



Third, don't make a habit of proclaiming your greatness. Others have covered that field exhaustively. Try something different. Take satisfaction in quietly raising the game of everyone around you.

Fourth, brush aside the inevitable slights of academic life. You will find that many academics have a high estimation of their abilities. Some can be acutely tiresome, and you may be tempted to dwell upon their missteps. Each minute you spend to nurse old hurts is time lost, time stolen from pursuits that improve your own life and those around you. You cannot build a good reputation by keeping grudges.

Finally, when success comes your way and you are established as one of the usual suspects in your field, pass the favor along. May you never become too important to help those who need it the most.

I have read my notes of Ernie's comments many times. I have come to realize that, on that evening nineteen years ago, he was not talking simply about how to behave on a law school faculty. Ernie was teaching me how to live. As the years

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