Barry Garfinkel’s
65th Anniversary

Skadden
Barry, in honor of your 65th anniversary with the Firm, your friends and colleagues have shared some of their favorite memories of your time together at Skadden.
1950s–1960s
'50s–'60s
Barry,

Your 65th anniversary with Skadden — a remarkable milestone for an extraordinary career. Congratulations!! You’ve made an indelible contribution to Skadden — and to the legal community. I, for one, am a direct beneficiary of your presence at the Firm. For your amusement, I’ve briefly recounted below my favorite recollection. Call it “The Case of the Sterile Bull.”

I met you at HLS in the fall of 1966, when I interviewed for a Skadden summer associate position. You invited me to visit the Firm at its NYC office (its only office then). Thereafter, you sent me a letter offering me a summer associate position. In early summer 1967, I started.

You were a prominent part of my summer experience. This was most vividly — and traumatically — demonstrated at the end of my summer internship.

Shortly before my eight-week stint was to end, I learned that I needed to return to HLS a week early — my wife’s life-supporting teaching job was starting. I explained this to you, and you took the news with complete understanding. However, you reminded me that the job was for eight weeks, noted that HLS had legal research facilities and said you had another assignment for me for that last week.

And then you explained the assignment. An important Firm client ran a business involving artificial insemination of cows owned by others with semen from high-quality breeding bulls it owned. The client had just discovered that one of its bulls was sterile. Visions of lawsuits appeared, particularly in your ever-active mind. So my one-week assignment was to produce a memo for you identifying and analyzing every cause of action that might be asserted by unhappy cow owners — and every defense.

The relevant circumstances included: I would be flying solo — no in-office consulting help or secretarial assistance; I knew nothing about the client or what it did; I didn’t know any facts and circumstances; I didn’t know what law or rules would govern (general or special statutory law, common law, contract terms, etc.); and I didn’t know what I didn’t know. Moreover, as this was happening in the technological dark ages, my tools included pencils (with erasers, and a sharpener), yellow legal pads on which I handwrote and literally cut and pasted copied materials (there was one wet, single-page-at-a-time copier available), a physical card catalogue for research and a live librarian. My “office” was a table in the main reading room of Langdell Hall, HLS’s gigantic law library — where I spent virtually every waking hour during that challenging week.

When I finished (which was determined solely by the fact that I had run out of time), my “memo” was in the form of several large envelopes stuffed with an unimaginable pile of yellow legal size pages filled with handwritten text (with handwritten marginal edits inserted throughout) interspersed with cut and pasted materials. I had no time to type it. So I sent my ugly-looking work product to you by the state-of-the-art delivery system — the USPS.

Then came the worst part of the ordeal — prolonged silence. You had previously conveyed to me an offer to come to the Firm as an associate following graduation. My concern (let’s face it,
fear) was that my memo (content and/or format) would result in its withdrawal. Amazingly, it did not. Although there was a moment … a letter arrived from Skadden … from you. I was sure it was a withdrawal notice. But as I read it, I realized you were advising me that, as the Firm was committed to paying the top-tier “going rate” for starting associates, my annual salary was being increased from $10,500 to $15,000, matching an increase another firm had initiated.

I went from impending doom to elation — and knew Skadden was the place for me!

It turns out that the Case of the Sterile Bull was one of the best, and most multifaceted, learning experiences I had as an aspiring lawyer.

Thanks Barry!!

Peter Atkins

Stephen Axinn / Retired Partner / New York

Dear Barry,

I joined Skadden in March 1966, just shortly after you were crowned “partner.” Among the first cases to which I was assigned were two of your cases. One involved a farmer in upstate New York who was having a dispute with an individual who was supposedly managing his cornfield, and the other was a matter involving a truly crooked character named Richard Bertoli, who had run a small Wall Street boiler room called Fleetwood Securities. You had been named the receiver by Judge Tenney in the SDNY. That gives some idea of the diversity of your practice.

What I never will forget was the running gun battle I found myself in with Mr. Bertoli. It began when you sent me to New Jersey to serve him with a summons and complaint. Bertoli lived in an apartment complex in Teaneck, and in order to get into the lobby, I had to announce myself over an intercom. Obviously, I was not going to tell Bertoli that I was serving him with process, so I made up a story — I honestly cannot recall what it was — and I managed to get inside, and I rang his doorbell and served the papers. Bertoli almost immediately filed a motion to quash service in which he referred to me as “being so low that I could crawl under a pregnant worm.” I didn’t appreciate this sobriquet at the time, but I confess that I have found more than a few occasions to use it since.

When I returned to the office and proudly informed you that I had served the papers, you hardly acknowledged the news, but when you saw the papers filed by Bertoli, you told me that anyone who could earn that sort of condemnation from Bertoli had a rich future in the law. (P.S.: Bertoli got an eight-year sentence in 1994 in the SDNY.)

Thanks, Barry, and as Bob Hope might have said, “Thanks for the memories.”

Stephen Axinn
Hank Baer / Retired Partner / New York

Dear Barry,

Despite having worked side by side with you for 37 years at Skadden, Arps, I never had the privilege of working directly with or for you. Nonetheless, over those same years, I was constantly reminded of the enormous contributions that you have made to the Firm and to the practice of law in general.

I send you warm wishes and congratulations on your many years of service to the law.

I wish you and Gloria all the best.

Hank Baer

John D. Feerick / Former Partner / New York

Dear Barry:

Let me begin by wishing you a very happy 65th anniversary at Skadden. Emalie joins me in this wish, and we salute as well your beloved Gloria and family, knowing how integral they are and have been in your life.

Your life and career is a story for the ages because of the impact you have had on the law, Skadden and the lives of so many Skadden lawyers, of whom I am one. Your caring for Skadden as a community, for the many lawyers within the Firm from time immemorial and for the law itself are all reasons why so many want to celebrate this anniversary. I recall other occasions when members of your family and others asked me to contribute reflections, including on your 90th birthday, and it is an honor to be able to do so once again.

We enjoyed a special relationship the first 21 years of my career, when you were in your 30s, 40s and 50s. You were always a mentor, guide, coach and friend, someone I could turn to no matter what the subject or issue, and I did so on so many occasions. When I joined the Firm in August 1961, you suggested I waste no time and join a bar association and become active on a committee, helping me in the process to find such a committee. When I began writing an article on presidential inability, you were encouraging and supportive, including mentioning that the Firm would pick up travel costs to Washington, D.C. (and overnight stay) for an ABA meeting where an amendment to the Constitution would be shaped and crafted; you later encouraged me to return to Washington to testify before Congress about the amendment. (This was at a time when I was “cash poor,” so travel support made a difference.)

I remember as well all the time we spent, along with Jim Levitan, recruiting lawyers for the Firm, including a visit to Yale Law School in 1967, to call more attention to Skadden. Those were the happiest of years for me, and you were an important part. I remember playing softball for the Firm
in Central Park, and you were often present to root us on. I recall as well the annual social at the apartment, and then home, of Les Arps, where we came to know each other personally.

And then, of course, there was the practice of law. When I began my career, you were a senior associate, along with Peter Mullen and Ray Roche. I looked up to all three of you and acted on suggestions you each made on the art of lawyering. As a starter, you asked me to develop a form file, with an index, to be housed in the Firm’s small Fifth Avenue library. You then asked me to cite check a book you edited on federal practice, which contained (it seemed) thousands of cases and quotes, with little text on each page. I did the latter with help from Emalie at night, using the library of the City Bar Association. One of us would read the quote and the other would check the manuscript for accuracy. To say this was a herculean activity is an understatement, but it solidified our marriage, and the experience was varied and enriching.

I recall a client you were involved with who was injured when a mirror fell in a hotel bathroom. His negligence suit gave me the experience of taking a deposition. I also remember serving as your counsel, so to speak, when you served as an equity receiver before Judge Tenney, which provided me with the experience of a multiparty litigation. I also worked with you on Yale Express and helped with the motion you made for summary judgment against an accounting firm, which resulted in a favorable decision and new law. You were always attentive to my development, as you were for other litigation lawyers.

Many other moments come to mind in thinking about how you have added your specialness to my life. Your kinship with Les Arps and Bill Meagher, my special mentors, always touched me, because of the respect you had for them and your caring for them when they worked out their retirement plans as they aged. You also were always open to others joining the Firm as it grew. I recall suggesting to you Sheila Birnbaum as a special counsel, because of her products liability experience, and I recall you suggesting to me that I reach out to Judge Mulligan to see if he would have an interest in the Firm.

And when I left the Firm to become dean of Fordham, you were understanding, and for the years that followed, 20 as dean and almost another 20 as a full-time teacher, you have remained available to help, whether it be someone interested in a position at Skadden, or with wisdom and other forms of support, including for the Social Justice Center I founded at Fordham Law School.

And so as you celebrate your 65th Firm anniversary, I wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your friendship and for being a lifeline of sorts for me throughout my entire life as a lawyer. The special honors I have received, including the City Bar presidency and the ABA Medal, would not have been possible without your presence in my life.

As I close, I am reminded of Jim Freund’s mother, who, on the occasion of her 100th birthday explained that her secret to a long life was not to count the numbers but to do all you can each day. May your life continue to be filled with many happy moments for you and Gloria and your lovely family. Good health, blessings galore and smooth sailing. God bless you and your family, and thank you again.

John D. Feerick
Dear Barry,

I can’t believe you have been at the Firm 65 years, certainly a record not to be broken. I recall working with you on Corco and another litigation with Alan Ruska of Cravath on the other side, before he became a writer. So it is time for you to publish your memoirs. And, of course, working with you on the Second Circuit Judicial Conference at that garden spot of Hershey, PA, while the First Circuit went to Puerto Rico and other resorts. I recall when a certain justice ran out of the three bottles of bourbon after the first day of the conference, and we sent a case up to his suite. After the conclusion of the conference, when I went up to his suite to retrieve the remainder of the unconsumed case, there was none there. He took it back to Washington! Congratulations on this milestone. Ad multos annos to you and Gloria.

Bill Frank

Barry –

I’m up in Connecticut, thinking about you and how moved I’ve been by our conversation a few days ago.

