



In Memoriam:
Albert I. Foreman
(1931-2017)

Albert Irving Foreman, Q.C. was born in Hamilton on October 26, 1931. He attended Hess Street School, Ryerson, Central Collegiate and Westdale Collegiate. He entered McMaster University in 1949 to study political science, went on to Osgoode Hall Law School in 1952 and graduated in 1956. At McMaster he starred in sports - especially basketball, being chosen captain in his last year. He set a record, scoring 700 points in three years. In 1956, he coached the Osgoode Hall team. There was a time when he almost discarded law for sports journalism, but the law (and his father) prevailed. He actually said that he felt his Jewish friends in Hamilton needed another Jewish lawyer since there were only three or four at the time. Always interested in politics, Al plunged in to help John Munro's campaign and then continued on to support the liberal candidates. Al was involved in the community in many ways with several different organizations and gave his time freely. He was often contacted by colleagues to discuss legal issues and to get help resolving them.

Al married Marilyn Caplan in 1954 and they had two children, Shelley and Mitchell and five grandchildren.

Since Al passed away on January 24, 2017 at the age of 85, many colleagues, business people and clients have expressed their gratitude and fondness for Al. We, and his wife Marilyn were inundated with cards, donations and good wishes, which is a testament to just how wonderful a person he was. I have been told by so many just how lucky I was to have him as my mentor. I know.

Just four days before he passed away, one of his former students, Paul Osier, wrote a beautiful letter expressing his thoughts of Al and recanting some very touching and some funny experiences he had with Al. The following is one of the final comments in his letter to Al, and I quote:

“I tried to practise law without an eye on the cash register. I tried to treat everyone equally and fairly. In this respect, I think I followed your example. Lord Coke said “the law is a jealous mistress.” I found that to be so. As we know, the life of a lawyer can be consumed by the practise of law. I agreed and embraced that. I found my life in law, but one of the reasons I enjoyed it so much was by following your example. What a wonderful life it has been to have had work that made a difference to people's lives. I thank you for being so generous with your time and showing me the way.”

Many have expressed similar sentiments.

Al retired in December of 2014 but continued to come into the office from time to time. In 2016, even after he retired, he was still remembered and was awarded the 2016 Distinguished Solicitor Award by The Hamilton Law Association. Although his health prevented him from accepting the award himself, his wife Marilyn and daughter Shelley did so with great pride.

Mitchell Rosenblatt and I have worked with him since 1976 and we, his family, friends, clients and colleagues miss him.

Christine M. Lewis