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Bernard Segal, Golden Gate University School of Law

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Mentors 2010: Part Two

The Recorder

July 16, 2010

Bernard Segal

Once he began practicing, an attorney and mediator grew to appreciate the Golden Gate University law professor's words of wisdom even more.

Bernard Segal, Golden Gate University School of Law



Sharad Milanfar, Becherer Kannett & Schweitzer, and Bernard Segal

Mentorship is alive and strong!

There are many people who have helped me make the most of my opportunities in life, but there is one person who stands head and shoulders above the rest: Professor Bernard "Bernie" Segal of Golden Gate University School of Law.

Just about everything I do in my practice can be traced back to what I have learned from Professor Segal. So, instead of telling you what he did for me, I'd like to share with you the things I should have learned from Professor Segal.

1. Never, never, never ... (Did I mention never?) speak in court while sitting down.
2. Always show up with a good sense of humor.
3. Show up on time.
4. Smile and don't say anything when the judge is agreeing with you.
5. Don't lose your humanity while becoming a great lawyer.
6. Objection: Irrelevant. Not: "Objection, relevance?"
7. Prepare, prepare, prepare!!!!
8. Look at the case from both sides.
9. The measure of who we are as a society is how we treat the weakest among us.
10. Pay it forward.

Professor Segal's love for his students always comes through. He has touched the lives of many of us and our families. Even my grandmother, who doesn't speak English, thinks Bernie is a charmer. He always greets people he meets with warmth and humanity. He is genuinely interested in others and takes the time to show it.

Professor Segal's work at GGU law has been like a pebble being dropped in a large pond; the positive ripples will be felt for many years to come. If you don't believe me, just ask the legions of Bernie fans out there who are passing on these lessons to others around them. He has certainly had a very positive impact on my life and legal career. For that, I'm very grateful.

— Sharad Milanfar, Becherer Kannett & Schweltzer