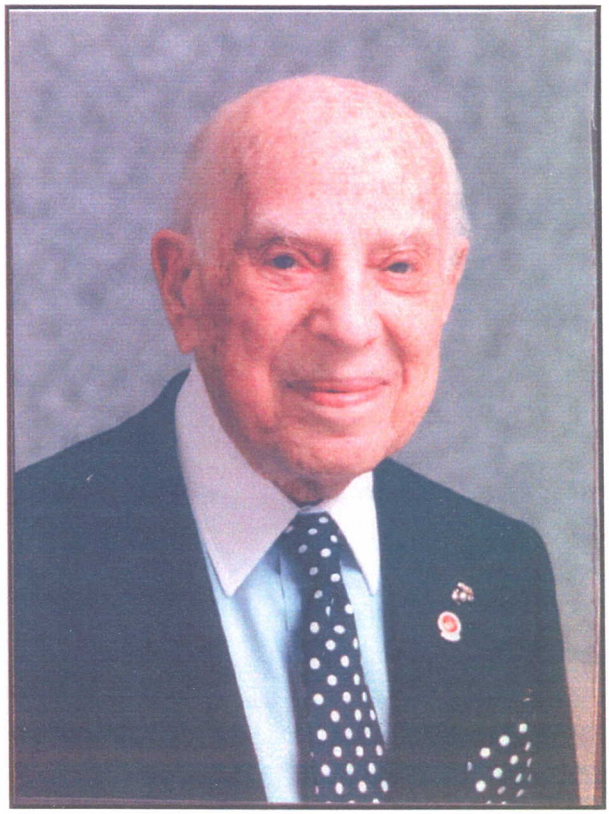
A Service of Celebration



The Honorable Abraham Lincoln Marovitz
1905-2001

Tuesday, April 3, 2001
James Benton Parsons Memorial Courtroom
Everett McKinley Dirksen
United States Courthouse
219 S. Dearborn St.
Chicago, Illinois

"The better part of one's life consists of his friendships."
–A. Lincoln

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

Northern District of Illinois
219 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Chief Judge Marvin E. Aspen

312-435-5600

Legendary Judge Abraham Lincoln Marovitz

Abraham Lincoln Marovitz
1905-2001

Senior U.S. District Judge Abraham Lincoln Marovitz, one of the most well known legal figures in Chicago history, died Saturday morning, March 17, 2001, at his North Side residence. He was 95.

Appointed to the federal bench by President John F. Kennedy in 1963, Judge Marovitz' legal career spanned from his first job as a law firm office boy to the Cook County state's attorney's office, the Illinois state senate, and the state and federal judiciaries.

"Abe Marovitz is a Chicago icon. The history of 20th century Chicago could not be written without the story of Abraham Lincoln Marovitz whose lifetime of achievement as a patriot, politician, lawyer, judge and humanitarian spanned the 1900s," said U.S. District Chief Judge Marvin E. Aspen.

"Abe had a profound influence on the lives of countless Chicagoans from the most famous and successful to the most humble. Abe could party with the Sinatras, the Hopes, and the Durantes; but he was just as comfortable talking with, advising, or having a cup of coffee with a maintenance man or cleaning woman. He was that rare person who went out of the way to offer help and kindness to friends–or to strangers who then soon joined his long legion of admirers. In turn, he was beloved by all who were fortunate enough to know him," the chief judge said.

Born in Oshkosh, Wis., on August 10, 1905, the fourth of five children to Jewish immigrant parents from Lithuania, Judge Marovitz moved with his family to Chicago's Maxwell Street neighborhood in 1910. After graduating from Joseph Medill High School in 1922 at age 16, Judge Marovitz went to work as an office boy for the law

firm of Mayer, Meyer, Austrian & Platt, today known as Mayer, Brown & Platt.

It was name partner Alfred S. Austrian, after seeing his young employee fight in an amateur boxing match, who helped Judge Marovitz pay for his enrollment at what is now known as Chicago-Kent College of Law. When Judge Marovitz earned his law degree in 1925, students did not need to attend college in order to receive a law degree. He was 19 when he graduated and had to wait two years before he could take the bar exam, becoming a licensed attorney in Illinois in 1927.

Judge Marovitz worked as an assistant Cook County state's attorney from 1927 to 1933, when he went into private practice. He primarily represented entertainers and counted among his clients and friends Bob Hope, Frank Sinatra and Jimmy Durante.

Judge Marovitz was elected Illinois' first Jewish state senator in 1938 under the political sponsorship of legendary Chicago ward boss Col. Jack Arvey. There, he sponsored the first fair housing bill introduced in the Legislature.

It was also in the state Legislature, where he served until 1950, that Judge Marovitz met fellow Senator Richard J. Daley, whom he later swore in six times as mayor of Chicago. Judge Marovitz also administered the oath to Mayor Richard M. Daley in all of his terms of office.

At the outbreak of World War II, at age 38, Judge Marovitz entered the Marine Corps and served in the Pacific, where he suffered shrapnel wounds. He was discharged a sergeant major in 1946.

In 1950, Judge Marovitz was elected a judge of the Superior Court of Illinois and served as chief justice of the Criminal Court of Cook County from 1958-59. President Kennedy appointed him to the federal bench in 1963, and 12 years later he took senior status. Judge Marovitz stopped trying cases in 1990.

A friend over the years to dozens of politicians, heads of state and diplomats, Judge Marovitz continued to go to work at the E.M. Dirksen United States Courthouse nearly every day up until his death. He also remained active in several charitable functions, including the Chicago Bar Association's Lend A Hand Program, in which local lawyers serve as mentors for inner city youths.

Judge Marovitz received numerous honorary degrees and awards throughout his life, including a Certificate of Appreciation for Distinguished Service from the judges of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois; the Raoul Wallenberg Humanitarian Award, and the Public Service Award from the Union League Club. He also had served on the boards of directors of the Hebrew Theological College and the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, and had been a member of University of Illinois Law Forum, Lawyers Advisory Council; the Metropolitan Chicago YMCA advisory board; the American Legion; the American, Illinois State, and Chicago Bar Associations; the Decalogue Society of Lawyers and the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists.