I realize just how significant you’ve been in my life. I might never have ended up at Skadden if it weren’t for you. As I noted in my memoir, during my interview session you (and Bob Ensher) “put a big rush on this previously underachieving associate. Without knowing much at all about me, they wanted Jim Freund to come to Skadden Arps.” And from that day on, you “took me under your wing,” and over the years, “became one of my closest friends at the firm.”

I had an early indication of the kind of guy you were when you (and Flom) gave me authorship credit of the Disclosure Requirement book — putting my name on the cover rather than adhering to the more common practice of simply acknowledging thanks to their new associate.

As Skadden grew and flourished, you were such an integral part of the Firm. In my memoir, after noting you were “a superb litigation partner,” I went on to say that, “More than any other partner, Barry symbolized the attribute of dedication to the Firm that infected us all to various extents — the team spirit, not just individual effort, that was at the heart of how we practiced law.”

I would consult you often when I needed advice on how to deal with a situation, and your judgment was uniformly superb. Among other things, it was you who first encouraged me to get into alternative dispute resolution, with the result that mediation became my post-retirement specialty.

And, of course, there was that special recurring event, which I described this way in my memoir: “Every year for over a decade, Barry and his wife Gloria invited my family (along with Fin Fogg
and his family) to their weekend home (Redbrick) in the Catskills for the long Thanksgiving weekend. It was always a wonderful and heartwarming get-together away from the pressure of the office.”

One of my most enduring memories was when I visited you in your office at the beginning of the day I told the Firm I intended to retire. I’ll never forget your reaction of disbelief when I said that the zest and enthusiasm I used to feel tackling new challenges was no longer there (as described in my memoir): “You know, Jim, I get up every morning, and just can’t wait to get to the office and start my day.” You were older than me, but I knew you weren’t kidding — that it was exactly the way you felt.

And it continued year after year. As I noted in the memoir: “Having recently celebrated his 90th birthday, Barry — as sharp as ever — is still going at it full tilt.”

What an excellent a role model you’ve been for me and so many others, who admire you so, appreciate your support and value your friendship.

All the best,

Jim Freund

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**Lou Goodman / Retired Partner / New York**

Hi Barry,

You may not remember this, but we first met in 1968 when I was a law student interviewing for a job at Skadden. We talked about prison theatre. Thanks for letting me in.

I worked for you on the *Great American* litigation and got to experience for the first time how a group of senior lawyers manages a big case.

Later I learned from working with you that corporate lawyers doing a deal are also creating a litigation record. I would have come to that realization sooner or later, but I’m grateful that I didn’t learn that from my own mistakes on a deal.

Lou Goodman
Mark Kaplan / Of Counsel / New York

Dear Barry,

We met sometime in 1954, when I was just finishing my clerkship with Judge Bondy and you were just beginning your clerkship with Judge Weinfeld. At that time, we were both living in Stuyvesant Town and raising our families. We became friends, and we often discussed our careers. As we went forward, you started at Skadden Arps as one of its first lawyers and I ended up at the firm Wickes, Riddell, Bloomer, Jacoby and Maguire. We discussed our progression, particularly your success at Skadden. When I told you that I was leaving Wickes, you tried to persuade me to join you at the then very small Skadden. I, however, joined as the 12th lawyer at Marshall, Bratter, Green, Allison & Tucker, which had a very different practice than Skadden.

Whenever Marshall Bratter had some kind of a corporate transaction either involving taking over another company for a client or a struggle for control of a company, I was in a position to suggest retaining Skadden for the matter, but I insisted on making sure that Skadden understood that it was getting the business because Barry Garfinkel was there. Since I did not know the internal workings of Skadden, I was never sure that you got the necessary credit. We continued our discussions of the evolution of our careers and the development of our law firms. As everyone knows, you are an extraordinarily effective lawyer in person, and you never gave up pursuing me. At one point, I actually approached you with the idea of merging our two firms, at which point I was a senior partner of a firm with approximately 35 lawyers and Skadden was about two-thirds our size. After some conversations with you and Joe, Joe said, “I think we will go it alone.” You and I continued having conversations about our personal and professional lives, but you never gave up your attempt to persuade me to join you in the practice of law at Skadden. I became the president of Drexel Burnham Lambert, and you introduced me to your older son, which gave us a reason to talk to each other even more regularly after he joined the firm as a broker. Even after I made a bad career move and left Drexel Burnham for Engelhard, you kept me informed about the development of the Firm, and I think you always hoped that somehow we would find a way to become partners. You were right as usual.

When I needed to make a career move, I was approached by a number of law firms, but you came after me to persuade me to join the Firm as its 22nd lawyer, and I have never looked back at that decision and your influence on me without great appreciation. When I came to the Firm, you were my guide and remained that way in the selection of partners to work with, and you introduced me to a number of the litigators who worked on matters I introduced. They are too many to name, but they know who they are and I remain in touch with many of them even in their retirement.

Anyone who knows you knows Gloria, and as a result we have hanging in our home a number of Gloria’s works that we enjoy looking at every day.

In many ways, you are the heart and soul of the Firm, and we remain good friends even today, when we are both in our 90s. I turn to you for advice, either professional or for suggestions about partners at the Firm to be involved in matters that I have introduced. We both talk about what it’s like to be lawyers in our 90s, and we are both grateful to maintain the relationship with each other and the Firm.

Mark Kaplan
Dear Barry,

It seems like yesterday — albeit actually 53-plus years — when we first met. Our meeting took place at Skadden’s office, then located in the lovely Art Deco Fred French Building on 5th Avenue. I was there to be interviewed for a position at the Firm — which I knew little about, except that it was supposed to be on its way up. As I walked into your room, I can still recall the smile on your face and the hearty greeting, which made me feel so comfortable. You conveyed your pride at being at Skadden and assured me that over time I would share this feeling. Two stints at the Firm encompassing 29 years confirmed your prediction. Putting aside specific matters we worked on together and personal anecdotes, the main point I wish to emphasize was that you were the heart of the litigation department — someone whose loyalty to the Firm was paramount, whose work ethic was unquestioned and whose stellar reputation in the legal community was well earned. Most importantly, I am a better person because of my friendship with you, and for that I thank you.

Mike Mitchell

Ken Plevan / Retired Partner / New York

Dear Barry,

Congratulations on your many accomplishments!

We met in the fall of 1968, a mere 54 years ago. I was a law student and you one-half of the Skadden Hiring Committee. And yet, I am retired for more than two years and you are still going strong.

I vividly recall my first trial after rejoining civilian life. I represented your friend Martin Josman in a jury trial seeking about $3,000 in auto repairs. Martin had turned left into a shopping center, got caught in the street when another vehicle blocked his way, and the oncoming car collided with Martin’s car. Martin, however, did not carry collision insurance, so Skadden filed a lawsuit in (I think) the equivalent of civil court in Nassau County. My arrival at Skadden in August 1974 coincided with the departure of Chris Gallagher to play basketball in Europe, and I inherited the case.

After many hours of reviewing the file, I was distraught and went to your office. I reported that the case was hopeless — we could not win it. You responded with a broad smile and advised me to not worry, just proceed to try the case, and if I lost, so be it. And, thus, I tried (and lost) my first jury trial.

Thanks for the opportunity, and thanks for the support and friendship over the years!
I would be remiss without referring to one more personal discussion. After my son Jeff died, you called me and said that not a day went by that you did not think of your son David, and that I would have the same lifelong experience. You were so right in that Barry, and I thank you for that advice as well.

With sincere best wishes, your former colleague,

Ken Plevan

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Dear Barry,

Your amazing tenure at the Firm has reached 65 years. For me, the greatest of the lessons that you taught us all was that one should never rest on one’s laurels, rather one should apply the expertise one develops over the years to broaden the Firm’s offerings to clients.

When most of your colleagues here and at other leading firms had chosen to retire, you expanded your efforts to build for us our international arbitration practice, a success story that has few rivals.

Virtually no one here today has left a legacy that competes with your accomplishments.

Congratulations!

Admiringly,

Bob Sheehan
Skadden
'70s
**Toni Bush** / Former Partner / New York

Dear Barry:

It can’t be 65 years! All of the lawyers and staff at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom have been fortunate to have your wise counsel and leadership.

Personally, I want to thank you for the support you gave me during my brief 19-year tenure at the Firm! Your welcoming smile and that twinkle in your eye pop to my mind when I think of you.

Warmest wishes,

Toni Bush

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**Phil Cedar** / Former Associate / New York

Dear Barry,

During the summer of 1976, I was a green second-year law student, embarking on a big city law career. One of my earliest projects was to work with you on a public interest environmental case. Your seeming gruff manner and powerful voice, coupled with the halo of cigar smoke around your head, made me wonder how I could succeed with this somewhat mythical oracle. Well, that summer and several succeeding years at the Firm proved that fear was unfounded. No better mentor and role model could be had — a big heart, a wise teacher and counselor, and a commitment to share your expertise for the pro bono project.

With great affection,

Phil Cedar

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**Tom Dougherty** / Retired Partner / New York

Dear Barry,

I came to Skadden in the summer of 1979 as a third-year associate having asked you if you would allow me, at that age, to perch as the only litigator in the then very small Boston office that Bob Pirie and Lou Goodman were running as a corporate office.

From that perch, at your direction, I flew throughout the country as a young member of Skadden takeover litigation teams that excelled because of the drive and high standards you set for the Firm. And what a Litigation Group you built, with stars such as Bill Frank, Mike Mitchell, Mike Diamond, Jon Lerner, Bob Zimet, Jim Lyons and Ken Plevan … I could go on and on. All led by you, supported by you and made proud to be part of such a team that you attracted to the Firm.
It was the greatest professional privilege of our times to be included in your litigation mission. Thank you, Barry, for everything.

Tom Dougherty

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**Gwen Feder / Former Associate / New York**

Dear Barry,

Although I must admit I do not remember it, I am told that I first met you during the summer of 1956, shortly after my parents brought me home from the hospital where I was born. As I am sure you remember, they were then part of the vibrant community of young lawyers in Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village, where their friends included Jimmy and Ruth Levitan (whom they knew from the *Columbia Law Review* and who sold them a car for $125.50), Peter and Billie Mullen (when they moved to Westchester, my parents inherited their parking space under the East River Drive), and the Garfinkels.

