
Memos and Letters to Law Clerks

Miscellaneous

Summer 6-27-1994

Letter to RJM from Jeffrey A. Van Detta

Jeffrey A. Van Detta

JEFFREY A. VANDETTA
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
SUITE 2800
1100 PEACHTREE STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30309-4530

RECEIVED

June 27, 1994

JUN 29 1994

Hon. Roger J. Miner
U.S. Circuit Judge
U.S. Second Circuit Court
of Appeals
U.S. Courthouse
P.O. Box 858
Albany, NY 12202

ROGER J. MINER
U.S. CIRCUIT JUDGE
ALBANY NEW YORK

Dear Judge:

Kathleen and I send our belated congratulations and very best wishes on your sixtieth birthday.

I have waited to write this note to you until we located what we believe is the perfect gift for this milestone -- Gerald Gunther's *Learned Hand: The Man And The Judge*.

As you continue your outstanding service and leadership on the Court, you are compiling a record of thoughtful jurisprudence that I believe stands alongside Judge Hand's in the forefront of the Court's history. However, you have the tremendous advantage of having been an outstanding lawyer, as well as judge, before you came to the Second Circuit, something (as Gunther describes in painful detail in recounting Hand's pitiful attempts at private practice in Albany and New York City) that Judge Hand always wished for but never achieved. Your experience and skill as an advocate illuminate your work on the Court in ways that Judge Hand could only have imagined, but never realized.

On a different note, I understand that Dean Calabresi at Yale has been nominated to the Second Circuit. I wonder if he will be his own man, or a clone of J.O.N.? Hopefully, the Clinton appointments to the Circuit will embrace a collegial attitude, rather than adopt an adversarial stance based on perceived differences in ideologies.

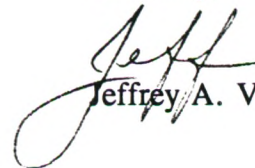
Kathleen and I very much regret that we could not attend the Brunch this year. The frenetic pace that my labor and employment law practice reached this spring (not to mention Kathleen's practice) has held

Hon. Roger J. Miner
June 27, 1994
Page 2

practice reached this spring (not to mention Kathleen's practice) has held me a virtual prisoner. As the net of federal regulation of the workplace continues to expand, so do the legal headaches of clients. I suspect that the amount of labor and employment work coming before the Court of Appeals will increase similarly -- particularly with the advent of the Americans With Disabilities Act and the passing of the reigns at the National Labor Relations Board to William Gould.

Please give our best to Mrs. Miner, and please let Shirley, Mary Ann, and the rest of your "chambers team" know that we are thinking of them.

Sincerely,


Jeffrey A. Van Detta

Encl.