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Memos and Letters to Law Clerks

Miscellaneous

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10-3-2001

## Letter to RJM from Virginia Allan

Virginia Allan

The screenshot shows an email client window titled "Mailbox of Roger Miner". The interface includes a menu bar with "Local", "Mailbox of Roger Miner", "Address Book", "Preferences", and "Log out". Below the menu bar, there are buttons for "Normal priority", "Small", and "Close". A toolbar contains "Previous", "Forward", "Reply", "Copy/Move", "Delete", and "Next". The email header text is as follows:

To: "'Roger\_Miner@ca2.uscourts.gov'" at USCOURTS  
cc:  
bcc: Roger Miner  
From: "ALLAN, Virginia L." <VLA@uria.com>  
Subject: hola

Greetings, Judge, from Madrid!

I have been remiss in writing you and want to thank you for the letter you sent me this summer and for the separatum of the article on Appendix ailments. Both were very well received.

Fede and I are finally taking some well-deserved vacations in the next couple of weeks and thus my impetus to drop you a line in the context of wrapping up a lot of work I have here.

First things first: I am so thankful that you got out of Manhattan that fateful morning of September 11th (which also happened to be my birthday; I am considering changing the date for future years). It is still nearly impossible for many of us to believe what the images have shown us time and again. Oddly (because seemingly so frivolous), what stunned me most when I watched the live footage of the disaster here in the Spanish afternoon was the Woolworth Building left standing in the fallout, at its almost century-old height of, what?, 45 stories or so ... no longer dwarfed by the huge twins that were its backdrop. The view from your Manhattan chambers is startlingly altered, I'm sure. The rest of the tragedy -- lives lost, families suffering, and the new "war" that the attacks portend -- is something that takes the human sensibility a good deal of time to assimilate.

On a more mundane note, my job has been something of a struggle, as my tasks are more akin to those of a para-legal (though that is changing), and because I have been working almost exclusively in regulatory aspects of the marketing in Spain of foreign investment funds. It has its interesting moments, but they are few. I have just been assigned, however, to a senior partner who will be presiding over his first international arbitration at the end of November in Florida. It's a multi-million dollar claim involving negligent misrepresentation/fraud with regard to the sale of a sophisticated piece of machinery/software. If I do a good job this could be my big break (the partner is one of the most influential in this 250-lawyer firm). The supervising attorneys I work for, though, are not being very supportive as far as freeing up my time goes. So I am struggling with the unrealistic demands of the corporate practice and the competitive atmosphere that goes with it. I think so many times of the teamwork ethic instilled in your chambers and yearn for more of that here. (From what I observe, it does exist in some practices in the firm, but not in mine, which is the banking and securities group).

Fede and I were planning a two-week trip to the States around now, hoping to



spend a week in NYC and a week in Minneapolis (where, as you may recall, two of my sisters live). But after Sept. 11th we started to regroup, and right after that I was given the big arbitration case. So now we are leaving only for a week, to the deserted southeast coast of Spain, Almería, where we will rent a house in a village we know well there (Rodalquilar is its name) and hike and bike along the coast each day. Almería is known for 330 days of sunshine a year, so we can just about count on good weather. And we need the relaxation and exercise! The following week we have a Friday holiday in Spain and are planning a three-day weekend away. We hope to go Italy and are trying to get tickets to Venice, as our wish is to visit Ravenna, but airline tickets are scarce. If Italy doesn't work, we will probably go to London; it seems that booking a flight there is not a problem!

I can imagine that in Albany the leaves are already turning and the days becoming chillier. Do you have any plans to get away during the winter months? I hope that Mrs. Miner has recovered well from her surgery, and she has been in my thoughts many times this summer. Please give her my warmest regards. I know you will share my greetings with Shirley, too. I hope that you both are settling in nicely with the new clerks.

On a final note, I subscribe to NY Law Journal on line and noticed last week a piece of news about a Third Circuit case in which attorneys' fees in a shareholder derivative suit were substantially reduced (or eliminated?). I believe the litigant was a Mr. Rand!

With mucho cariño, Virginia

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