Fast forward to 1975 when I, then a college freshman, decided that it would make sense to work at a law firm to see if I really wanted to go to law school, and wrote to Jimmy (yes, I am pretty sure I was the only person at Skadden to ever call Jim Levitan that), asking if Skadden might have any summer jobs for people like me. You headed the litigation team with Bill Frank in those days, and my six or so weeks at the Firm convinced me not only to go to law school but that I wanted to be a litigator. These decisions were reinforced by my next summer at Clifford Turner in London, another college summer at Skadden, and then a year as a litigation paralegal on the *Flintkote-Genstar* matter, on which Steve Axinn led an all-star cast of young lawyers including Stu Shapiro, Jon Lerner, Sam Kadet and Peter Greene.

Law school confused me a bit, leaving me thinking that I might want to be a bankruptcy or real estate lawyer. Luckily, however, my summer associate assignment back at Skadden was to write a memo about the definition of a “security” in all of the circuits and, when I returned after the bar exam, I was asked to help on a brief that was based on that memo. Five days later, I walked into your office, close to tears, and told you that I wanted to be a litigator just like you when I grew up and I was part of your team, from that moment until I left the Firm five years later.

Ever since, whenever I have seen you at a Skadden function or run into you on the street (eventually, let us remember, the Garfinkels and my parents ended up living around the corner from each other on the Upper West Side), I have known I am in the presence of one of my mentors, someone who taught me about life just as much as about litigation, with whom I have remained connected, and of whom I have remained incredibly fond.

Thank you, Barry!

With reverence, love to Gloria and James, honor to David’s memory, and all sorts of congratulations on what you have done during your incredible career,

Gwen Feder
Dear Barry,

You undoubtedly hold the record — or close to it — for the number of years you have been such a vital member of “Skadden world” — from its beginnings and throughout its years of change and growth. There are so many — too numerous to count — who, like I, benefitted from your mentoring, advocacy and guidance … and who learned to live with — and at times even value — your not infrequent “bark.” We knew that the “bark” concealed a very giving, thoughtful heart.

I would not have had my amazing Skadden career without you. You trusted my then-mentor Sheldon Karon’s recommendation and pushed hard for the Firm to hire me as a litigator working four days a week. It likely was not an easy “sell.” Undoubtedly, you well knew that the four days would stretch into five, six and seven, but you supported my plea for what was then a novel working arrangement, not to become quasi-“mainstream” for many more years.

You pushed forward with the same vigor and enthusiasm my proposals to establish ADR, international arbitration and subsequently corporate compliance practices with unwavering persistence, and were an unparalleled partner and support in the growth of those practices.

My partnership, too, would not have happened without your advocacy and support. You guided that effort, argued the case and made it happen.

All of the above were life-changing for me and the platform for much of what I have accomplished in and outside my career as a lawyer. I am certain your engagement has had similar impacts on the many other attorneys who have been fortunate enough to engage with you during their career.

These few words do not suffice to convey my gratitude to you. Hopefully, I can do so in person when I return to New York in October. Bruce joins me in sending our heartfelt congratulations and admiration for your most meaningful 65 years at Skadden and wish you continued enjoyment and good health.

With much affection,

Dana Freyer

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David Friedman / Retired Partner / New York

Dear Barry,

Wow! What a milestone and honor. I feel privileged to have known you for 43 of those 65 years and to have become a friend to your son James.
I wanted to reminisce about the days that you took a group of summer associates to lunch. In 1978, I was lucky enough to be one of them. I remember all too well when someone asked you the question: “What should I do if there are times when I do not have ‘enough’ work to do?” The Barry answer was simply, “Go to Bloomingdales.” When asked to explain, your advice was, “Enjoy yourself, as there will be many times when work is demanding and you will not have time.” I interpreted this to mean that one should develop self-confidence, so that you can do things without having to worry who is looking over your shoulder.

I also looked back fondly to all those years that you had involved me in doing Goya work. That was always a learning experience for me, as you were teaching me how to handle and relate to clients.

Lastly, Barry, I want to thank you for getting me involved early on with UJA-Federation. This is a relationship that I continue to nurture to this day. It was also important for me to learn that while work is very important, there are many things that we need to accomplish over time.

Once again, thank you for your friendship and mentorship. Stay safe and healthy and continue to enjoy the wonderful life that you were blessed with.

David Friedman

Barry Hawk / Former Partner / New York

Dear Barry,

Heartiest congratulations. I fondly remember the good times we have had together since we first met in the 1970s, when I was still at Fordham. I cherish particularly the conversations over drinks and dinners about art and the artistic accomplishments of Gloria, whose works grace our home.

Barry Hawk

Laurel Henschel / Chief Administrative Officer / New York

In 1978, every paralegal at Skadden Arps was afraid of Barry Garfinkel ... until you got to know him. The bark was much worse than the bite. There’s a lamb inside that lion. Congratulations, Mr. Garfinkel, and best wishes for continued good health and happiness.

Laurel Henschel
Sam Kadet / Retired Partner / New York

Dear Barry,

Sixty-five years at Skadden!! An amazing achievement.

I recall first meeting you in late 1976 or early 1977 in your office at 919 Third Avenue, having just completed a round of interviews for a position as a first-year associate later in 1977, following my graduation from law school. I can still recall the moustache, the gray suit, gray hair and, of course, the cigar and basso profundo. After a brief conversation, I recall receiving a letter from you inviting me to join Skadden as a clerk immediately. I declined the offer, having a job until late June, law school finals and the bar exam forthcoming.

Once I joined Skadden, I recall working with you on several matters, including a relatively minor stockholder suit against Kinney Systems in New York state court, the Gilman Paper Company dispute and SCM v. Hanson Trust. The memories of your attention to detail and the basso profundo before the Appellate Division and Second Circuit will never fade.

Congratulations on a great and unfinished run.

Sam Kadet

Joyce Kramer / Former Associate / New York

Dear Barry,

I came to Skadden as a third year in 1979 to work in litigation — we were all at 919 3rd Ave., just about 150 attorneys — Skadden was up and coming and taking on the “majors.” I watched the sunrise at 919 more times than I like to think; but I learned a lot and formed wonderful friendships — it was boot camp for young lawyers. I’ll never forget your deep booming voice, your immaculate attire, and your lessons on litigation and lawyering!! Years later I was lucky enough to join you in different industry conferences and committees and enjoyed your continuing expertise — and humor. Congratulations on a wonderful career and a valuable mentorship over decades for so many lawyers.

Warm wishes,

Joyce Kramer
Dear Barry:

In just a few weeks, you’ll be celebrating your 65th anniversary with the Firm. What an extraordinary milestone!

During those 65 remarkable years, you’ve mentored many lawyers and partners in the Firm, all of whom, I am certain, are enormously grateful to have had the benefit of your guidance and friendship over so many years. But there are none who are more grateful than me.

I remember very well the day we met, nearly 50 years ago, in late October 1971. I was just starting my second year at the University of Chicago Law School, and you had come out to Chicago to interview students for jobs as summer associates. It was an unseasonably warm day, and the temperature in the interview room in our glass-walled Eero Saarinen-designed law school building was (let’s just say) elevated. It was also filled with smoke from your pipe (the only time I’ve ever seen you smoke a pipe!).

I was your last interview of the day, and you were running late. You were in a hurry, because you needed to get to the airport to catch your flight back to New York. You had read the resume I submitted in advance, and you started the interview by saying (I will never forget these words), “I’ve only got one question for you — what grade did you get from Grant Gilmore in Contracts?”

It was my great good fortune that Gilmore had given me one of the best grades I received during my entire first year of law school. I don’t actually remember the grade — only that it was good — and it made enough of an impression on you that you handed me your card and told me to call you to set up a visit at the Firm’s office at 919 Third Avenue in New York. Then you apologized for the brevity of our encounter and dashed out the door to catch your flight back to New York.

My interview in New York a few weeks later was almost as memorable as our meeting in Chicago — and it lasted quite a bit longer! It led, first, to my employment as a summer associate in 1972 (during which I worked with you on the brief in opposition to certiorari in the Greene County Planning Board case) and then my employment by the Firm following my graduation from law school in 1973. After a nearly four-decade career as an associate and partner at Skadden, my time at the Firm remains the only full-time “grown up” employment I’ve ever had. I have you to thank for that — and believe me, I am grateful!

We worked on many matters together over those nearly 40 years — far too many to even begin to mention here. But to me, the real importance of those experiences was the truly priceless lessons you taught me (and, no doubt, all your many other “mentees”) about the art and craft of lawyering. These included the obvious things, of course, like the need to pay attention to details, no matter how seemingly small, and the need for total honesty and candor in dealing with courts and adversaries.

But there were other lessons that were delivered not so much by overt instruction as by the power of the example you set for so many of the litigators at the Firm, myself included. By your time-consuming work at the City Bar, for PLI and, of course, the central role you played for so many years as chair of the Planning and Program Committee for the Second Circuit Judicial Conference (to name just a few of your many activities), you made clear the importance of service to the legal
community and encouraged us to follow in your footsteps. And perhaps most importantly, in your role as the leader of the Skadden litigation practice for so many years, and by your own conduct as an advocate, you set a consistently high standard of professional conduct that all of us sought to emulate. I am certain that the model of professional conduct and courtesy you set for the Litigation Group at Skadden is one of the main reasons we were held in such great respect by so many members of the New York bench and bar.

Last, but most definitely not least, there are simply no words sufficient to convey my thanks and appreciation for the unstinting friendship you and Gloria shared with Alice and me over all these years. We cherish that relationship now and will do so always.

Alice joins me in extending our congratulations to you on your 65 remarkable years at the Firm. We wish you many, many more — may you spend them in good health and happiness, and doing all those things that bring satisfaction and pleasure.

With admiration and great affection,

Doug Kraus

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**Jon Lerner / Retired Partner / New York**

Dear Barry,

My 1972 decision to join a small law firm no one had heard of named Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom epitomizes the old adage, “It’s better to be lucky than smart.” Deciding to join Skadden Arps after my law school graduation proved to be one of the best and luckiest decisions I ever made and resulted in a lifetime of professional opportunity and fulfillment, as well as many friendships and cherished memories — in which You played a central role. (I have referred to you herein variously as “You” or “Barry.”)

