In Memoriam

Remembrance of Judge Myron H. Bright

Ruth Bader Ginsburg†

The Honorable Myron H. Bright was truly a man never at a loss. His bright mind, good humor, and caring heart made him a great jurist and teacher, one who constantly strived to make things better for all the people law exists (or should exist) to serve.

Twice I had the pleasure of participating in the University of Hawaii’s Jurist-in-Residence program, inspired and superintended by Judge Bright.1 During the days in the sun we shared, and encounters in less balmy climates, I enjoyed and benefited from Judge Bright’s wisdom and wit. His advice and counsel, which he was never shy about conveying, assisted me and legions of others in dealing with the challenging and important issues that troop before the federal judiciary.

The French have an expression that captured a part of Judge Bright’s character—joie de vivre. He sought and thrived in the joys of being alive—whether traveling to distant places to help new democracies in the development of their legal institutions, or attending reunions with his children and grandchildren and with his large law clerk family. He appreciated beautiful music, and regularly attended, at my invitation, the Supreme Court’s biannual musicales.

I will miss Judge Bright’s spirit-lifting letters and visits, but consider it my great good fortune to have been in his circle of friends.

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