A Service of Celebration: The Program

Musical Prelude:
Jimmy Damon, Chicago Bar Association Ensemble and Acappellants

Opening of Court

Presentation of Colors and National Anthem:
U.S. Marine Corps Honor Guard

Invocation:
Rabbi Neil Brief, Ezra Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation

Introduction and Video*:
Chief Judge Marvin E. Aspen

Speakers:
Hon. William J. Bauer, Senior Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

Hon. Richard M. Daley, Mayor, City of Chicago

Msgr. Ignatius D. McDermott, Co-Founder, Haymarket Center; Founder, McDermott Foundation Inc.

Marvin J. Rosenblum, sole practitioner; law clerk to Judge Marovitz, 1971-73

Richard J. O'Brien, Sidley & Austin; law clerk to Judge Marovitz, 1979-81

Dr. David Briscoe, M.D., Childrens Hospital (Boston), Harvard Medical School (staff)

Andrew S. Marovitz, Mayer Brown & Platt; grand nephew of Judge Marovitz

Conclusion:
Chief Judge Aspen

Reception in the courthouse lobby:
Hosted by the Marovitz family

*Video courtesy of Chicago-Kent College of Law, Professor Ralph L. Brill

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION

MEETING IN SPECIAL CEREMONIAL SESSION
IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE ABRAHAM LINCOLN MAROVITZ
DISTRICT JUDGE

April 3, 2001
James Benton Parsons Memorial Courtroom
Everett McKinley Dirksen Building
United States Courthouse
219 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois

PRESENT:

The Judiciary, United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois, in the persons of:

HON. MARVIN E. ASPEN,
Chief Judge, District Court

HON. JOHN F. GRADY
HON. JAMES B. MORAN
HON. MILTON I. SHADUR
HON. JOHN A. NORDBERG
HON. WILLIAM T. HART
HON. JAMES H. ALESIA
HON. CHARLES P. KOCORAS
HON. CHARLES RONALD NORGLE
HON. JAMES F. HOLDERMAN
HON. HARRY D. LEINENWEBER
HON. JAMES B. ZAGEL
HON. SUZANNE B. CONLON
HON. GEORGE LINDBERG
HON. WAYNE R. ANDERSEN
HON. PHILIP G. REINHARD
HON. RUBEN CASTILLO
HON. BLANCHE M. MANNING
HON. DAVID H. COAR
HON. ROBERT W. GETTLEMAN
HON. JOAN B. GOTTSCHALL
HON. WILLIAM J. HIBBLER

PRESENT: (continued)

HON. MATTHEW F. KENNELLY
HON. RONALD A. GUZMAN
HON. JOHN W. DARRAH
HON. JOAN H. LEFKOW

The Judiciary, United States District Court, District of Hawaii, in the person of:

HON. SAMUEL P. KING

The Judiciary, United States District Court, Eastern District of Michigan, in the person of:

HON. JOHN C. O'MEARA

The Judiciary, Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, Northern District of Illinois, in the persons of:

HON. WILLIAM J. BAUER
HON. RICHARD D. CUDAHY
HON. JOEL M. FLAUM
HON. MICHAEL S. KANNE
HON. ILANA DIAMOND ROVNER
HON. ANN C. WILLIAMS

Magistrate Judges, United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois, in the persons of:

HON. ARLANDER KEYS
HON. W. THOMAS ROSEMOND, JR.
HON. EDWARD A. BOBRICK
HON. MARTIN C. ASHMAN
HON. IAN H. LEVIN
HON. NAN R. NOLAN
HON. SIDNEY I. SCHENKIER
HON. GERALDINE SOAT BROWN

Bankruptcy Judges, United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois, in the persons of:

HON. SUSAN PIERSON SONDERBY
HON. JOHN D. SCHWARTZ
HON. JACK B. SCHMETTERER
HON. ROBERT E. GINSBERG
HON. EUGENE R. WEDOFF
HON. ERWIN I. KATZ

PRESENT: (continued)

HON. RONALD BARLIANT
HON. JOHN H. SQUIRES
HON. CAROL A. DOYLE

COLLINS FITZPATRICK,
Circuit Executive,
Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals

MICHAEL W. DOBBINS
JAMES WHIGHAM
JAMES TANTILLO
OLGA CLAESSON
MARK TORTORICI
JOSEPH NOVAK
DANIEL LEHMANN,
Administrative and support
personnel of the Courts

ADRIENNE GARMAN
JAMES AND GAIL MAROVITZ
WILLIAM MAROVITZ AND CHRISTIE HEFNER
ROBERT MAROVITZ AND DEB KIND
ANDREW S. MAROVITZ,
Family Members

Scheduled Speakers:

RABBI NEIL BRIEF
HON. WILLIAM J. BAUER
HON. RICHARD M. DALEY
MSGR. IGNATIUS D. MC DERMOTT
MARVIN J. ROSENBLUM
RICHARD J. O'BRIEN
DR. DAVID BRISCOE, M.D.
ANDREW S. MAROVITZ

(And retired members of the federal judiciary, federal officials, members of the state judiciary, bar presidents, business and media leaders, friends and guests)

(Musical Prelude)

MARSHALL WHIGHAM: Everyone rise.

Hear ye, hear ye, hear ye. Judges of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois in special ceremonial session. God save the United States and this Honorable Court.

Be seated. Come to order, please.

CHIEF JUDGE ASPEN: Welcome to this special en banc session of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, for the past 38 years the judicial home of Abraham Lincoln Marovitz.

We are grateful for your presence in joining our court to celebrate and to rejoice Judge Marovitz and his remarkable lifetime achievements.

And now, if you would please stand and join the United States Marine Corps presentation of colors, honoring the memory of Marine Sergeant Major Abraham Lincoln Marovitz. And following that, if you will join us in singing the National Anthem, led by Jimmy Damon and the Chicago Bar Association Ensemble.

