

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA  
UNIVERSITY, ALABAMA 35486

SCHOOL OF LAW  
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

July 3, 1967

Mr. Ronald P. Sokol  
C/o Mr. Maszokoike  
3-35-14 Nishi-Kaiwa  
Edogama-Ku  
Tokyo, Japan

Dear Ron:

If I had written you everytime I have thought of doing so, you would be inundated with mail. The proverbial path to hell could have been laid several times over out of my intentions. The major explanation for the gap between intention and action is that I have been through an unbelievably busy, harassing, frantic, frustrating, and absorbing year. Despite all of this, however, I see daylight breaking through, and movement in the right direction is clearly perceptible. The deanship presents a limitless array of heterogenous matters to deal with, and the year has been one such as I have never experienced before. To say that I "enjoy" the work may not be quite accurate. It would be right to say that I find it necessary, challenging, and rewarding in many respects. Certainly I shall stay with it, for a while at least. There is much that needs to be done, much that is now being done, and much that can be done yet.

Mostyn was a great success, in my view. He was provocative, to say the least. He left behind him a large number of disciples, but also some who were not enthusiastic. Every faculty should have one or more of his type. I am indeed grateful to you for putting me on to him. Our other visitors, one from Melbourne, and one from Aberdeen, were also real assets. In fact, I am hopeful of getting the Melbourne man back with us on a permanent basis in another year. For this coming year, we have a Cambridge graduate, now teaching at the London School of Economics, and another man from Melbourne, coming with us. It is my hope always to have one or more overseas visitors with us at all times. We have also appointed for next year four new young Americans, of what appears to be first-rate quality. There are many interesting developments within the Law School concerning library, curriculum, and other matters which I

Mr. Ronald P. Sokol  
July 3, 1967

Page 2

would like to discuss with you, but cannot hope to detail in a letter.

Language and Litigation has given me immense pleasure. I spent a most enjoyable evening reading your introduction, and believe it is by far your best literary product to date. This book can be most usefully employed in connection with moot court work and appellate litigation in the law schools. In fact, this fall we are inaugurating a new, comprehensive moot court program, which will be required of all second-year students. It will be operated by one of our new men, a University of Chicago graduate who won the moot court competition there twice, and has served this past year as a law clerk to Judge Harrison Winter, of the Fourth Circuit. I will work with him in this, and we have great expectations of doing a lot with appellate advocacy. In fact, I am looking forward to an appellate legal aid project of your sort within the near future.

Preludes to Gideon has had slow going, largely because of printer's delays. It is now in page galley form, and I would think it certainly will be out in print by the end of the summer, at least I hope so. I am not particularly happy about this book, but will let it come on out for whatever it is worth.

My study of appellate review of sentences in England has now been printed as a part of the ABA report on sentencing, the body of which was done by Peter Low. The Michigan Law Review is doing a symposium on the first four of these ABA publications, and has asked me to take Post Conviction Remedies and do a piece on that report. That is one of the matters I am attempting to do this summer.

Word that you are moving on to Japan came as very much of a surprise. I spent several days on three different occasions in Japan, once in Tokyo, once in Kyoto and Nara, and once in Sasebo. Between times I did several months in Korea. The orient impressed me greatly. There is a certain quietness and peacefulness about it which I believe to be good for the human condition. I would be interested in hearing why you have decided to launch into Japanese. Also, if you have an odd moment, I would be most interested in hearing your reactions to that part of the world.

Mr. Ronald P. Sokol  
July 3, 1967


Page 3

Please keep me posted if you decide to try a semester or two back at teaching again. While I do not know what our situation will be in the future, I certainly would like the opportunity of exploring with you the possibility of doing a hitch here. Under separate cover, I am sending to you by surface mail a copy of the Law School Catalog covering this past academic year.

Jan and I and children are all well, and Jan sends along her best wishes. She is still enjoying the perfume which you brought to her in Southampton. Please let us hear from you when you have time, and I shall attempt not to let this much time pass again before writing.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



Daniel J. Meador  
Dean

DJM:MP

P.S. I am posting this from Charlottesville where I am doing my annual two-week hitch with the JAG School. Al Quinlan & I had just been discussing his recent Supreme Court case, which he lost despite a good fight. By the way, did you know that your Habeas Corpus book was cited this spring in the body of a Supreme Court opinion, the name & citation of which I do not now have at hand?

I am most grateful for your very generous acknowledgment in Language & Litigation -