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DAVID N. EDELSTEIN: UNCOMMON LOYALTY

Thomas J. Kavalier '72'

The dictionary defines loyalty as demonstrating an unswerving allegiance to something. Over the course of seven decades, David Edelstein was loyal to Fordham. He held three academic degrees, and each of them was from Fordham. He almost never missed a Fordham alumni function. He routinely gave unstintingly of his time and talents to serve at various Fordham moot court competitions each year. He regularly employed Fordham graduates as his law clerks. And whenever a Fordham lawyer appeared before him, whether the lawyer won or lost, Judge Edelstein always had a kind word of greeting for a fellow alum.

At his funeral, the eulogies were delivered by, *inter alia*, former clerks, longtime friends and fellow colleagues. It is striking that they all sounded a common theme. Each speaker noted either Judge Edelstein's sixty years of marriage to Florence, or his fifty years of service on the Southern District bench or or his sixty-plus years of attendance at the annual dinner of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick—three preeminent examples of his loyalty. Once David Edelstein adopted a cause, a friend, an endeavor or a mission, it was his for life. His law school was fortunate to be the beneficiary of one of his life-long fierce attachments. He loved Fordham and served it well. Nothing required him to hire its alumni as his law clerks or to judge its moot courts or to attend its annual alumni lunches or to serve on the Board of Governors of its Alumni Association. He chose to maintain his vigorous identification with Fordham all his life, because it was not in his nature to do otherwise. David Edelstein could no sooner turn his back on Fordham than on Florence. To do either would have been unthinkable to him. Simply unthinkable.

Today, law students face many conflicting pressures as they prepare to enter a profession that many view as far less kind and far less gentle than it was when David Edelstein graduated from Fordham Law School. The temptation to cut down on the number of activities to

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which one devotes time and energy is virtually irresistible. There is family. There is work. There are clients. There are friends. But I hope that all Fordham law students will also find time to emulate Judge Edelstein, and remember that there is also Fordham Law School.

He never forgot.