(Presentation of Colors and National Anthem)

CHIEF JUDGE ASPEN: Ladies and gentlemen, if you would please remain standing for the invocation by Rabbi Neil Brief of Niles Township Jewish Congregation.

RABBI BRIEF: Who shall ascend the mountain of the

Lord and who shall stand in God's holy place? One that hath clean hands and a pure heart, one who hath not taken God's name in vain and hath not sworn deceitfully, one that walketh uprightly and worketh righteousness and speaketh truth in their heart, that hath no slander upon one's tongue nor doeth evil to one's fellow, nor taketh up reproach against one's neighbor. Fulfilled is the person who revereth the Lord, greatly delighteth in the performance of the commandments. For unto the upright he continues to shine as a light, despite our darkness, gracious, full of compassion and righteousness.

And in remembering Judge Abraham Lincoln Marovitz, in remembering what a mensch he truly was, I share this thought as if he were speaking to each and every one of us:

Miss me but let me go. When I come to the end of the road and the sun has set for me, I want no rites in a gloom-filled room. Why cry for a soul set free?

Miss me a little but let me go, and not with your head bowed low. Remember the love and the friendship that we shared.

Miss me but let me go, for this is a journey we all must take even though each must go it alone. It's all part of the divine plan, a step on the road home.

So when you are lonely and sick of heart, go to the friends we knew and bury your sorrows in doing good deeds.

Miss me but let me go.

Judge Marovitz, now and always, for blessing. Amen.

CHIEF JUDGE ASPEN: Thank you, Rabbi Brief.

Please be seated, ladies and gentlemen.

Distinguished public officials, judges, business leaders, media and entertainment personalities and other friends of Abraham Lincoln Marovitz. Forgive me for not mentioning you individually. As I look over this room, there are simply too many of Abe's distinguished friends to even attempt to do so.

Each of you share a special common bond for the moment. That bond unites us all regardless of our occupation, our race, our profession, our gender. That bond is our warm affection for the memory of a great American.

Sharing this afternoon as our honored guests is the family of Judge Marovitz, seated in the south jury box. I would like to briefly introduce them to you. And if you would stand so we can all know who you are after I introduce you, I would appreciate it.

Judge Marovitz has four nieces and nephews who could be here today. His niece, Adrienne Garman, and her family, his nephew, James, and Gail Marovitz and their family, his nephew, William Marovitz, and his wife Christie Hefner, his nephew, Robert Marovitz, and his wife Deb Kind. Judge Marovitz also has a number of cousins and other relatives who have joined us in remembering their Uncle Abe.

I am sure that you are curious, although some of you may have suspected, why we have an empty chair to my left. Let me explain.

As a senior member of this court, Abe Marovitz over the past decade sat in this room and in this chair at every ceremonial event of our court. For this special day, Abe is still among us, and it is fitting to wait for another occasion to fill this chair.

I know that every person in this room, relative and friend, knows something of the Abe Marovitz story, but unless my eyes fail me, none of you are old enough to know the full story. There's only one person who, without violating the hearsay provisions of the Federal Rules of Evidence, can tell us the first half century of this remarkable story.

(Videotape played)

CHIEF JUDGE ASPEN: Well, that brings us pretty much close to the beginning of Abe's judicial career.

Every United States District Court Judge you see on this bench has been welcomed to this court at one time by Abe Marovitz. So have others who are sitting in the audience, now retired or serving on the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

Each of us would love to tell you our stories of our special relationships with Abe, but none has served longer with Abe as a federal judge than the former Chief Judge of the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, Bill Bauer. So that honor

goes to him.

Speaking on behalf of all of Abe's judicial colleagues, past and present, I am pleased to present to you the Honorable William J. Bauer.

HON. WILLIAM J. BAUER: I once said I enjoyed this job because there was no heavy lifting and it was all indoors. I just discovered there's some heavy lifting involved.

(Laughter)

HON. WILLIAM J. BAUER: To discuss Judge Marovitz, after watching what we've just watched, is kind of difficult. But let me begin by saying to his family, immediate family, to his judicial family, brothers and sisters, to the rest of his family, which, as near as I am able to ascertain, encompasses the entire human race, I am here to talk to you about one of the finest men any of us have ever known or will know.

There is a very disagreeable aspect about getting old that I am discovering, and that is, you survive your friends and pretty soon there are very few people to talk to. Abe solved that problem. He made new friends every day of his life, and now we are all behind mourning him. And he doesn't have to miss us; we have to miss him.

The Rabbi spoke of Abe as being a mensch. One of our brothers on the court took a quote from Shakespeare as follows, in memory of Judge Abraham Lincoln Marovitz: "His life was gentle and the elements so mixed in him that nature might stand

up and say to all the world, this is a man." That's pretty good.

You know, about a month ago I concluded that the best way to describe Abe is by reading off all the citations that had been given to him over all the years and all the honors that have been heaped upon him, but that would take too long. We would be here forever.

About nine years ago they dedicated a portion of the streets of the City of Chicago as the Honorable Abraham Lincoln Marovitz Way, and a number of us got up and had an opportunity to say a few nice things about Abe, as had happened over the years over and over again.

Usually, you see, the honoree gets to speak last. Abe got up to speak last and started by saying, "If I had known you were going to say all these nice things about me, I would have done the decent thing and died first."

(Laughter)

HON. WILLIAM J. BAUER: Well, now he's gone ahead and done it.

We are here usually in reverse -- now I'm speaking again of Shakespeare. He at one time talked about a great statesman who was being buried, and the speaker said, "We are here to bury Caeser, not to praise him." Well, we are here to praise Abe, not to bury him; we have already done that. But it's very difficult to praise him. I'm glad I am now able to

praise him with something that hasn't already been said about 150 times. And those of you who have read all the stories and the euologies of him know what I'm talking about.

I'm kind of glad that he is not going to follow me up because I'm about to say some things that will bring him into a different light.

First of all, the man was a walking paradox. He was a very, very gentle soul who started out, as you heard, as a boxer, beating people up.

