

To say I am humbled to receive this award is an understatement and that is largely in part to the two men who are honored in the naming of this award. I cannot think of a better designation for such an award. Judge Cook is one of the first federal court judges I appeared before in a major case and I was immediately struck by his kindness and understanding nature. He always went out of his way to inquire about me and my family as time went on. Judge Friedman is the most civil person I know. I don't think he has ever said a negative thing about anyone. He also is kind, gracious and thoughtful. And no matter how kind and decent Judge Friedman is and Judge Cook was they both were able to use their positions to "resolve problems brought before them in a rational, peaceful and efficient manner." I have never heard someone walk away from their courtrooms saying that either of the Judges did anything but the honorable thing, even while disagreeing with some decisions.

I see that Judge Mester is with us today as well. This award could easily be named after him. Judge Mester has always displayed the same attributes as Judges Cook and Friedman and I always enjoyed being in his courtroom.

They don't teach you in law school a lot of things, for example, how to run a law practice, where to buy malpractice insurance, or how to get along with other attorneys. While they have some teachings now on civility I know that when I was there we learned law – torts, contracts, civil procedure and the like, but not about civility. So I learned from those around me – and I was fortunate that they were the best.

When I was at the end of my first year of law school I needed a job for the summer having always worked and, not knowing any lawyers, saw a posting at U of D for a law clerk at the firm then known as Marston Sachs. I applied, was hired and remained at the firm for 28 years. There, I had two great teachers of civility – Ted Sachs and Charley Marston. Charley was lesser known in federal court since he handled personal injury cases, mostly in state court. But if you saw him you knew who he was.

He had a shock of white hair, was gregarious, always having a smile and quick wit, and never disparaged people. He loved what he did and loved being a lawyer. Ted Sachs, many of you knew him, and few words are adequate to describe him as a pillar in the legal community and the federal bar. Even though Ted fought vigorously and passionately for his union clients he was always civil and did not engage in personal attacks or battles with opposing counsel. And we all know how contentious union and management negotiations can be. As a testament to Ted, his best friends in the law were Bill Saxton and George Roumell, his opponents in those hard fought battles. With all of the accolades given to Ted Sachs, the one thing I will always remember is that he loved being an attorney and loved what he did.

As you can see, there is a common theme. Creating an environment where you love what you do. I love what I do and love being a lawyer. But how could I love it if there were constant, or even frequent, fights with opposing counsel. I am not talking about disagreements, we all have those, but fights and nastiness. This happens between attorneys far too often. We are all better than that and we all must strive to bring dignity, decency, candor and fair play to our work. Those who have received this honor before me, all of whom I have had the honor of knowing, including two former partners, John Runyan and Reg Turner, have shown our profession how to act in a way to raise our profession and our profiles. It is our responsibility to be attorneys such as Judge Cook, Judge Friedman, Ted Sachs, and Charley Marston and all those who have received this award before me so that we can provide to others by example how to treat others and how in return we love what we do.

I am thankful to join the ranks of those who came before me. And am grateful for this award and the many kind emails I have received in the past weeks.