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ELI JARMEL

BY VED P. NANDA*

When Eli Jarmel joined the University of Denver College of Law faculty as a visiting professor of law during 1972-73, he had already established himself as a visionary legal scholar, a leader of the legal profession, and an innovator in legal education. As the founding director of the Institute for Continuing Legal Education at Rutgers—an office in which he served with distinction from 1961 to 1970—Eli began to probe into the system of delivery of legal services. This inquiry became the primary focus of his professional interest during the last ten years of his life. This interest can be attributed to his concern with the need to understand the role of paralegals in the legal profession and of the lawyer in meeting the needs of the poor. One of his many major contributions was to provide the definitive studies of these subjects. In addition, Eli wrote and edited more than a dozen books and monographs on a wide range of subjects. His contribution as a legal scholar is of lasting significance for the bench and the bar and for law students as well.

Most of these accomplishments were known to Eli's colleagues at Denver when he joined us initially in the summer of 1970 and again in 1972-73 in a visiting capacity. However, what came as a pleasant surprise to most of us was the man himself—a warm human being, an unpretentious legal scholar, and a respected and effective teacher who inspired his students to achieve the highest standards of excellence.

The students with whom I have talked fondly remember one of Eli's qualities best: that he could somehow see one's hidden potential and bring it out. Time and again, he would challenge and provoke a student known for lack of desire to participate in class discussion and bring about a transformation—forcing the student to think, by refusing to accept rhetoric and easy answers, and by encouraging and eliciting pertinent responses.

Eli brought out the best in his colleagues as well. What struck me and others on the faculty here as perhaps his most remarkable traits were his willingness to provide an example of

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excellence through his own professionalism, and his immense consideration and respect for his colleagues.

He insisted that the law school setting reflect the faculty's concern with rigor and scholarship. His work with Continuing Legal Education was an expression of his concern with upgrading the knowledge and skills of the practicing bar. However, his constant reminder to the law student and the practicing lawyer was that a good lawyer is one who delivers legal services efficiently and competently to an ever larger number of people. He was concerned that despite the increasingly large number of law graduates entering the legal profession each year, the system of delivery of services was still severely deficient.

The acute sensitivity and awareness of the problem did not turn Eli into an alienated cynic. Far from it, for he had seen the system work and had faith in modifying and improving it to meet societal needs.

Eli was always striving for excellence in himself and he encouraged those who knew him to do so. He somehow touched most of the people with whom he came in contact and in many instances gave a new direction to their lives. All who knew Eli have, at his untimely death, suffered a deep and personal sorrow. Eli will always be remembered as a devoted husband and father, a loving son and brother, a loyal, committed friend, and a dedicated humanitarian. We are grateful for the opportunity to have known him and are determined to carry on his unfinished task.

