

My Lunch with Judge Andreou, Part 2: Dave and Frank's Bogus Journey!

by David Lipschutz

Last year, I wrote Part 1 of My Lunch with Judge Andreou. In it, I explained that I planned to have a lunch outing with The Honorable Judge Frank John Andreou, Judge for the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois (hereafter "Judge Andreou"). However, due to unforeseen COVID variants, we decided to postpone lunch and instead have a short chat in his chambers. This last "Honorable Adventure" article focused on our delightful history (tl;dr, I clerked for him a dozen years ago when I was in law school and he was in private practice). The piece also detailed my irrational nerdery about my former boss and mentor being a freakin' judge. Even as I write this, I can't help but think, "My goodness! How cool is *that?*"

Fast forward to 2022. COVID is [allegedly] nonexistent. Mask mandates are [foolishly] lifted. People are [excitedly/nervously/skeptically] going out to places in public once again. Two such [excited/nervous/skeptical] folks are Judge Andreou and me.

After WHeeks of planning and a WHopping amount of effort, Judge Andreou and I looked at our WHork schedules and set a lunch date.

Before I proceed to how lunch unfolded, you're probably WHondering WHY I keep putting "WH" at the beginning of certain WHords. Pretty WHeird, right? Okay, I'll stop now! In order to truly understand my complex history with Judge Andreou, I should explain that, for some strange reason, we have had this long-running joke that originated from the animated series, Family Guy. There's a joke about one character pronouncing "Cool Whip" in a funny manner (pronouncing it "Cool WHip" with an emphasis on the "WH"). Every day at work, whenever either of us would say something that began with a "W," it inevitably ended up being pronounced incorrectly.

Since then, every email, social media post, and in-person encounter always, without question, ends up with a "WH" word or two. I fear the day I am in Judge Andreou's courtroom and, when he turns to ask if I am ready for my opening statement, I say, "WHell, Your Honor..." and then am immediately held in contempt.

Anyway! We met for lunch and literally one of the first things said by one of us is "Where's the waiter?" which was then corrected to "Where's the WHaiter?" which was then corrected to "WHere's the WHaiter?" It's nice to see some things have not changed in the last decade.

We had lunch near the Skokie Courthouse at a restaurant in Old Orchard Mall. It was great being able to chat with an actual human person in an actual public setting. Judge Andreou told me about his family, his role as a judge, and his life in general. I did the same. We also talked about tips and tricks for appearing in court by Zoom. This was the perfect opportunity for me to segue into telling him about a play I wrote that was getting performed that upcoming weekend. The play centered around a man late to a Zoom work call when things go very, very awry. I was able to share with him a link to the performance.

All in all, it was wonderful catching up with Judge Andreou. We intend to have another outing in the near future. So, who knows, maybe we will make this a trilogy. I'm thinking of calling it, "My Lunch with Judge Andreou, Part 3: Two WHild and Crazy Guys!"

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