I will always remember the day I first met You in the fall of 1972. It was in the office of John Feerick, who was then chairing the Firm’s Hiring Committee. I had just gotten an offer to join the Firm after graduation. I viewed Skadden Arps as a wonderful contrast to the stodgy downtown firms. Given my background as a St. John’s law school student, it was especially important to me that its associates were a heterogeneous bunch, recruited not just from Harvard and Yale but drawn from a variety of different law schools. I intended to accept the offer, but asked to meet with John Feerick just to be sure and ask a few questions about the Firm I didn’t have the nerve to ask at my interviews, like “Is it really true all first years get their own office and share a secretary, and do you pay the ‘going rate’?”

Toward the end of a very pleasant discussion, a mustachioed individual suddenly appeared, brusquely introduced himself as Barry Garfinkel in an unmistakable basso profundo voice, and grabbed my resume off John’s desk. Things went downhill quickly, as You began quizzing me about my choice to attend St. John’s University School of Law, and the absence of any law review reference on my vitae. Suffice it to say, it scared me into questioning my decision, but not quite enough to change my mind about joining Skadden Arps.
After extricating myself from the meeting with my offer still extant, I rushed uptown to attend a lecture at Columbia Law School by Judge Henry Friendly. While waiting to enter the auditorium, I was surprised to see You holding court with several other lawyers a few feet away. I wanted to say hello but was still too intimidated. In retrospect, I realize my error and wish I had the fortitude to have shown You I was there. I now know you would have thought highly of my desire to learn from Judge Friendly despite my modest law school background.

When I started at the Firm in 1973, just after Labor Day, the atmosphere crackled with excitement aided by the paging system urgently instructing many names to “call extension 253.” As I would soon learn, that extension belonged to You, and when the frenetic paging began, especially on Friday afternoons, it instilled such fear among associates that many fled the office, gathering in a nearby bar, to avoid being dragooned onto the newest takeover. There was no formal training for new associates, who got an hour-long guided tour of the office from Tony Arbisi and were then expected to hit the ground running, learn on the job and pull their weight from their first day — which often lasted 24 hours. In return, they got to work with, and learn from, some of the greatest lawyers in the country, like Joe Flom, even then known as the best takeover lawyer around, and the Firm’s preeminent litigator Barry Garfinkel.

In 1973, Barry was a fearsome presence at the Firm, to put it mildly. He occupied the office next to Les Arps on the East side of the 35th floor, and it belched cigar smoke that could be detected throughout much of the floor. He was the litigation assignment partner when there was no caller ID to warn you he was calling. The phone would ring and that deep voice would suddenly yell “go see Mike Mitchell,” followed immediately by a dial tone. I once called back to tell him I was already working for Les Arps full time. Barry’s response was, “Too late, I already gave you the assignment.” Another dial tone followed. It took time, but I finally got to know the real BHG and learned his bark was much worse than his bite. I also learned that he was a passionate and powerful advocate, a trusted adviser, the ultimate Firm team player and a real mensch!

In those days, the small Firm had way too few senior lawyers to handle all the matters that kept coming over the transom to Joe Flom, a veritable rainmaking machine, and to the other partners, so even the newest associates were given tremendous responsibility and their blunders were obvious to everyone. Being a Skadden associate was my first real indoor job, and I was not very good at it and made more than my fair share of mistakes. But I got lucky. A month or two after arriving, I received a corporate law assignment for a senior associate named Peter Atkins, a brilliant lawyer and great teacher, who showed me how to practice law the right way. I continued working for him for several months and would have been very content to continue learning to practice corporate law from him.

Then, my career took a sudden unexpected turn with Barry at the helm. While attending a first-year associate gripe session chaired by Barry, at the end of the meeting he asked the group, “Is there anyone here who wants to try a litigation assignment that doesn’t have one?” Without giving it much, if any, thought, I raised my hand. I found out the next morning, I had made a career change! When I arrived, Peter Mullen called me into his office and told me he was very disappointed I had decided to leave the corporate department. No one had ever told me the Firm even had formal “departments” to leave, and I certainly did not understand by volunteering for a single litigation assignment I had permanently joined the litigation department!
After working in the litigation department for a couple of years with wonderful litigation partners like Les Arps, Bill Frank and Mike Mitchell (Messrs. Diamond, Schwarz, Shapiro and Wasserstein had not yet been promoted), and despite having improved my work due in large part to Peter’s training, I still had not gotten to work with Barry. One hot July day that changed. Having just finished my latest assignment on a Friday, I was looking forward to a weekend off, and Jill and I had made some weekend plans — a rarity. When I walked in the door of our house, Jill told me, “Mr. Garfinkel called you about half an hour ago and said there is a new tender offer and to stay put until he calls back.” We dutifully cancelled our plan to eat out, but no follow-up call came from Barry that evening. We also had plans the next day, and when Barry still had not called, I made a command decision to go. But I still needed a plan to deal with Barry the following day. Putting my Skadden Arps training to good use, I decided the best defense was a good offense, and added a little hyperbole of my own. First thing the following morning, I charged into Barry’s office and yelled, “I waited by the phone all weekend and you never called!”

Barry folded immediately. His normally gruff demeanor instantly disappeared. He obviously felt terrible about ruining my weekend, and the real Barry emerged. He apologized profusely, explaining he had been able to staff the case without me and that he was terribly sorry he forgot to call back. As penitence, he said, “I just got a wonderful new case for the Society of Real Estate Appraisers involving a First Amendment claim; can you take charge of it for me?” I was delighted to accept and was determined to make the best of my chance.

Although it was well known Barry could be prone to hyperbole when issuing assignments, it actually was a great case, which I somehow managed to resolve in favor of our client. It became the first of many cases I had the privilege to work on with Barry. Over time, I learned that the real Barry, stripped of his intimidating act, was a warm, thoughtful and generous person and a terrific mentor!

Over many years, we worked together closely on numerous cases, both big and small. While I was an associate, several were routine commercial ones, such as those for Merganthaler Linotype Company. But one of them was especially important to the Firm. It was a motion to disqualify the Firm from continuing to advise Kennecott in defending against a takeover by Curtiss Wright that challenged the validity of the Firm’s advance conflicts waiver personally drafted by Joe Flom. Joe made clear he believed losing the motion could adversely impact the Firm’s reputation and future economics. It would be an understatement to say he was focused like a laser beam on winning the motion and relying on Barry to deliver the victory.

The motion papers arrived at about 6 p.m., and federal judge Lloyd McMahon had given us only until noon the next day to respond, so Barry hurriedly rounded up a group of associates, including Bob Zimet, a superstar litigation associate, as well as me and several other litigation associates who happened to be in the office and answered the page to 253. We all worked throughout the night, including Barry, who was there every second. Partner Bob Sweet, whose nomination to the Southern District bench had been already approved by the Senate, agreed to defend the Firm’s honor by arguing the motion and came in around 4 a.m. to approve the draft papers — and then Joe himself suddenly appeared around 6 a.m., while we were eating breakfast. He chastised Barry for drafting a “weak” affidavit that we had all spent many hours creating for Joe to sign. In response, Barry growled back, “Joe, we didn’t know the facts!” Joe countered, “When you don’t know the facts, you make it stronger,” and then proceeded to dictate a new version from scratch in about 15 minutes to ace stenographer Bill Brookman, which was very close to the filed version.
We won a great victory in the District Court, but Curtiss Wright was not done and succeeded in getting the Second Circuit to hear an expedited appeal. Though we had 30 days to file our brief, Barry insisted the first draft be provided to him in a week and put Bob Zimet and me in charge of getting it done. It was due on a Saturday morning at 9 a.m., and we completed it by 6 a.m. This left us plenty of time for breakfast and some mischief, and we were determined to find out if Barry had a sense of humor — a burning question among litigation associates.

As we had informed Barry, our brief relied heavily on a new decision from the Sixth Circuit named Cleveland Electric Illuminating that strongly supported the validity of the Firm’s advance conflict waiver. The Firm had just acquired a brand new “Lexis” computer terminal located in the library that enabled legal research to be conducted through word searches of a limited data base that included certain federal cases and allowed the cases located to be printed out. Bob had already discovered, and showed me, that it was possible to type into the computer and print out that input, which looked identical to a printed case. Together we created and typed into the computer a fictitious U.S. Supreme Court decision, we dated the previous week, summarily reversing the Cleveland Illuminating case. We printed it out, and it looked very realistic.

When Barry arrived, we were there to meet him at the 35th floor reception area with our most somber looks and shaking our heads. Barry immediately got the message and grunted, “What’s wrong? Problem?” We just handed him the phony case and escorted him as he walked to his office while reading the “decision.” By the time he reached his office, his countenance had turned extremely dour. As he took a step toward the window (we weren’t sure whether he intended to jump out), we started laughing. Barry turned, looked up and said, “Joke, right?” We confirmed he had been “had” and explained how it was created, and he joined in the laughter, no doubt relieved the case was not real. For our part, we had confirmed, as we suspected, the notorious BHG had a sense of humor!

After I became a partner and convinced Barry to give me an office on the new 47th floor one office away from his, we worked together on many wonderful cases and had some great adventures. I proudly remember our successes in defeating the Gilman Paper Company’s litigation seeking to force Sondra Gilman to sell her ownership interest in the company at a bargain price, prevailing in the Second Circuit in the Hanson v. SCM takeover, obtaining summary judgment dismissing Nestle’s copyright litigation against our client’s sale of “toll house” cookies, and the temporary restraining order we obtained in a hotly contested hearing at 10 p.m. in Justice Michael J. Dontzin’s living room for the Israeli government delaying dissemination of a book disclosing the names of its undercover spies.

Barry, I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of my time with You — even being awakened after midnight by Your call to come to the office immediately to help You and the other seven lawyers already working on the Hanson case prepare for a preliminary injunctive hearing at 9 a.m. that morning.

It was truly a privilege and an honor to have spent my entire 46-year legal career at the Firm working alongside the legendary Barry Garfinkel. I am extremely grateful to have had that opportunity and feel very fortunate You didn’t scare me away from the Firm and that I raised my hand at that meeting almost half a century ago. As they say, it’s better to be lucky than smart!
Congratulations on your 65 great years at the Firm — you made it a better place for all of us!