When he was 38 years old and could have rested on his laurels, he enlisted in the Marines. He left out a piece of what he was talking about when he said he enlisted. He said he was due to be drafted. He was not. He was color-blind. He had to use clout to get -- by the way, there's a number of people in the world who know he was color-blind and we have all benefitted from that color-blindness. But he had to use clout to get in.

Then when he was here in the United States, he called the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Adlai Stevenson, in order to get permission to get out of the country so he could fight. That from one of the most peaceful men I have ever met.

When I was the United States Attorney, when a defendant would draw Abe on the wheel we used to say, we hope the poor chap is single because he will be able to do his penance by promising to get married.

(Laughter)

HON. WILLIAM J. BAUER: For a life-long bachelor, he was really wrapped up in the idea of marriage. And that story you all know, too. Abe did love a lady. He loved her for years and years and years and a religious difference kept them apart.

Later on in her life she developed Alzheimer's and was unable to recognize him on occasion, and Abe would go to see her and come back and he would be despondent. One time I said, "Abe, why do you torture yourself? It doesn't make any difference to her. She doesn't know who you are." And he said, "But I know who she is." That, my friends, is love and that's what he had.

Let me talk about some other paradoxes for this lad. He said his favorite song was My Way, and let me give you a quote from him that was on there: "I never met a self-made man. I have had help all along the way."

But he was right; he did it his way. He took the best of everything he heard, the best of everybody he knew, his mother, his father, his mentors, his brothers, his dear friends, took their best and put it into action.

He was a man who literally loved everybody. He was one of the greatest talkers I've ever met. I'm not much of a slouch myself in that area. The man put me to shame. It was hard to get a word in sideways.

But he was something else: He was a great listener. He listened to everybody and he remembered. Most of us remember things that affect us. He remembered things that affected the people he talked to. Not only remembered it, but worried about it and would let you know and call you and ask.

When he said, "How are you?", which most of us use as a throw-away line, he meant it. He wanted to know how you were and he wanted to know how things were going. And if they weren't going well, he wanted to help, and he could. He was the only judge I've ever met who was nonjudgmental. He had a million opinions, but he had excuses for everybody's behavior, however bad it might be.

Even though there were people that did him a disservice, when he would tell you about it he said, "Later on we became good friends, wonderful friends", people he fought with, people he fought in a courtroom with, people that he didn't like because of their attitude towards race or religion. But later on he would say they turned out all right, they converted to his point of view.

He was a man who loved all of us and was comfortable with himself. Every bully I've ever met was uncomfortable with himself and had low self-esteem. Abe was comfortable with himself and, therefore, was comfortable with everybody else. He listened, he was willing to change his mind, but he did good as he saw it. He led the moral life as he saw it and was

convinced that he was doing the right thing. And he convinced me, too, as he convinced most of us.

He was able to take the worst of us and bring out the best of us. He had an innate ability to look into people's hearts and souls and love them.

He had an attribute that I have always envied: He made friends wherever he went all over the world. I have encountered his friends in foreign countries, I have encountered his friends in distant places, and I have never met anybody, anybody, who knew him for even as long as five minutes that didn't love him. And that, my friends, was a measure of his love for all of us.

He was a great judge because he had compassion, soul and decency. And now I will tell you one other thing he didn't tell the truth about: He used to depreciate his own intelligence. He would say, when he was talking to someone else, "He has more brains in his rump than I have in my head." He was lying. He was one of the smartest men I ever met. He was smart, decent, compassionate and altogether one of the best judges that ever graced this bench or any other bench.

Hamlet said of his father, speaking of mensches, "He was a man. Take him for all and all. I shall not look upon his kind again." And that was Abe, a man that I shall not look upon his kind again, for which I shall be eternally more poor.

I shall miss him, I miss him now, but I am glad that

he is at least at peace finally.

Bless you, Abraham Lincoln Marovitz, for all you've done for all of us. Bless you, too.

CHIEF JUDGE ASPEN: Thank you, Bill.

When Abe was first elected to the Illinois Senate, his closest friend was another young Senator, Richard J. Daley. As both of their careers ascended, they remained fast friends. Abe swore in Daley as Mayor for each of the six terms. The Mayor, in turn, swore in Abe when he was first elected to the Superior Court of Cook County.

He was Uncle Abe to the Daley family. Abe maintained his close relationship with the Daley family after the death of the Mayor, and on the three occasions of Richard M. Daley's election, Abe administered the oath of office to him.

We are honored to have with us today, representing the Daley family, the Honorable Richard M. Daley, Mayor of the City of Chicago.

HON. RICHARD M. DALEY: Thank you, Judge Aspen, members of the federal judiciary, members of the state judiciary, elected officials of the state, to Lura Lynn, representing the Governor of the State of Illinois, to county and local officials, friends of Judge Marovitz and, of course, the family of Judge Abraham Lincoln Marovitz.

Abe Marovitz was more than a political acquaintance, more than a friend. He was a member of the Daley family. My

father brought him into our family and into our home, and our family was better because of that.

We called him Uncle Abe. He came to our house in Chicago on Lowe Avenue, Wisconsin and Michigan. He talked about serving with my father in the state legislature, of course about his love of the law and about the importance of treating people with respect at all times.

He became one of my role models and one of my heroes, and I thank my father for allowing him to come into our home.

And, of course, in a political family you protect your family at all times. He was able to sit with my father in the best and the worst of times, under confidence and respect for one another.

Abe's father was a tailor, his mother ran a candy store. He grew up poor and he had to go to work at a very, very young age, but he never resented that. In fact, it made him proud, not proud of himself but proud to live in a country where a poor Jewish boy from the west side had the opportunity to go to law school, become a member of the Marine Corps, a member of the state legislature and the federal bench and touch the lives of so many people.

Abe was very proud of his parents and proud of his Jewish faith, but he wore that pride in such a way that it wasn't always on his chest; it was in his heart.

He was a colorful character and a great storyteller,

but he was also a good listener. You didn't have to be important to be a friend of Abe Marovitz. He took time out for all people, regardless of who you were. And anyone who walked with him for even two or three blocks could tell you that.

Uncle Abe was a great teacher but he taught by example. He was a man who loved people, who loved the law and the public life. He didn't have to tell you that; it was obvious from the way he lived his life.

