Then there is the lesson learned in the course of that research that he passed along to his Michigan students in his 2008 farewell lecture:

When researching a case of cannibalism at sea, be sure to consult descendants of both the diners and the entrée.

And that was just one of his many useful and entertaining projects. And so we toast you, Brian Simpson, with “words of limitation, and not of purchase.” See 4 GREEN BAG 2D i (Autumn 2000).

EXEMPLARY LEGAL WRITING 2010

Congratulations to this year’s Green Bag “exemplary legal writing” honorees. Samples of their good work appear in the 2011 edition of the Green Bag Almanac and Reader. They are:

Opinions for the Court

Frank H. Easterbrook, Bodum USA, Inc. v. La Cafetiere, Inc., 621 F.3d 624 (7th Cir. 2010)


John L. Kane, U.S. v. Brownfield, No. 08-cr-00452-JLK (D. Colo. 2009)

Kevin G. Ross, State v. Wiggins, 788 N.W.2d 509 (Minn. App. 2010)
Ex Ante

Concurrences, Dissents, etc.
Alex Kozinski, *U.S. v. Pineda-Moreno*, 617 F.3d 1120 (9th Cir. 2010)
Diane P. Wood, *Bodum USA, Inc. v. La Cafetiere, Inc.*, 621 F.3d 624 (7th Cir. 2010)

Books
Martha Minow, *In Brown’s Wake* (Oxford University Press 2010)

Short Articles
Jeffrey Rosen, *Roberts versus Roberts: Just how radical is the chief justice?*, The New Republic, March 2, 2010

Long Articles
Ex Ante

News & Editorial


Jeffrey Toobin, Without a Paddle, The New Yorker, September 27, 2010

Nina Totenberg, Martin Ginsburg’s Legacy: Love of Justice (Ginsburg), Weekend Edition Saturday, NPR, July 2, 2010

Miscellany

Heather K. Gerken, Testimony Submitted to the U.S. Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, Feb. 2, 2010

Tony West et al., Opposition to Plaintiff’s Motion for Preliminary Injunction and Memorandum in Support of Defendant’s Motion to Dismiss, Al-Aulaqi v. Obama, 2010 WL 4941958 (D.D.C. filed Sept. 25, 2010)

EXEMPLARY LEGAL WRITING OF ANOTHER SORT

The meanings of the word “exemplary” are conveniently and amusingly (for the Green Bag, at least) various and potentially contradictory. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, “exemplary” can mean both “excellent” and “[o]f a kind to become an example, liable to be turned into a precedent.” It is in those complimentary senses that we use it to describe the works listed above. In the OED, “exemplary” can also mean “typical,” as in “[o]f or pertaining to a type” such as “[t]he typical English vices of egotism, hypocrisy, and envy.” It is in that sense that Professor Mark Graber of the University of Maryland could have used the word (had he chosen to do so) when he posted the following bit of perhaps tongue-in-cheek wisdom on Balkinization (balkin.blogspot.com) last September 19: