

SOKOL LAW OFFICES

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FRANCE

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Dear Dan,

My desire to write seems to come and go. I get ideas. I think of the work involved in bringing them to fruition and generally I put them aside for a future day. A new idea has come to me, and I thought I would write to ask you your reaction.

I find myself doing more and more litigation in the French courts. For example, I just finished this past week handling the first drunk driving case in my life. As is customary in my practice, no case is normal. My client was an American in the US Air Force. You can imagine the surprise of the French judge who had about 20 drunk driving cases to dispose of in less than three hours when I raised the NATO Status of Forces Agreement, submitted a brief to him, introduced a JAG officer from Paris and invoked a diplomatic note that had just been written by our Embassy to request that the French waive jurisdiction under the NATO treaty. I have rarely had so much fun.

I have also been doing more appellate work, and it is that work that gave me the idea of writing a short piece giving a profile of a French appellate court. I would use the Court of Appeals in Aix as my subject. Of the 33 appellate courts in France, it is the second in importance in terms of both the number and importance of the cases handled. The Court of Appeals of Paris is of course first. My motivation for doing such a piece is that it would force me to educate myself in more detail about the work of the court. But do you think that a law review or journal might have any interest in such a piece and, if so, which ones? The few articles I have written over the past years I have published in the *International Lawyer* which is the quarterly journal of the International Law Section of the ABA, but this is not a piece that would interest it. This article is in the field of appellate practice, and I am out of touch with the American publications that focus on that field.

If you have a moment, I would be most grateful for your thoughts.

Sincerely yours,



Ronald P. Sokol

P.S. Thank you for your brother's articles which I very much enjoyed.

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