On Judge Marovitz' 90th birthday Alderman Burton Natarus and myself, my mother and family members, as well as the court and his family, participated in a wonderful ceremony designating a section of Plymouth Court as Abraham Lincoln Marovitz Way. He wanted to do this for one reason: He said, "I want to be alive and I want to see this street."

(Laughter)

HON. RICHARD M. DALEY: Usually you dedicate things when people have left this world. And when you think about right here, just south of here, of the federal judiciary, the courthouse here and the Standard Club, how it was important to his life.

As you know, the Chicago Bar Association is on that street, and of course the federal building, as I pointed out, is just a few steps away. So this is a very fitting tribute to a man who was admired, respected by his colleagues as an excellent lawyer and jurist. But many, many people, including

myself and my family, remember him first as a true friend and a wonderful human being.

Thank you.

CHIEF JUDGE ASPEN: Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

In the latter decades of Abe's life Monsignor Ignatius D. McDermott, co-founder of the Haymarket Center, another great Chicago humanitarian, was Abe's dearest friend and closest confidant. During Abe's final weeks of illness Father McDermott was his daily visitor. We are pleased to have Father McDermott with us here today.

FR. MC DERMOTT: Abe's parents -- why he's a sweet man is, his mother ran a candy store and he was a tailor-made gentleman.

Eternal Father, the God of our Fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, we can never thank you enough for not only having allowed us to have lived the same time in history with our beloved brother Abe, but more so in seeing to it that our paths would cross, recross and merge into a Hope Diamond friendship.

Daily Abe's game plan was to perform his mitzvahs by stealth and to have them discovered by accident. He wrote every noble deed on ice cubes.

Judge Abe accepted himself as a person, and it was like breathing for Abe to accept those persons daily deluging his court calendar and to accept every one of them as a person.

Judge Abe's life was fidelity to God and to the flag

I saw another legendary personality from law, politics, entertainment, sports, chatting with the Judge. It was as if all of Kups' columns had suddenly come alive and walked through the door.

(Laughter)

MR. ROSENBLUM: Did I say it was a job? It wasn't a job. It was a dream. It was a gift.

I was introduced to motions and pleadings that I had never learned about in law school and which can't be found anywhere in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. That's because they existed only in that Camelot of courtrooms on the 19th floor of this building. The most famous of these was the writ of Rachmonos, a plea for mercy resorted to when all else failed. And I see some of you nodding here in recognition. It wasn't filed in Judge Abe's chambers but, rather, addressed to that special chamber deep within his heart that was so sensitive to the frailties of the human condition. We all knew he couldn't resist that motion or emotion.

It was this principle of profound humanity that pulsed through every fiber of his personal and judicial being. There were times that I would bring a memorandum to the Judge, proud of how I had synthesized and summarized the relevant law, as I had learned so well to do in law school. The Judge would read the memorandum and then say to me, "Did you look at the facts in the case? You may have the law right but it's not yosher."

Lincoln Marovitz. I was one lucky kid.

The Judge's keen sense of justice was coupled with infinite patience. He had a sign on his desk that read, "Patience, listen, speak softly." He was like Hillel the Elder, a great judge during Talmudic times. The Talmud tells the story of a man who came before Shamai, another judge of that era known for his impatience, and said, "Teach me all of the law while standing on one foot." Shamai thought that the man was ridiculing him and chased him away. The man then approached Hillel and again said, "Teach me all of the law while standing on one foot." Hillel listened patiently and understood that the man simply wanted to know the essence of the law but just wasn't educated enough to verbalize it properly. Hillel answered softly, "Love thy neighbor as you would love thyself. That is all of the law. The rest is commentary."

Sounds a lot like Judge Abe's chambers to me. Every day there was an endless stream of visitors, telephone callers, a friend of a friend of a friend, asking the Judge for advice, assistance, or just a bit of comfort. No matter how lowly the person's status, no matter how inarticulate the question, no matter how trivial the request, the Judge listened patiently and always responded graciously because the essence of Judge Abe's law, the essence of his life, was "Love thy neighbor as you would love thyself." The rest for him was only commentary.

I came face to face with that love just a short while after I came to work for him. It was just before Chanukah and Christmas. The Judge took me to a locked room down the hall near the chambers, and I had seen him furtively go in and out of that room several weeks before. And he unlocked the door and there before me was a room of hundreds of gifts, large and small, stacked almost to the ceiling. They were holiday gifts for virtually everyone whose path he had crossed in previous years or who had done him even the smallest kindness. Each gift had a little sticker attached to it: Sam the doorman, Dolores the waitress, and the Mayor, and the Cardinal. And each gift was carefully chosen with the specific recipient in mind.

The Judge turned to me and said, "How about helping me wrap these? I know it's not in your job description, but a mitzvah, a good deed, is in everyone's job description."

(Laughter)

MR. ROSENBLUM: So there we stood shoulder to shoulder, federal judge and freshman lawyer, wrapping holiday gifts for what was probably half of Chicago.

I would like to leave you with one last thought and one last image. I watched one of my favorite movies again last night, "The Magnificent Yankee", with that great actor, Louis Calhern. I think it should be required viewing for all law clerks. As Judge Aspen said, there is a special bond between

law clerk and judge.

The movie is the story of Oliver Wendell Holmes, the great Supreme Court Justice. Mr. Justice Holmes didn't have any children and the story revolves around the close relationship he had with his law clerks. On his 80th birthday, in the movie, a long line of Mr. Holmes' law clerks file past him to honor him. He turns to each of them and says, "Thank you, son", with a father's affection in his voice, and realizes at that precise moment that his law clerks are indeed the sons he never had.

I have watched that poignant scene many times and each time I have been deeply moved because that scene is the story of our lives: Judge Abe, who didn't have any children, and we, his law clerks, who were the sons he never had. The only difference is that Judge Abe came to that realization long before his 80th birthday. I am so blessed to have been one of those sons.

