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Take Me to Church [of Logan]

Kelvin Santos*

Tall, gregarious, intimidating, stoic, and often considered as being amongst the best in his field, are just a few of the descriptors that come to mind in describing a living legend, former NBA star and Celtics player, Larry Joe Bird – and – a legend in his own right – former Dean and beloved professor at Roger Williams University School of Law, David Logan (“Dean Logan”).

I enrolled in law school in 2017, three years following Dean Logan’s tenure as Dean. I nonetheless had the pleasure of being under Dean Logan’s tutelage on two separate occasions: as a first-year student in Torts and as a third-year student in the *Brown v. Board of Education* Honors Seminar course, as well as the absolute privilege of his mentorship and advocacy.

Being an immigrant and the first in my family to graduate from college and, necessarily, law school, I place tremendous value and importance in embracing context and nuance as a means of developing and solidifying my understanding of new concepts and unfamiliar paradigms. Dean Logan’s instruction in 1L torts was pivotal in my development as a then-future attorney because he took that exact approach. Rather than merely discussing the legal concepts in the assigned texts, Dean Logan often delved into the fundamental aspects of human nature and psychology that served as the theoretical underpinnings for the material being taught.

I couldn’t have asked for more as a 1L – but Dean Logan had more to give: after the ‘bell rang’ and torts was over, Dean Logan would sit outside of the classroom and address questions surrounding the material, ranging from thoughtful inquiries to absurd

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hypotheticals. Fondly dubbed “The Church of Logan,” my peers and I relished the opportunity to squeeze just a little more out of Dean Logan. And he addressed us with genuine gusto that showed us that he was enjoying himself just as much as we were – arguably more so.

Dean Logan’s passion for the law and justice quite literally oozed from his body – be it through his notorious axillary perspiration while introducing Learned Hand’s BPL formula to inquisitive first-year students, or through the tears he shed in discussing the tribulations of Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall in the *Brown v. Board of Education* seminar. His love for his role was undeniable, and he approached his instruction with a balanced sense of empathy, open mindedness, humility, and practicality.

Thank you, Dean Logan, for your empowerment, mentorship, and guidance. You never hesitated to provide guidance and inspiration, and your belief in me was unwavering.

More broadly speaking, thank you for your role in cultivating RWU Law into the phenomenal institution that it is today. I was not present during your tenure as Dean, but your efforts, before we ever met and after my enrollment, had a profound and material effect in changing my life forever.

Here’s to your retirement – and may it be filled with pride, peace, and plenty of yacht rock.

Mazel tov!