Best,

Jon Lerner

Norma Levy / Former Associate / New York

Barry,

I had the pleasure of starting at Skadden Arps in 1977. It was an exhilarating time, and I was privileged to have gotten to know you during my years there. After I left, you also were kind enough to recommend some wonderful nonprofits when I was considering working in that area.

Now I am retired and serving as president of New Plaza Cinema, a nonprofit that is devoted to showing independent and foreign films (virtually now, but hopefully in an Upper West Side theater sometime soon) and offers educational lectures and discussions on classic films to a worldwide audience. Somehow, in a way I don’t totally understand, there is a direct link between Skadden and New Plaza Cinema and you certainly feature in that mix.

Congratulations to you in this important milestone and all the best in your future endeavors.

Warmest regards,

Norma Levy

Nancy Lieberman / Retired Partner / New York

Dear Barry,

In October 1977 (nearly 44 years ago), I was a 20-year-old law student interviewing for a summer associate position. Convinced that no one would hire me, I interviewed at over 20 law firms. Skadden was one of the last law firms to interview on our campus, and I sought the call-back interview, at first, to get a free round-trip ticket to New York for the Thanksgiving holiday week.

But, then I met you on campus, along with Doug Kraus. That first meeting eliminated the preceding 20-plus contenders. I became smitten with Skadden because of you; now, I truly wanted that second interview, whether or not I would see my family in New York City for the holidays.

On my way to my Skadden in-person interview, I tripped and fell on the pavement tearing my stockings. I arrived at Skadden’s 919 3rd Ave. offices 15 minutes late and then learned that the first interview would be with you, the head of Skadden’s litigation department. I thought I had just blown my chance for a summer job. Instead, you told me to sit down and relax, and we had
a very pleasant conversation. Meanwhile, I had no interest in being a litigator and only wanted to do corporate M&A deals. Still, you almost convinced me that my future was in Skadden’s Litigation Group.

Several years later, in 1985, I found myself as the senior corporate M&A associate in Hanson Trust, the New York equivalent of Delaware’s famous Revlon case. (Of course, Skadden opposed Wachtell in both cases, and we won both.) In our situation, there were two separate trials, both of which our client, the “unfriendly” bidder, lost in the Southern District of New York federal court. Either loss, if not reversed, could have spelled a catastrophe for our client and the investment banker involved.

Enter Barry Garfinkel. In a packed Second Circuit Court of Appeals courtroom, which pitted Skadden against Wachtell, you led our team to securing reversals of the federal district court decisions, not once, but twice in a row, besting the Wachtell team.

The odds were against us, but we were quite fortunate to have you lead the team to victory. For me at least, that litigated victory was the sweetest one of all, since our client won its takeover battle.

Nancy Lieberman

Bruce Macfarlane / Former Associate / New York

I joined Skadden in 1978 as a freshly minted barrister who had done his pupillages in Gray’s Inn and Lincoln’s Inn chambers but never practiced. You and Fin Fogg led my recruitment. I believe I was the first foreign lawyer to join Skadden, and after a few months I discovered I was getting paid over a third less than regular associates for doing the same job. As a result, when I wrote the play for the Skadden Christmas party in 1979, I cast you as a Scrooge-like figure. I was a bit nervous going into the office next day, but you took it in very good heart.

Bruce Macfarlane

Brian McCarthy / Partner / Los Angeles

My first formal connection with Skadden, Arps (as it was known in a short-handed way in those days) came in October 1977, when I received a letter from you inviting me to schedule a job interview for the fall 1978 incoming associates class. I hadn’t signed up for an interview at school. But I did have a part-time job writing briefs for a lawyer, Tom Moore, who frequently had lunch with Les Arps. Moore put in a good word for me with Les, who then asked you (the hiring partner at the time) to invite me in.

On the day I interviewed, I had hoped to meet you in person, but you weren’t on my interview schedule. Instead, I met Peter Atkins, Greg Milmoe, Les Arps, Bill Frank and Barney Phillips.
Quite a lineup. But no Barry yet. That day came on September 11, 1978, when you met with the 12 incoming associates who were starting that day. Your courtroom presence and skills were on display. You held the room in rapt attention to your every word. (Ok, we were all a bit scared, as it was our first day of work). I still remember one of your key messages from that introduction: “It is important to keep track of your billing time! If you are even in the shower thinking about how to solve a client’s problem, you should be billing it!” We got it.

As a corporate lawyer, my in-the-trenches interactions with you were few. (Your office was next to Fin Fogg’s for a while at 919 Third Avenue, so I could clearly hear you on the phone when I was nearby. You were (and are) not a shrinking violet.) But what I did see and learn was that you were a master tactician to whom other lawyers would go to ask questions, bounce ideas with and otherwise seek the advice of the oracle. One of my good friends at the Firm was Jim Lyons, whom I moved to Los Angeles with when the LA office opened in 1983. As a litigator, Jim learned at your knee (and at the knee of Jon Lerner). Once I asked Jim, “Who are the greatest litigators you know and try to emulate?” His answer was swift: “Barry.”

Your love of the Firm, the Firm that you helped mold and for which you continue to be a culture carrier, is second to none!

Congratulations, Barry, on your 65th anniversary with Skadden. Thank you for all you have done for the Firm and me over the years. I am honored to call you my partner.

Brian McCarthy

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Alan Myers / Retired Partner / New York

Dear Barry,

Here are my two fondest memories of you:

– I was only a first-year associate in 1975, but you read a paper I had written in law school the prior year, took an interest in it, gave me comments on it and ultimately helped me get it published in a law review. I was and am very grateful for your advice and for showing me how a senior lawyer should interact with a more junior one.

– My second memory is more humorous. “Back in the day” many partners — including (maybe, especially) you — smoked cigars. Of course, NYC law changed so that smoking was not permitted in office buildings. Shortly thereafter, you and I were in an elevator at 919; you with a cigar in your mouth. Another passenger turned to you and said, “Sir, smoking isn’t allowed in the elevators,” to which you replied, “I’m not smoking it, I’m just holding it.” My sides still split when I think of that encounter.

Congratulations on 65 years at the best law firm in the world.

Alan Myers
Dear Barry,

On February 8, 1971, I answered an ad in *The New York Times* for a position described as “working in the mailroom of a midsized law firm.” Tony Arbisi hired me on the spot, and, an hour later, offered me a $10-a-week raise and a promotion to “assistant managing law clerk,” reporting to Ed Yodowitz. Aside from serving legal papers (summons, complaints, subpoenas and motion papers) on various parties and their counsel, and filing and retrieving documents from various courts (I carried a roll of quarters to make slimy paper xerox copies at the courthouses), the principal duty of the managing clerk’s office was maintaining the docket for all the Firm’s litigation matters and checking the status of pending motions, hearings and decisions. We had a 25-page list of all the cases in the Firm that we cross-checked against the fine print legal notices in the *NYLJ* every day, and if something popped up in one of our cases, we notified the responsible attorney immediately. Tedium does not begin to describe this process, but under Yodowitz’s guidance, I began to memorize the cases and was able to complete this task in only a few hours each day. Then Yodowitz took a month off to study for the bar exam.

Left in charge of the managing clerk’s office (I got to sit at Yodel’s desk instead of the purple chair that was my normal work station), I had things pretty much under control, responding to requests for service, document retrievals and, of course, the daily docket. Skadden in those days was a pretty informal place. The 33 lawyers, some of whom were old enough to be my father, were all (well, almost all) on a first name basis: Les Arps was “Les”; Bill Meagher was “Bill”; Jim Freund was “Jim”; and you, of course, were “Mr. Garfinkel.” As the head of the litigation department, you had a reputation as a passionate, driven lawyer who spared no effort of his own or his colleagues in pursuit of perfection. Nor, was it rumored, did you suffer fools; people were known to rehearse before saying “good morning” to you. As the lowliest and newest member of the litigation department, I did not interface directly with you; rather, I spoke with cuddly associates like Tom Schwarz, who translated my messages into proper form before passing them on. It was, therefore, with great trepidation, on the 10th day of my stewardship, that I received a call to report to your office immediately. I did, and as I stood quaking before you, you demanded to know why you hadn’t been advised about the decision announced in that day’s *NYLJ* in the *Smith v. Jones* case. [Ed. Note: As a result of PTSD, I have suppressed the actual name of the case.] I stammered something incoherent like, “I’m not familiar with that case, sir,” assuming that I had screwed up and failed to remember one of the cases on our 25-page list. There followed a dressing down like I had never received (and I had played hockey for Ned Harkness, who had elevated the concept to an art form), which lasted at least 10 minutes. You described, in detail, the sacred duty that we owed our clients, stressing that we had a responsibility to be meticulous — beyond merely careful — in fulfilling that duty. Missing a court date or appearance because of a failure to have paid appropriate attention was a dereliction of that duty and could not be tolerated. “There is no place at Skadden Arps,” you said, “for anyone who lacks the drive and the dedication to get the job done exactly right.” You then had to take a phone call and waved me out of your office.
I returned to Ed Yodowitz’s office and began packing up my few personal possessions. Linda Franklin (a/k/a Linda A.), who shared the office asked what in the hell I was doing. “I missed a case notice. I’ve just been fired by Mr. Garfinkel,” I replied. Linda, who previously had been your secretary, responded: “Oh, Barry yells at everybody. Don’t be fooled by his gruff exterior. He’s really a sweetie and a mensch inside. And besides … if you’d really been fired, Tony would have told you.” The rest of that day was a blur, but I did look through all 25 pages of our litigation list without finding the case of *Smith v. Jones*. I called Yodel at home, who said, “Oh, that’s not a Firm case; it’s something that BHG is following and asked me to keep track of for him. I probably should have mentioned it.” Of course, if I really had that damn list memorized, I could have pushed back … assuming I had had the nerve.

So I stayed in my job at Skadden for the next year, then part-time and during the summers through law school, and the strangest thing happened: All that passion that you put into the job was infectious. The caring, the meticulous attention to detail, the extra effort to find the perfect case or the perfect turn of phrase all became part of me as well as every other Skadden lawyer with whom you intersected. And somewhere during my second year as a summer associate, after I and others (Shep Goldfein and Rick Bemporad) had pulled an all-nighter doing a hostile defense brief for you, I discovered that Linda A. had been right in revealing you as a mensch. Not only did you compliment us on the work product, but you expressed appreciation for the extra effort we had put in. Coming from you, I treasured that praise.

