

1992

A Tribute to Kevin Thomas Duffy

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Recommended Citation

Constantine N. Katsoris, *A Tribute to Kevin Thomas Duffy*, 3 Fordham Intell. Prop. Media & Ent. L.J. 15 (1992).
Available at: <https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/iplj/vol3/iss1/4>

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A Tribute to Kevin Thomas Duffy

Constantine N. Katsoris*

It was over thirty-five years ago that I first met Irene J. Krumeich. She was an exceptionally bright student at Fordham Law School and it was my good fortune that she sat next to me. To put the time in focus, it was a period when: students sat alphabetically; attendance was taken; male students were required to wear jackets and ties; women constituted approximately five percent of the student body; students were required to stand when reciting in class; and, tuition was about \$500 annually. It was through Irene that I first met her future husband, Kevin Thomas Duffy. Kevin was in the evening division, while Irene and I were in the day division; thus, Irene and I graduated in 1957, and Kevin in 1958.

Irene is intelligent, attractive, articulate and sweet. Kevin is intelligent, attractive and articulate, but a tad more bitter-sweet. His immense sense of humor would be best described, by a connoisseur of martinis, as a wee-bit dry.

Judge Duffy's career has had numerous successes. He was a clerk to the Honorable J. Edward Lumbard of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, from 1955 to 1958. From 1958 to 1961 he was Assistant Chief Attorney, Criminal Division, of the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York. He was associated with the firm of Whitman & Ransom from 1961 to 1966, and became a partner in the firm of Gordon & Gordon from 1966 to 1969. Between 1969 and 1972, he was Regional Administrator of the New York office of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Finally, in 1972, he was appointed to the federal bench by President Nixon at the age of thirty-nine.

Although I have never appeared before him in court—and, after

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this testimonial, perhaps I never should—I hear nothing but praise from his peers on the bench, attorneys who have appeared before him, and present and former law clerks. On the outside Kevin appears tough, but beneath is a warm and compassionate human being. He is tough but fair. What better tribute could a judge ask for.

Judge Duffy has always been a supporter of feminist causes, long before it became politically correct. The overwhelming majority of his law clerks were female, until Irene—also a judge—persuaded him to be more gender-balanced.

Judge Duffy is a scholar in every sense, even though he has never cited any of my articles. He was an adjunct professor at Brooklyn, New York University and Pace law schools, and he has authored numerous law review articles and scores of opinions of national and international significance, including a landmark decision in the field of entertainment law. As a strong believer in “family values,” Judge Duffy in *Walt Disney Productions v. Mature Pictures Corp.*¹ granted injunctive relief to the copyright owners of the “Mickey Mouse March” song to prevent its use as background music in a movie entitled *The Life and Times of the Happy Hooker*.

The judges Duffy were jointly honored in 1984 by the Fordham Law Alumni Association, receiving the award of the Alumni Medal of Achievement. They are the proud parents of four loving children, Kevin, Irene, Gavin, and Patrick.

Kevin Thomas Duffy, we salute you as a wonderful husband, father, jurist, friend, and especially as a most loyal son of Fordham.

1. 389 F. Supp. 1397 (S.D.N.Y. 1975).