I had always wanted to reenact that scene from "The Magnificent Yankee" on one of the Judge's birthdays. Maybe it's the frustrated filmmaker in me. A long line of Judge Abe's former law clerks would file past him to honor him, but it would be we who say "Thank you" to the Judge rather than the other way around. Thank you for making us better lawyers. Thank you for teaching us yosher. Thank you for making us more patient. Thank you for giving us the time of our lives.

Unfortunately, I never got the chance to do him honor in quite that way.

Yet, I know this truth: That if we keep that candle of compassion that the Judge kindled in all of our hearts burning bright and let its light shine on everything we do every day of our lives, then we will continue to do his memory great, great honor for as long as we all shall live.

CHIEF JUDGE ASPEN: Thank you, Mr. Rosenblum.

Let me now present another law clerk "son" for Judge Abe, Richard J. O'Brien, a partner at Sidley & Austin who served as a law clerk from 1979 through 1981.

MR. O'BRIEN: Greetings, members of the Marovitz family, federal judges, friends of Judge Abe.

As always, Brother Rosenblum is going to be a very difficult act to follow.

I first met the Judge in December of 1978. The occasion was my interview for my clerkship opportunity with him. As it happens, I had never been to Chicago before and I knew virtually nothing about the Judge. So I approached the interview totally unencumbered with his reputation or his legend. During the course of the interview, however, it became clear to me fairly early on that this was no typical federal judge, that this Judge indeed was no typical man.

For starters, the Judge's chambers gave me a bit of a clue. Many of you have no doubt seen those chambers; they are

legendary. There's the Lincoln memorabilia, which make them interesting enough, but his chambers are also sort of a shrine to the Judge's philosophy of life; that is, the value he put on friendships, on family, on helping others.

There is, for starters, the huge portrait of his parents, numerous photos of his beloved brothers and other family members, and the countless portraits of his many friends, friends from all walks and all stations in life. And then, of course, there is the virtual Who's Who of political and entertainment celebrities.

In the interview itself the Judge made it clear, first off, that his approach to judging was not merely some mechanical application of the law to the facts in order to produce a result. Instead, his focus was always to be on a result that achieved fundamental fairness whenever possible. Or as Brother Rosenblum has just explained, Rachmonos.

After the formal part of the interview, the Judge asked if I had time to hang around for a little party he said he was having at noon for the holidays. What happened next also told me that this was no typical judge. He led me out of the chambers, into his courtroom, and what I found was not a courtroom. I found a courtroom filled with food, drink, decorations and a large crowd steadily assembling.

Many of you will recall these delightful holiday parties the Judge held each year in his courtroom. Those

parties were also, in a sense, illustrative of the Judge's approach to life, for they brought together his friends from all walks of life, be they federal judges, his housekeeper, celebrities, or the mailman. One and all alike were treated to the Judge's same exuberant introduction, usually preceded by that piercing attention-grabbing whistle of his.

I got the job. What followed was, I daresay, no ordinary judicial clerkship. There was, like any clerkship, plenty of legal work, indeed with the Judge perhaps more so, since he always had just one clerk on the theory that two would talk too much.

(Laughter)

MR. O'BRIEN: It was not a typical clerkship for the same reason the Judge was no typical man. As his clerk you got an intimate, front row seat, day in, day out, to observe the Judge going about his life's work. A big part of that was his approach to being a judge, striving to achieve fundamental fairness, but it was also his unflagging dedication to reaching out to help others and his dedication to family and friends.

You got to witness every day the excitement generated by the never-ending swirl of activity that engulfed the Judge's chambers, the phones constantly busy with incoming and outgoing calls, the steady stream of visitors, whether it be a grade school class, one of the Judge's family members, an old law clerk, someone stopping by to say thanks for a past kindness,

or a famous friend, like George Halas. You got to witness close up every day the Judge's daily dispensation of mitzvahs.

Another thing I want to mention is, you got to witness the Judge's settlement conferences. I think they remain legendary. If you were ever involved in one, you know what I mean.

Again, the Judge was anything but ordinary. He would preside over these conferences not in a robe, not in a suit, but in a brocaded smoking jacket. I guess it was to set the mood for peace, not war. Through a mixture of wisdom and wit the Judge had the uncanny ability to cajole even the most intransigent litigant into compromise.

More often than not both sides gave up considerably more than they ever thought possible. A settlement was reached and they were, on the whole, a lot less unhappy about it than one would have expected. I think that is probably true because in addition to having just been charmed by a first-rate charmer, they had left the Judge's chambers with a new found appreciation of the value and importance of compromise.

Being the Judge's clerk meant even more than learning important lessons about our profession or important lessons about life. It was just plain a heck of a lot of fun. The Judge was great fun to be around. And as the Judge's clerk, you got to be his sidekick for two years. So you got to go with him frequently on the social events that filled virtually

every day of his calendar, be they his speaking engagements or a visit to the Dodger clubhouse when his friend, Tommy LaSorda, was at Wrigley. Even though these outings began with a truly hair-raising car ride, they were a great part of being his clerk.

(Laughter)

MR. O'BRIEN: Often at these events the Judge would be a speaker, if not the keynote speaker. And who could forget the enthusiasm the Judge had over speaking in public. Time and time again he inspired, charmed and humored us with his speeches. It's ashame he isn't here today because he would have loved to work this crowd.

As the Judge's clerk, you got to hear the stories, all of his stories, some of them more than once. And the Judge's stories are legendary, too. If you knew him at all, you heard some of them; if you knew him well, you heard many of them. I, for one, never tired of hearing them and suspect that most others did not as well.

They were stories about friends and family, about the Judge's experiences growing up, about his life as a young lawyer, and later a judge. They were stories studded with fascinating pieces of Chicago's history over nearly a century's worth of time. And they were also stories filled with important moral lessons.

With no slight intended toward any of the many judges

present, which I still have to appear before, suffice it to say that I cannot imagine a more rewarding experience for a young lawyer than clerking for Judge Marovitz. Rewarding for the priceless lessons about being a lawyer, for the lessons about being a mensch, for the sheer fun of it. Rewarding for having the pleasure of watching him day in and day out act out his philosophy of life. It was an experience that I and the other clerks in his family will forever cherish.