In subsequent years, as you became a friend, a supporter and a partner, I came to appreciate more your kindness and inherent decency. Of course you also mellowed — thank you, Gloria! You may not remember securing a very favorable outcome for my mother’s cousin Beth (who had a terrible case from a legal point of view) merely by talking to the opposing trustees, asking them if they felt right about what they were doing and urging them to reconsider their position. For the last 20 years, every time I saw Beth, who died earlier this year at 104, she expressed her gratitude to you. So in closing, I echo that thought and express my gratitude to you for the mentoring, the friendship, the support, and mostly the pleasure and privilege of knowing you for 50 years (so far).

Love,

Greg Milmoe

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**Tim Nelsen / Retired Partner / Chicago**

Dear Barry:

Congratulations on your 65th Anniversary! You might recall I was for years your jack-of-all trades: anti-trust (BMI), entertainment (Stigwood, La Cage Aux Folles) and securities (many). I recall specifically a trip we took to somewhere in Connecticut where you asked me to drive. I said fine, but no cigar in my car. You were fine — on the way up. But the trip back was very different. As you noted at the time, I apparently had not been sufficiently expansive in my admonition and had addressed only the outgoing ride. Far more importantly, however, and this is more than a mere
recollection: You pretty much introduced me to my wife, Michelle, when you advised me to look her up and get the scoop on my new colleagues when I first went out to visit the Chicago office. In that regard, Michelle sends her congratulations as well. I look forward to seeing you again when Skadden alum events get back on the calendar.

Best,

Tim Nelsen

Rick Prins / Retired Partner / New York

Dear Barry,

We first met at my law school interview in Ann Arbor on a crisp sunny day in 1975. You reminded me strongly of the guy who owned and ran the smallish publishing house I worked at between grad school and law school: a bit growly, direct, interested and interesting. So I fell into form and got a call back, and the rest is history. While I didn’t become a litigator, we’ve been friendly ever since, and I still try to model much of my take on life on the graciousness, big heartedness and dedication to being the best that you and the others (especially Joe, Roger, Finn, Peter, Morris and Jim Freund) showed me.

Congratulations on your long and stellar career so far and my best wishes for the next decade!

Rick Prins

Allen Reiter / Former Associate / New York

Dear Barry,

I joined Skadden as a litigation associate in 1979, after having spent four years in the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office. While in the DA’s office, I appeared before most of the judges sitting in the Criminal Term of State Supreme Court at one time or another. One of those judges was the late James J. Leff.

Justice Leff lived close to Central Park and often walked around the reservoir in the morning before heading down to 100 Centre Street. He was a somewhat quirky guy, and even though nearly everyone ran around the reservoir in a counterclockwise direction, Justice Leff walked clockwise, so that when I ran around the reservoir, he and I would cross paths, and did so for years, greeting each other.

Shortly after I joined the Firm, you invited Justice Leff to speak to the litigators at a luncheon, and when I arrived, Justice Leff exclaimed (this is nearly verbatim), “I’ve never seen you with your clothes on!”
You were clearly horrified upon hearing this. Laughing, Judge Leff quickly explained his choice of words, putting you at ease, but your initial reaction was priceless — and memorable.

Allen Reiter

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David Steckler / Former Associate / New York

Dear Barry:

You trained me during my years at Skadden, 1979-82. We worked really interesting cases together, from SEC internal investigations to tender offers! I came to Skadden with four years of experience as a white collar crime prosecutor in Joe Hynes’ nursing home investigation, and you made me into a skilled and always-ethical civil litigator, for which I have never stopped being grateful.

After Skadden, I went to John Dunne’s law firm — your classmate at Yale Law — and from there to a large health care law firm, where I established a white collar defense and compliance practice. I prospered in New York law because you trained me to work hard but always find time for pro bono cases and to mentor newer attorneys. Now, I teach in an undergraduate law program and often tell “war stories” of my time with you when I teach professional ethics and legal research and writing!

I recall our time together fondly and, given our many intervening years at the Bar, quite clearly. Kate Murray and I enjoyed our dinners with you and Gloria, and I still remember feverishly taking notes when we met with SEC enforcement in D.C.

You instilled in me a single, basic rule: Always be prepared, and don’t forget that practicing law is a privilege.

Thank you for my memories and for your being a mentor when I really needed one.

With warm regards,

David Steckler

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Dan Stoller / Retired Partner / New York

Dear Barry:

We first met in January 1970 when I joined Skadden as a rookie associate in the Corporate Group. Although our paths did not often cross in my 40-plus years at the Firm, I always considered you to be a partner who set the standard to which every Skadden lawyer should aspire.
I congratulate you on your 65th anniversary at Skadden — a unique and remarkable milestone in which I’m sure you take great pride.

I wish you all the best.

Dan Stoller

Irene Sullivan / Retired Partner / New York

Barry,

You are everything a lawyer should be, which you don’t need me to tell you. You set the best example for young lawyers. Respect for the court. Respect for your adversaries. Always there to give good advice for young lawyers like me. I joined Skadden in 1976 and so appreciated the example you set for all those who followed. How important you were to the success of the Firm and to setting the standard for what a truly excellent lawyer should be. Thank you!

Irene Sullivan

Mike Testa / Retired Partner / New York

Dear Barry,

My wife, Carol, and I took you and Gloria out for a sail on our sailboat when you visited Block Island many years ago. Despite some fog, we tacked back and forth in Block Island Sound and a great time was had by all.

Happy 65th, Barry!

Mike Testa

Laura A. Ward / Former Associate / New York

Dear Barry:

Mazel tov on your 65th anniversary at Skadden. We met on October 27, 1976, during my interview for a summer associate position at the Firm. You were the first attorney I was scheduled to see. I remember being escorted into your office on the 35th floor of 919 Third Avenue. Your enthusiasm about the Firm and the law fed my desire to receive an offer. Much to my surprise and joy, that occurred.
Upon my arrival to the Firm, I was assigned a cubicle in the library, on the 34th floor, and sent with Peter Zurkow, another summer associate, to work with you and Christopher Gallagher on a case involving Royal Crown Cola and the Major League Baseball Association. I was assigned to draft a discovery request. During the course of my involvement with the case, you included Peter and me in every meeting. You took the time to explain and guide us. At one meeting with the client, Pam, I think that was her name, was taking lunch orders. Much to your dismay I ordered a Tab. Without missing a beat you said, “Laura meant to ask for a Royal Crown Diet Cola.” I was mortified by my mistake. The next day, the client sent a few cases of Royal Crown Diet Soda to the Firm. Lesson learned.

You and the other Skadden litigation partners instilled in me a strong work ethic, a desire to be the best I could be and the understanding that along with the privilege of working at Skadden it was my duty to give back to those less fortunate than I.

While working with you, I grew accustomed to the smell of cigar smoke at our morning meetings. Oh, how times have changed.

When Skadden was chosen to organize the Second Circuit Judicial Conferences at Buck Hill Falls and later at the Sagamore, you assigned me to work on the conference with you. Although I had the privilege of knowing many of the judges because they were my father’s colleagues, the role you placed me in enabled me to create an independent relationship with them. As part of the assignment, you asked me to be a liaison with Justice Thurgood Marshall. That assignment created a lasting friendship among the Justice, his wife Cissy and me.

My work with you and the other partners and senior associates at Skadden sharpened my legal skills, made me a better lawyer, and enabled me to succeed in the Eastern District United States Attorney’s Office and now on the New York County Supreme Court, Criminal Term.

Leaving Skadden in 1986 to go the Eastern District was a difficult decision. I understood the allure of remaining at Skadden. The Firm changed significantly since my summer associate days, when there were only the New York and Boston offices, and just the two floors of offices at 919 Third Avenue. My summer associate year, the Firm was breaking through to the 33rd floor. You should be very proud of the highly regarded international firm you helped to create and build.

I wish you and your family good health, happiness and joy, now and in the years to come.

Fondly,

Laura A. Ward
Dear Barry,

You were the first person I met when I interviewed for a fifth-year associate position at Skadden on October 25, 1971. You gave me my first assignment when I joined Skadden on January 10, 1972. I worked on my first contested takeover with you in 1973 (General Host v. Triumph American), and you were the first Skadden partner to review the complaint Tom Schwarz and I drafted in that case. We shared many momentous events over the years, but none stands out to me as much as your emotional defense of the attempted disqualification of our accounting expert in Omega Alpha v. Touche Ross, when you destroyed opposing counsel with words I will never forget: “For shame, Mr. Gold; for shame.”

Congratulations on your momentous 65th anniversary at Skadden.

Best,

Henry Wasserstein

Bob Zimet / Retired Partner / New York

Dear Barry,

We first met in the summer of 1974, when I joined Skadden. Nixon was President, Brezhnev the head of the U.S.S.R. and you had already risen to be a dean of the New York bar and head of Skadden’s litigation department.

From the get-go, you promoted and advanced the careers of Skadden litigators. In my case, you opened the door to service on City Bar committees, attendance at Second Circuit conferences, and the acquaintance of federal judges and other lions of the bar — all friends of yours. And the goodwill that you had earned with those judges, who regularly reminded me to pass on their regards to you, always seemed to make my welcome in their courtrooms more effective.

You were readily available to provide sensible advice and enthusiastic support. In particular, I recall that when the litigation head of a rival firm called to complain about what he thought was ungentlemanly conduct on my part (and yes, that gender insensitive term was what was used), you told the complainer to get lost. And then there were the Friday afternoon calls from x253, but that is another matter.

Through the arc of many litigators’ careers you shared the satisfaction and pride in the many successes of the lawyers you mentored and befriended. In those instances where the result was not what was hoped, you also were there with timely support as well as ideas as to how to reverse momentary misfortune.
Now that you have “lapped” the careers of so many of us, it is a real privilege to thank you and wish for you all good things.

Bob Zimet

George Zimmerman / Partner / New York

Dear Barry:

Congratulations on your milestone 65th anniversary at Skadden — a firm you pioneered to greatness.

I was a fresh out-of-law-school first-year associate back in 1979 when I was assigned to work with you on the Home Insurance litigation against Scherer Corporation. That first meeting in your office is as fresh in my mind as if it were yesterday. It was the first time I heard you talk about Skadden’s “upper margin work” ethic. The chills ran up and down my spine when you delivered that speech that day, just as it did every time I heard you sonorously deliver that directive — as only you can — to the incoming litigation classes.

