

*Sokol*

September 8, 1981

Mr. Ronald Sokol  
~~Avocate American Conseil~~  
~~Juridique~~  
~~Aix-en-Provence~~  
~~FRANCE~~

*Avocate American Conseil Juridique*  
*13540 Guyrichard*  
*Aix-en-Provence*  
*FRANCE*

Dear Ron:

Well here we are under way with another academic year, and I am once more attempting to ~~pressure~~ *usher* beginning students into that near-mystical common law process whereby the facts of a controversy give rise to the legal ~~rule~~ which in turn decides the outcome of the controversy. Having thrashed around with that for about three hours I am now about to plunge into the equally mysterious process, beginning around 800 years ago, whereby a writ issued in the King's name authorizing one with a grievance to bring it before a royal official generated a whole body of substantive law. After a few more hours I will get down to what one might consider more orthodox procedure.

For your information I am enclosing a copy of the new brochure describing our Graduate Program for Judges. I do not believe it is an exaggeration to say that the program to date (with the first class having completed both of its summer resident sessions) has succeeded well beyond the best hopes. Somehow the chemistry has worked. Faculty members and judges and subject matter ~~had~~ came together in a way that clicked. As you can see from the brochure, we are now inviting applications for the second class, to enter next summer. We will probably make a few variations from the curriculum described in this brochure, but basically we will stay with this plan since it has worked well.

This program is fascinating and I am delighted to have a key part in it. However, it does have the disadvantage of tying me down all of the summer. With the last two summer this has not been troubling. However, there may come a time when I will become a bit restless to break away to something else in the summer. But I suppose I will deal with that later.

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I have completed a very short paper on the internal subject matter organization of the German appellate courts. Now I am in the process of placing it for publication. If and when it sees print, I will send you a copy. Although I am not the best qualified person in the world to handle this subject, I plunged in through default; no one else had tackled it or seemed likely to do so. Yet it is of tremendous importance, in my judgment, for the appellate courts of this country over the next decade or so.

This Thursday evening I will be in New Jersey to speak at the annual judicial conference of the state courts, where the entire judiciary of New Jersey will be assembled. The occasion presents two novelties for me, One is that I have never before made a speech in the state of New Jersey, although I have been involved in projects there. The other is that I have never before spoken to the entire judiciary of a state gathered in one room at one time. At this point I am still brooding over what to say. If experience is any guide, I will have it worked out by the time I rise at the podium but not much before.

*Rise at the podium,*

A visit to France is still very much on my agenda, but no time seems to be in focus. Jan and I both would like very much to have visits with you all there at some point. Also, I would rather like to look in on the school at Bordeaux that trains the French judiciary. I confess to being somewhat ambivalent about foreign travel. In the past nothing has been of greater interest to me, and no one has enjoyed travelling abroad more than I. However, so much of travel and so much of what one can get out of it is visual that I find it to be an enormously frustrating experience. But the internal drive is sufficiently strong that I will no doubt undertake trips in the future, frustrations and all.

If you ever find yourself with any chance of getting by Charlottesville, please let me know. We have plenty of sleeping space in our house and can put several people up at any given moment.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Meador

DJM:ple