But perhaps the best part of being the Judge's clerk was that with him, the end of your clerkship was just the beginning of your friendship. Indeed, for the remaining 20-odd years of his life we remained true friends. He ultimately presided over my wedding, and after my children were born, he doted over them like a loving uncle.

I could go on and on, but then I would be held in contempt by Judge Aspen and his five-minute order.

The Judge was with us for so long that it seemed like he would be here forever. Alas, though, that was, of course, not possible. Thankfully, though, he has left us with a legacy of some wonderful memories and he has left us with the profoundly positive impact he made on the lives of those of us who worked with him and so many, many others.

CHIEF JUDGE ASPEN: Thank you, Mr. O'Brien.

Robert Briscoe, the first Jewish Mayor of Dublin, was Abe's good friend. Abe traveled frequently to Ireland for

bar mitzvahs, weddings and other shared happy occasions.

The Briscoe family, including Robert Briscoe's grandson, Ben Briscoe, who later served as Mayor of Dublin, often came to Chicago to visit Abe. Representing the Briscoe family is Ben's nephew, Dr. David Briscoe, now serving on the faculty of Harvard University Medical School.

Dr. Briscoe.

MR. BRISCOE: Honorable Judges, the Marovitz family and friends of Uncle Abe.

My name is David Briscoe and I am the grandson of the late Robert Briscoe, Lord Mayor of Dublin. I am here today to represent the Briscoe family as we mourn Judge Abe's passing.

The Judge was a true son of Chicago, which is a fact everyone here is well aware. However, the Judge's fame extended way beyond this city. He was a frequent visitor to Ireland, and apart from the fact that he had relatives there, the Goldberg family, he also had a deep and genuine affection for the country of my birth.

It was during those many trips that the great Marovitz/Briscoe friendship was forged, and this was to endure to the very end. In fact, it was more than just a friendship; we became family.

When my grandfather, as the Lord Mayor of Dublin, visited Chicago in 1957, the Judge was his constant companion. In 1988, 31 years later, when Ben Briscoe, my uncle, was

elected Lord Mayor, Judge Abe flew to Dublin to be present as he was sworn in. That sounds familiar, I'm sure.

(Laughter)

MR. BRISCOE: Ben recalls the Judge reviewing his speeches and giving him advice on how to amuse a crowd, as he only knew so well.

Abe also journeyed to Ireland for other Briscoe events and chaired them in his own unique way, always giving advice, reading poems as they were passed on to him by his dear mother.

He was proud of his humble roots and was admired and respected by many people from all walks of life, politics, the art, stage and screen, as well as the many people he met in the course of his routine day.

He always had a good thing to say to people and about people. His 90th birthday party a few years ago was a testimony to his popularity and is an event that we certainly shall always remember.

Judge Abe was a wise man. He was a kind man. His generosity knew no bounds. He was the ultimate host and his pride in this great city was legendary. He was a delightful raconteur and his after-dinner speeches will be missed by all of us.

With his passing, Chicago has lost a valued son. My family and I have lost a wonderful friend.

So on behalf of the Briscoes, I would like to convey

my condolences to the Marovitz family and wish them a long life.

CHIEF JUDGE ASPEN: Thank you, Dr. Briscoe.

Judge Bauer talked about the paradoxes in Abe's life. There is another one. Although a life-long bachelor, Abe Marovitz was, above all, a family man, probably the best family man I've ever known. He openly revered his immigrant parents who worked so hard and sacrificed so much so that Abe and his siblings could achieve the American dream.

His grand nephew, Andy Marovitz, will speak on behalf of the Marovitz family.

MR. MAROVITZ: In an interview with John Calloway five years ago my Uncle Abe said, "My life is my family and my friends." In reality, he had two families: Those of us who shared his bloodline and those members of the court who shared his commitment to justice. He regarded his fellow judges as brothers and sisters, and those of us from the Marovitz family are grateful that you took him into your family as much as he took us into his.

And then there are his friends. He had more friends than anyone I know or ever will know. For his 90th birthday party, my Uncle Abe had to slash and burn his invitation list to a mere 1,700 people. Think about how extraordinary that is. How many of us could call 1,700 people our close, personal friends? Not acquaintences but friends. And how many

thousands more would Uncle Abe have had to invite if they, too, had reached their 90th birthdays?

You, his family and his friends, kept him alive for 95 years. Not just alive, however. Up until his last few months he truly lived. Indeed, in his later years we chastised him about slowing down. We suggested he cut his two to three benefit appearances each night to only one. "Do a mitzvah for yourself for a change," we said, "Uncle Abe." But with a twinkle in his eye, as if to reassure us in a way that only he could, he would tell his then assistant, Bill Doyle, and members of his family, "Don't worry about it, pally. I get enough rest. I sleep fast."

(Laughter)

MR. MAROVITZ: That was our Uncle Abe. He had a zest for life and he defined his life and his worth by the things that he could do for others without regard to himself. His commitment to his friendships, not acquaintences but friends, is why there has been such an outpouring of kindness and concern upon his passing.

Anyone who has been to his chambers knows that it contained constant reminders of how to be a friend to others and how to live the good life.

One of the poems that he kept in his chambers for himself, not for display but for himself, was written by Robert Louis Stevenson. Stevenson wrote, "A successful man is one who

leaves the world better than he found it, whether by a perfect poem or a rescued soul, who never lacked appreciation of earth's beauty or failed to express it, who looked for the best in others and who gave the best that he had."

That was Uncle Abe. Turning into bed early was simply time lost for him. And as he put it, "sleeping fast" was his way of assuring that he did his best to leave the world a better place than he found it.

In the end his dedication to others and to his beliefs made him triumphant over bigotry, poverty and, on occasion, simple indecency. A short, skinny Jewish kid who hailed from Maxwell Street and never went to college became the biggest man in town.

On behalf of the Marovitz family, I would like to thank the court and especially the Chief Judge, Judge Aspen, for all of your support and heartfelt compassion in this very challenging time.