The lessons I learned from watching you perform and listening to your sage advice are far too numerous to list. But just to name one (somewhat humorous) lesson I learned — to which I’m sure every litigator of my vintage who worked with you can attest: NEVER brief a Section 1404 transfer motion without citing your mentor’s seminal decision in *Schneider v. Sears*, 265 F. Supp. 257 (S.D.N.Y. 1967) (Weinfeld, J.). Yes, Barry, we still remember the citation and the critical need to add “(Weinfeld, J.)” to the cite!!

You showed us all what it means to be a Skadden litigator. You ingrained in us the importance of litigating with diligence and integrity; the notion that every brief we write and every case we argue in court reflects not only on us, but on the Firm; that our credibility is, by far, our most valuable asset, which, if lost, may never be regained; and that, subject to these tenets, the best interests of our clients must always be paramount.

Your incredible longevity has been a true blessing to the Firm. Skadden’s unparalleled growth during your tenure from a small, superb firm to an elite global superpower is unparalleled in the legal profession. The key to the Firm’s remarkable success story, and the critical factor that hopefully will enable the Firm to continue to excel, is the unique Skadden “culture” that you personify. It’s one thing for all of us to continue to be indoctrinated into that culture through management presentations and initiatives — all of which are admirable; but there is no substitute for the continuing presence of one of the Firm’s Founding Fathers, who daily lives and breathes that Skadden culture that we all strive to perpetuate.

So, Barry: Congratulations on a truly astounding achievement. It’s been a privilege and honor to be your partner.

All the best,

George Zimmerman
Dear Barry:

We first met during the summer of 1978, when I was a summer associate at the Firm after my first year at Yale Law School (which you and I have in common). One Friday, you offered me two tickets to Shakespeare in the Park. I saw a fabulous production of “Midsummer Night’s Dream.” This was before summer associate programs were chock full of activities, and I was deeply appreciative.

I also was extremely grateful for your support when I joined the Firm as a partner in 1989, after my years in the SDNY and with Judge Walsh, with the mandate to start a white collar criminal defense practice. Ending up at Skadden was among the most fortuitous opportunities in my life. For the nearly dozen years that I was honored to lead the Firm’s litigation/controversy practices, I always felt that I was trying as best I could to carry forward your legacy of excellence, integrity and client service as the “Founding Father” of the practice.

All the best on your 65th anniversary with the Firm and hope to see you in person again soon.

Regards,

David Zornow
1980s
'80s
Derek Adler / Former Associate / New York

Dear Barry,

I will always remember the mentorship, encouragement and responsibility you provided to me and the other members of my class when we were starting our legal careers in the late 1980s. You taught me how to do “upper margin work” and launched me on the path to a career in international litigation. I will forever be grateful, and wish you the best always.

Sincerely,

Derek Adler

Cliff Aronson / Partner / New York

Dear Barry,

When I first met you, it was in September 1980, when I was a brand new first-year associate sent from D.C. to N.Y. to help defend our client, Crouse-Hines, from a hostile takeover by InterNorth. I wasn’t working with you, but I ran into you walking out of your office very early one morning, while I was still in sleep stupor. Why your office? I was pulling one of several all-nighters while working on the PI papers, and I needed someplace to sleep. Your office was unlocked and had a sofa. Of course, I knew who you were the instant I saw you, immediately thinking I am about to have the shortest tenure of any lawyer at Skadden for choosing “Mr. Garfinkel’s” office as my sleeping spot. Reluctantly, I introduced myself to you, but no sooner than I stammered, “I … I am Clif … ,” you cut me off and said, “I know who you are, Clifford Aronson, Georgetown.” In my head, I am thinking, “How the F does he know who I am?” I was scared to death. Somehow my Skadden career didn’t end there.

Flash forward — I got to know you over the years, but I really saw the intelligence and energy you brought to every matter on which you worked when you were doing critically important international arbitration work for our client Cemex, whose cement facilities in Venezuela were illegally seized by the Venezuelan government. To this date, I have never seen a client who felt so strongly about any single lawyer. From the chairman of the board of Cemex to its general counsel (and everyone in between), they became so enamored with you and your legal skills, they continued to ask me long after your matter was successfully behind them, “What would Barry do?” or “What does Barry think?” They always looked to you as their most senior trusted adviser.

Flash forward again — right before the pandemic, I sat next to you at the partners lunch at 4 Times Square, and you grilled me about Cemex and what they were up to. Not general, pass-the-time, shoot-the-shit questions, but more like, “Give me the details and don’t leave anything out.” What I saw at that moment was just how lucky we as a Firm were to have you — I still remember the incredible twinkle in your eyes as you asked about Cemex, their GC, their business and their issues. The fact that you still took a deep interest in them was both genuine and moving.
I hope you are well, and I am looking forward to that next grilling at a partners lunch. Congratulations on this milestone!

With admiration and best wishes,

Cliff Aronson

Tony Clark / Partner / Wilmington

Dear Barry:

When we first met in the fall of 1980, I was applying for a litigation associate position in the Wilmington office. In those days, when one of our non-New York offices (then Boston, Washington and Wilmington) wanted to hire a new associate, the applicant also had to interview in the NY office. You were the head of the litigation department and the first NY partner I met.

At the time, I was clerking for the Delaware Supreme Court, but my resume otherwise did not reflect a corporate or big-city bent, having grown up in smaller towns in upstate New York and worked after college as a legal assistant in poverty legal services and public interest firms in South Jersey before and during law school. The interview did not start auspiciously:

Barry: “Why would a guy like you want to work at a firm like Skadden in New York?”
Tony: “I don’t.”
Barry (gruffly): “Then why the hell are you wasting my time?”
Tony (stammering): “Well, I’m applying for a job in the Wilmington office.”
Barry (after a brief pause): “Good move.”

The interview got better after that. Commenting on my clerkship, you said “We need one of those,” and then pulled from your desk drawer a one-page list of every Skadden attorney who had served as a judicial clerk and their court; absent from the list was the Delaware Supreme Court. I was impressed at the premium you and the Firm clearly placed on clerkship experience.

You did circle back once more to your original question: Why would a bearded hippie lawyer like me want to work at Skadden? I said that growing up playing baseball, I dreamed of one day doing so with the Yankees. Skadden was the Yankees of the corporate legal world, and I wanted to see if I could compete at that level. You said “We’ll find out,” wished me luck, and sent me on my way. Things have worked out pretty well since then.

It has been decades since you and I worked together on a client matter. But I have often enjoyed shooting the breeze with you over a drink or two at partner retreats and other Firm functions. You have been a wonderful example, mentor and friend, and I am grateful beyond words that you decided to take a chance on me. Thank you, Barry.

Sincerely,

Tony Clark
Doug Dunham / Former Counsel / New York

Dear Barry,

I have always thought of you as a perfect mentor who offered helpful advice and was calm, thoughtful and insightful. You are the true embodiment of the best of Skadden.

Doug Dunham

Margaret Enloe / Former Associate / New York

Dear Barry,

Many people go back further in their relationship with you than I do, but the early ‘80s is pretty respectable, I think. As a junior associate in 1982, coming out of federal clerkship in Philly, Skadden was a formative time for me, and you were a big part of that. Over the many ensuing years, I have run into you countless times and always appreciated those occasions. These included impromptu encounters on 81st and CPW, alumni events at the High Line and MOMA (we sat together over dinner one time and surveyed all that was going on), at lunches with Doug Kraus and Jay Kasner, and in your office. It was clear, as I sat in your office in Times Square before Skadden’s move to Hudson Yards, that it was full of many memories that oozed from the books, photos and many plaques in your honor.

I hope we’ll be able to rendezvous again, maybe over lunch or dinner in the neighborhood. That would be a real pleasure.

With great fondness and appreciation,

Margaret Enloe

Eric Friedman / Executive Partner / New York

Dear Barry,

Congratulations on this marvelous milestone anniversary. You have instilled our culture of excellence into generations of Skadden attorneys, including me! I’ve particularly enjoyed and appreciated our opportunities to kick off the Firm’s annual New Litigation Associate Training. I continue to be amazed by the enthusiasm you bring to that program.

Your contributions to Skadden are, of course, too numerous to catalogue here, though they include your decades of service as a leading litigator and go-to adviser; devotion to helping us build fearsome and respected litigation and international arbitration practices; mentorship of
countless Skadden attorneys; and support for the New York City Bar. Suffice it to say, this letter could go on for pages and not do justice to your efforts on behalf of the Firm, our culture and our clients. We wouldn’t be who we are today without you.

Wishing you many more years of health and happiness.

Warmly,

Eric Friedman

John Gardiner / Partner / New York

Dear Barry,

On the occasion of your 65th anniversary at the Firm, my mind is cast back to my first encounter with you was when I was interviewing for an associate position, 34 years ago! It was 1987, but it seems like yesterday.

You occupied the corner office on the 47th floor at 919 Third Avenue. To a recent Irish emigrant, the office was very large and quite intimidating. You sat behind a giant desk, pipe smoke lingered in the air. (Some of that may have been from Seth Schwartz’s nearby office.) The fear factor increased as you looked over my resume and said in your booming voice: “What the hell is this? What is University College Dublin, and what are these grades?”

As I explained my background, you became very interested in how I had landed in your office in the first place. But after 45 minutes chatting back and forth, you gave me a chance. I am forever grateful. Indeed, I have had the amazing good fortune to count you as my mentor through my entire time not just at Skadden but in the U.S. When I became a partner, I sought out the partner office on 47 next to yours, from where my career took flight. Now in One Manhattan West, we have adjoining offices again. Thirty-three years practicing together leave far too many memories to recount here. But I will select one: Puymirol. What a strange location to conclude one of the first major ICC arbitrations conducted by our group under your and Dana’s leadership. It is safe to say that you could practice law for another 65 years and not have that experience again. Closing arguments in a barn with no air conditioning lives long in my memory, which is surprising, given the post-closing celebration that you, Jonathan and I and the rest of the team enjoyed at our chateau.

It goes without saying that it has been a singular privilege to have shared my entire 33-year Skadden experience with you. I wish you a tremendously happy 65th anniversary at the Firm, and don’t doubt for a second that I will soon be wishing you happy 70th!

