

My Lunch with Judge Andreou, Part 1

by David Lipschutz

Many years ago, I started the “Honorable Adventure” series of schmoozing with judges. See [My Dinner with Marty](#), The Decalogue Tablets, Spring 2017, *et seq.* By way of reminder, “To me, judges are celebrities; they are the equivalent of Brad Pitt, Kate Winslet, and Bruce Campbell.” *Id.*

Long before I enjoyed my first “Honorable Adventure,” and even long before I became an attorney, I was lucky enough to work with the Honorable Judge Frank John Andreou, Associate Judge for the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, when he was simply a partner at a law firm. To use an old adage, I knew him when.

Picture this: It’s 2008. A handsome, vibrant, and optimistic young man named David Lipschutz with only 2-3 gray hairs (as opposed to the dozens I now possess) is sitting on the CTA Red Line with a ten-pound constitutional law book in my lap. While presumably amid trying to wrap my head around the decision in *Gibbons v. Ogden*, 22 U.S. 1 (1824), a very kind woman sitting across from me asks if I am a law student. When I respond in the affirmative, she tells me she is the office manager of a law firm, and they are hiring a law student to be a clerk.

That law firm was none other than Andreou & Casson, Ltd.

Despite my presumably naïve and nervous persona at the interview, I was hired as the firm’s law clerk! In the process, I became friendly with everyone who worked there, including one of the partners, the aforementioned Frank Andreou. We’d bond over our favorite (and least favorite) law professors, enjoyable television programs, and our mutual love of theatre and other forms of live entertainment. Frank took me under his wing and became my mentor.

Fast forward a dozen years. Frank has just been sworn in as a judge! How exciting is that!? Because I can’t help but see judges as celebrities, I felt like I was the Turtle to Frank’s Vincent Chase (apologies to anyone who actually gets that reference!).

When the Tablets’ editorial board broached the idea of another article on the “Honorable Adventure” series, I thought, who better than my former boss and mentor, Judge Andreou (hereafter I will refer to him in a formal manner). I reached out to Judge Andreou. He informed me he was now presiding in the Skokie Courthouse, 2nd Municipal District. He had previously been in Traffic Court at the Daley Center. We decided to grab lunch one day out in the north suburbs. Unfortunately, with the world more and more uncertain due to COVID and its many Greek-lettered variants, we ended up cancelling lunch, but I still had the opportunity to visit Judge Andreou’s courtroom as well as the always exciting judge’s chambers.

Judge Andreou offered me a fizzy water from his fridge (judges get fridges, how cool!), and we sat down and caught up on life. It turns out Judge Andreou is pretty much the Judge Moltz of the Skokie Courthouse. Judge Moltz once told me that he is the utility infielder of the 1st Municipal District, where he handles an array and variety of courtrooms throughout the Daley Center. See [My Dinner with Marty](#). Similarly, while Judge Andreou primarily handles two specific courtrooms, he has presided over calls in a multitude of divisions across the courthouse. He also explained how everyone, especially attorneys, must be professional and respectful in his courtroom. Even if two attorneys are friendly and know each other on a first name basis, in his courtroom, they should refer to each other by their last name. On that note, I am confident that, if he scrutinizes an attorney’s pleadings half as much as he did his former law clerk’s, everyone better be on their best behavior in his courtroom, and they better cite their briefs!

Although Judge Andreou and I were unable to enjoy a nice lunch out on the town, I am grateful for the opportunity to bother him during his break from the bench. We decided that, when the world gets back to normal, we will have that lunch as promised, and I will write a real article about such an “Honorable Adventure” (stay tuned for Part 2!). Until then, I’ll just continue to geek out about my former boss and mentor living his best life.

David Lipschutz is currently the managing attorney at Trunkett & Trunkett, P.C. and formerly a law clerk at Andreou & Casson, Ltd.