



THE BAGEL BEGINNER

Harold Kahn & Lewis F. Powell

On a lighter note, we have this exchange. In the mid-1970s, Harold Kahn (who is now a judge on the Superior Court of San Francisco), was a student at Amherst College. In a recent email to the *Green Bag*, He recalled that back then,

I read in a magazine, possibly *People* (which I read in those days), that Justice Powell had never eaten a bagel.

Our best guess is that Kahn had read this item in the “Chatter” column of the January 24, 1977, issue of *People*:

He may know from torts, but when it came to identifying the objects on the buffet table at a Washington breakfast, Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell, 69, had to plead no-lo. “What are these?” he asked appalled associates. For all the family’s long history in the New World (Powells settled in Jamestown), the Richmond-raised jurist had apparently never before experienced a bagel.

Young Kahn bided his time, and then, when opportunity knocked, boldly took steps to enlighten Powell:

A little while later, I ran across a bagel maker’s guide on how to eat a bagel and sent it to Justice Powell. His response is attached.

Powell’s good-spirited note to Kahn is on the next page.

— *The Editors*

Harold Kahn & Lewis F. Powell

Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, D. C. 20543

CHAMBERS OF
JUSTICE LEWIS F. POWELL, JR.

September 28, 1977

Dear Mr. Kahn:

It was most thoughtful of you to send me the
"biography of a bagel: A primer for bagel beginners".

As your note indicated, I am indeed a "beginner".
But you have persuaded me to give them a try.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Lewis Powell

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