We miss our Uncle Abe dearly. We will over time come to accept the fact that he's gone. And yet, I wonder. I look around the room here today and I truly wonder, for his influence seems very much alive.

In the end our time here is judged not by the wealth we accumulate but by the lives that we improve, the hopes and the dreams that we instill in others. If that's the touchstone, and I submit that it is, then the greatness within

our Uncle Abe is still very much alive and with us today. All we need do is look around this room to appreciate the legacy that he's left for us.

Is there anyone here who doesn't feel that he or she is a better person for having known him? Is there anyone here who didn't beam with pride when he said, and whistled, "Come over here, pally. I want to talk to you"? And is there anyone here who believes for a second that when he called you pally, he didn't truly mean it?

Uncle Abe's words were faithful to his actions. He lived by the golden rule, and in his home life he took pains not to forget it.

Every morning when he woke up and dressed, he looked in the mirror to straighten his tie and he would see this piece of paper. Nothing fancy, but it happened to contain the Abraham Lincoln quote that the court was kind enough to put on the front of your program: "The better part of one's life consists of his friendships." Every morning.

Every morning when he went to his kitchen and looked over his sink, he would see the poem "At Day's End", and he would ask himself the questions, "Is anybody happier because you passed his way? Did you waste the day, or use it? Was it well or sorely spent? Did you leave a trail of kindness, or a scar of discontent?" Every day.

And every day when he put on his cufflinks, with his

picture of ma on one wrist and pa on the other, he would honor his parents and he would remember from where he came.

For our Uncle Abe the good deeds, the mitzvahs, were his life and they became the creed by which he judged himself. It's no small tribute to him that even the word "mitzvah" has become so enmeshed in our daily lexicon that it sounds perfectly appropriate when issued from the Mayor's office, from the City Council or even with an Irish brogue.

(Laughter)

MR. MAROVITZ: In doing his good deeds our Uncle Abe judged himself more harshly than the others around him. He was a deeply religious man and, therefore, it's no coincidence that he asked Rabbi Herman Davis, his Rabbi at Temple Anshe Sholom, to deliver one of the tributes at his induction ceremony almost 40 years ago to be inducted to this Court. Rabbi Davis at that time recounted the words of the philospher Maimonedes, who identified the seven qualities of the true judge, and he extolled our Uncle Abe to satisfy them.

Rabbi Davis declared that a judge must possess wisdom, humility, fear of God, disdain of gain, love of truth, a good reputation, and the love of his fellow man. You have heard today how Uncle Abe personified all of those qualities.

This is a man who spoke humbly of his own obvious intelligence, as Judge Bauer put it, saying that while he wasn't the smartest member of the court, he was the smartest

clerk-picker on the court. We found that to be the case today.

This is a man who left the comfort of the Illinois State Legislature to take a non-commissioned post in the Marines, who actively sought combat, who was wounded in the service of his country and who refused a Purple Heart, saying that others, wounded more severely, were more deserving.

This is a man who introduced some of the first fair housing and anti-discrimination laws in this state when it wasn't the popular thing to do.

This is a man who made a commitment to his mother not to marry outside the faith, and who kept that committment while she was alive and after she had passed. When asked why, he expressed surprise that anyone would wonder why his promise was less of a commitment after his mother had died than before.

This is a man whose reputation was never sullied and who could not be bought.

This is a man who, instead of receiving hate mail and threats from prisoners, received letters thanking him for setting them straight and promising to do better.

And this is a man who understood that one of the most important functions of his new office was to welcome new immigrants to the promise of America.

This is a man who easily satisfied Rabbi Davis' charge.

The court, I dare say, will not see another one like

him for years to come. But here he served until he physically could serve no more.

This afternoon I speak for the Marovitz family, but I hope you will permit me to speak for Uncle Abe's extended family and friends as well.

Uncle Abe, we will remember and we will always be proud of who you were, from where you came and what you helped us all to become.

Those of us in your extended family who were fortunate enough as children to sit at your feet and listen to you recount your stories, now realize that the many stories you told weren't different stories at all; they were, in fact, one story. Each was a single chapter in one very rich, complete book: A biography of a life well spent with compassion and with character, with a beginning, a middle and, now, thanks to all of you, a beautiful ending.

In listening to all of the tributes Uncle Abe received and looking around this room, it's clear to me that he and his vision aren't really gone at all. It's now up to us to write his sequel by continuing to do his work here.

Our Uncle Abe is now doing his mitzvahs somewhere else, but I know he will be watching, with love, all of his pallys down here.

Bless you all.

CHIEF JUDGE ASPEN: Thank you, Andy.

After the conclusion of this court session, you are all invited, those in this ceremonial courtroom and those in our satellite courtrooms, to view the Abraham Lincoln Marovitz memorabilia outside of this ceremonial courtroom on the wall as you leave, and afterwards, to gather with us to reminisce about Abraham Lincoln Marovitz in the lobby of the courthouse at a reception hosted by the Marovitz family.

Since this is "Uncle Abe's" day, it is only fitting that he have the final words, familiar words of wisdom offered to many of us during his lifetime and even more relevant today.

(Videotape played)

(Applause)

CHIEF JUDGE ASPEN: Mr. Marshal, will you please adjourn the court.

MARSHAL WHIGHAM: All rise. This court is in recess.

(Court adjourned)

Kindness

It's kindness, human kindness
That the world needs most today ...
Not quite so much talk of duty
But a friendly, kindly way.

Sometimes the good are selfish
And the righteous stern and cold ...
But the kind are always welcome
For kindness never grows old.

And there is no force more potent
Than a gracious act or smile ...
It's the kindly men and women
Who make our lives worthwhile.

Author unknown

Life Is Sweet

Life is sweet because of the friends we have made
And the things which in common we share;
We want to live on, not because of ourselves
But because of the people who care.
It's the giving and doing for somebody else ...
On that all life's splendor depends
And the joy of the world, when we sum it all up,
Is found in the making of friends.

Author unknown

Seventh Circuit Bar Association

50th Anniversary

Joint Annual Meeting
Seventh Circuit Bar Association
Seventh Circuit Judicial Conference
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