declining attention to proper English, he would not tolerate poor grammar or misspellings, nor would he accept sloppiness—on paper or in thought. Add to that the fact that Forrest was always honest and direct in his dealings with others, and you can understand why working on a project with Forrest was truly a learning experience.

Forrest was a leader in our law firm. He was chosen to serve on the firm's executive committee at two different times, but even before that he played a key role in democratizing the partnership. He was the bridge between the older generation and the younger generation of partners.

This combination of traits—scholarship, thoroughness, honesty, and leadership—made Forrest a forceful and effective advocate. But I have yet to mention perhaps the most endearing trait. No one who has ever worked with Forrest will forget his dry, droll sense of humor. His comments were made with such a straight face that you were never sure that he was joking. Once you realized he was not serious, you, too, saw the humor in the situation, and any tension that might have existed evaporated.

Finally, Forrest had a strong sense of loyalty—to his clients and to our

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\* Managing Partner, Hahn Loeser & Parks, Cleveland, Ohio; A.B., Cornell University; LL.B., Yale University.

law firm. Well after he became a full-time professor of law at Cleveland-Marshall, he continued to ask about the progress of the firm and of his particular clients. I frequently sought his counsel because I knew that his advice was good and because he cared.

Forrest Weinberg was one of a kind. The firm will miss him. I will miss him.