

Remembering the Late David Gurnick, a Franchise Law Specialist and Professor, and Much, Much, More

The members of the Franchise Professors' Committee of the ABA Forum on Franchising are deeply saddened by the passing of David Gurnick in January. David served the Forum in many capacities over his career, including as a member of the Governing Committee, an Annual Developments author and speaker, and a leader of the Franchise Professors' Committee. We all enjoyed his jovial presence at the Forum in San Diego last November and co-chairing our group. Now we commiserate about the loss of a long-time friend, a great lawyer, an intellectual giant, and a leader.

David was a franchise law maven people turned to for advice concerning issues ranging from the simple to the insoluble. He was a great writer for the Forum. His more recent articles include: *Franchise Law Jury Instructions*, 39 *FRANCHISE L.J.* (2019) and *Nuts, Bolts, and Outline for Teaching Franchise Law, Would Socrates Approve?*, 40 *FRANCHISE L.J.* 449 (2021 with Peter C. Lagarias as co-author). He also wrote treatises on Distribution Law and another on Franchising Depositions (both with Juris Publishing).

David was a tremendous mentor. Anyone who knew David knew him as a consummate professional. He worked tirelessly on behalf of clients and was always available to colleagues to provide advice and assistance. He was certified by the State Bar of California, Board of Legal Specialization as a specialist in Franchise and Distribution Law—the very first year the specialization became available. He has the single distinction of serving not once but twice as the San Fernando Valley Bar Association President. And for our Forum's Franchise Law Professors' Group, he walked the walk by serving as an adjunct professor of law, teaching franchising at the UC Irvine Law School and other places. David's impact on and contribution to franchising will be felt for years to come, and we will deeply miss his contagious smile and friendship.

David was a tenacious advocate. Opposing attorneys knew him as a formidable opponent but one with whom afterward you could remain good friends and refer clients to each other. David always



held his ground and was a zealous advocate for his clients but was never uncivil, unfair, or nasty. To call him a “*mensch*” and a scholar doesn't do him justice.

David was a teacher and professor. David was a leader in advocating the teaching of franchise and distribution law at law schools and colleges. His leadership was manifested in leading the Forum's Franchise Law Professors' Committee the last few years and singlehandedly setting up committee meetings, recruiting speakers, compiling syllabi, and more. He was an encourager for those who thought they might want to teach such a course as an adjunct professor or add such a course to a curriculum. He was also a mentor for those who undertook the teaching of franchise law, offering advice and help that reflected his deep insight into the subject. Under his watch, more courses were offered, and more members of the Forum became teachers of franchise law. David's influence will continue to be felt in the next generation of franchise lawyers.

This article is an amalgamation of members of the Franchise Law Professors' Committee and other colleagues including, Tal Grinblat, Peter Lagarias, the late Sandy Meiklejohn (past Co-Chair with David), Arthur Pressman, Harold See, and Shelly Spandorf. ■