Thanks for everything,

John Gardiner
Jodie Garfinkel / Director, Talent Development and Strategy / New York

When I started at the Firm in the 1980s, no one told me what being your presumed namesake might mean. I would introduce myself by saying, “Hi, I’m Jodie Garfinkel, and no, I am not related to Barry.” Had I known then what I know now, that you were an essential and critical part of the Firm and its history, I would have embraced the assumption rather than attempt to clarify. Congratulations on over six decades of continuing to contribute to the Firm and its successes.

Best wishes,

Jodie (wish I was related) Garfinkel

Bruce Goldner / Partner / New York

I first met you when I was a legal assistant in 1988 and you were sort of an elder statesman of the Firm at that time. Fast forward more than 30 years, and you still are. I never worked directly for you, but I did work for many who have — and accordingly, know first-hand the positive and lasting effect you have had on those you mentored and brought up with you along the way. Thank you, Barry!

Bruce Goldner

Brian Graifman / Former Associate / New York

Here’s to you, Barry, for instilling in me a career-long involvement in bar associations. When I returned to Skadden in 1989 from a federal appellate clerkship, you steered me to join a bar association committee (NYCLA’s Appellate Courts Committee). I received the recommendation — or perhaps it was a push — with some surprise, as it was the heyday of merger-acquisition litigation mania, and the thought of devoting efforts otherwise was not foremost on this newly minted attorney’s mind. My bar association work has continued throughout my career and has been most rewarding — professionally, personally and to the profession. When I think of how it began, I think of you, so thanks again for the direction.

Brian Graifman
Dear Barry,

Some 40 years ago, I was recruited by Skadden from a Park Avenue firm, and as much as I was delighted to find my way into the Big Leagues, I had no idea what was awaiting me. I soon found out.

At Skadden, nothing left the Firm without being reread a dozen times, and all-nighters spent finding a winning precedent were a matter of course.

My first case with you? Our corporate client was defending a New York state action, and I spent innumerable hours in the library looking for the case to rid our client of this lawsuit, yet nothing was exactly on point. I asked, “How many hours should I be billing the client for this search?” The answer came back: “You don’t worry about billing. Find the right case!” Lo and behold, I hit upon that “magic bullet,” and the case against our client, argued in court by you, was dismissed on jurisdictional grounds.

I remember the call from Barbara to come to your office. You stared penetratingly into my eyes and handed me a pro bono case for an upstate farmer who had not been paid for the hay he had sold to a race horse owner. Notwithstanding my workload, I hopped to it. After my first-ever appearance in court, an agreement was reached that the defendant would pay down the debt; however, after a payment was later missed, all his bank accounts were frozen, and additional funds were immediately transferred to the farmer. Ultimately, the defendant filed for bankruptcy, and the farmer had not received all of his money. I asked whether you should call the farmer. “No,” you said, “I want you to explain it to him.”

Later still, we were defending a federal securities case involving market manipulation. Before becoming an attorney, I had worked on the trading floor of a stock exchange, and this case suited me to a tee. When the judge ruled in our favor and quoted my language in regards to that aspect of the case on which I had worked, I learned how satisfied you were. I was glowing.

But I was not to be long at Skadden. While still physically able, I felt the need to volunteer for the Israeli army. I went to Jon Lerner to tell him of my decision. Jon told me that I should be the one to inform you, and head bowed, knees shaking, I entered your office, not knowing what to expect. Until today, I remember your response: “That’s remarkable.”

For me, you were a mentor who taught me leadership and the need to do things flawlessly — nothing else suffices. And the lessons I learned from you have remained with me for the rest of my life, in a career that has spanned the military, law enforcement, finance and the management of life science companies. I am forever grateful.

With warmest wishes,

Jeff Grossman
Caesarea, Israel
Dear Barry:

Congratulations on your 65th anniversary at what started as an acorn at the Fred French Building and with your efforts has grown into the premier law firm in the world.

From the day I arrived at Skadden in the fall of 1980, the litigation department both within the halls of 919 Third Avenue and to the outside world WAS epitomized by your persona as a dean, not only of the Firm, but of the bar. Whether it was the Friday afternoon phone call week in, week out, from extension 253 that started with the famous Louise Cursio on the other end of the phone saying, “Hold for Mr. Garfinkel” — which portended weekend work at a minimum; the sought-after invitation by first-year litigation associates for an evening at the ballet with Barry and Gloria; the many leading lights of the bar at the time and members of the Second Circuit bench for whom you were responsible year in, year out, as the chair of the Second Circuit Judicial Conference (with a kudo to Laura Ward for her indefatigable assistance); or your exhortation to continue to do “upper margin work,” you have been a role model for all.

Two specific stories stand out in my mind, among many. One of the first cases on which I had the pleasure of working with you was the Colonial Penn group securities class action. It was a lot of hard work but a phenomenal learning experience that laid the foundation for what remains, almost 30 years later, one of the preeminent litigation practices in the country.

The second was your Second Circuit argument in the Hanson Trust plc v. SCM takeover case. The issue was whether our client Hanson’s conduct constituted an unconventional (or, in the vernacular of the day, a “creeping”) tender offer in violation of federal law. You handled the appeal and your argument was nothing short of brilliant. The booming voice, the presence in the well, the reaction of the three members of the panel (all of whom you knew well on a first-name basis) who paid rapt attention to your every word. I can still remember to this day your reference to your “Aunt Tillie in Riverdale,” which had the perfect touch in answer to Judge Pratt’s question. Needless to say, the circuit agreed with Hanson’s position 3-0; I can only imagine the reaction of Roger Aaron and Bob Pirie if it hadn’t!

You have always personified what makes Skadden “Skadden” and continue to do so to this day. Every decision is made with an eye on what is in the best interests of the Firm and staying true to Les Arps’ tradition of “leaving no stone unturned.” Happy anniversary, Barry, and a heartfelt thank you.

With gratitude,

Jay Kasner
Tom Kennedy / Strategic Advisor, Knowledge Strategy / New York

Dear Barry,

Sometime in 1986 or so, I got a call from you: “What the hell are you doing litigating in the Second Circuit?” You, in your weekly review of slip opinions from the court, had noticed me listed as of counsel on an appeal decided by the court and published by West. As I was a fifth-year corporate associate and the decision was potentially problematic, your question was reasonable despite your “pique.” After I managed to explain that as a courtesy for a friend in the Midwest, I had asked the managing clerk’s office to deliver a package I received by FedEx for filing at the court, but in no way had I entered an appearance or assisted in any substantive manner. Your direction was clear, simple and direct: “Get your name and the Firm’s name removed from this opinion immediately.” Luckily, I was able to do so in a few weeks and able to fade back into the woodwork to my quiet life as a corporate associate.

In the years after I made partner in 1989, I often found myself at a Firm lunch or dinner or hiring meeting or retreat in your company, and always enjoyed listening to your evocative stories of the early years of the Firm, regaling the group with stories of Joe, proxy contests and early hostile battles and the cast of characters that forged the early destiny of the Firm. What I most enjoyed was your rare talent of telling the stories in a way that demonstrated the rich culture and core philosophy of the Firm, while always being able to reflect the idiosyncrasies, humor and peculiarities inherent in many of the people and events involved — a true raconteur. In profound ways, much of what I grew to love about the Firm and its history I literally learned from you, for which I remain forever grateful.

All the best,

Tom Kennedy

Herb Kozlov / Former Associate / New York

Dear Barry,

To this day, 35 years after leaving Skadden, I can still hear your deep baritone voice and see extension 253 light up on my phone — summoning me to your office to discuss a matter we were working on together. I was privileged to have joined Skadden, first as a summer associate and then right out of law school in 1977, when SASM&F was still a small firm. I had multiple opportunities to work closely with, and most importantly learn from, you.

You presented as gruff and more than a little bit intimidating, especially to a fledgling lawyer. But in truth, beneath that gruff exterior, you exhibited great warmth, humanity and a keen sense of humor. Indeed, in the spring you would graciously treat me to freshly picked asparagus, I think from your upstate retreat. I never had the heart or courage to tell you I really don’t care for asparagus.

Both as a mentor and a friend, you have had a profound impact on how I practice law and how I try to mentor my colleagues. Your insistence on excellence, the way you related to clients and
made them know that their problems and concerns were your problems and concerns, and your willingness to listen to ideas tossed at you from vastly less experienced lawyers — all have shaped my career.

Barry, thank you for your vast contributions, and congratulations on all you have accomplished, and the many lives and careers you have shaped.

Herb Kozlov

David Margules / Former Associate / Wilmington

Dear Barry,

To me, you were something of an august, professorial type. I was fully aware of your reputation as a formidable litigator, but for the most part you were a distant and imposing presence. I remember well a significant, indirect contact that made a powerful impression (and also provided a story I have retold many times). As a midlevel associate, I was unexpectedly summoned to the office of the Delaware managing partner, Rod Ward. Rod had received a call from you, telling him he needed to do something about the fact that I was working far too much. I was puzzled because while my last month was pretty busy, it wasn’t so bad. Rod handed me the summary of my hours for the month, which showed well over 500 hours billed. I saw that, for some reason, each of my time entries had been doubled.

There are many department chairs who would have looked at the hours and noted only that I had exceeded some unstated minimum. Others might have reacted by hoping I would keep up the pace. Barry, you worried about my welfare and made sure my supervisor took personal responsibility for ensuring that my workload was more reasonable.

In the ‘80s, I often heard Skadden described as a sweatshop. The decency with which you treated those around you was a powerful example of why I always considered that characterization of the Firm to be false.

David Margules

Rob Matlin / Former Associate / New York

Dear Barry,

My three most memorable interactions with you were:

1. Our first meeting at the Federal Bar luncheon, and having the head of the firm that I was leaving drag me over to introduce me and take credit for Skadden stealing his star. You were warm and welcoming and at the same time sizing me up to see if I was worth anything with that Barry look. You concluded with a “we’ll see” comment.
2. Running into you by the doors of 919 because I was late for a holiday dinner with my fiancée’s family, and you started quizzing me about some case. I politely turned and just said “yes” and kept going. I think you were amused that I did not fully stop?

3. In a team meeting where Doug Kraus and Peggy Kerr were telling us that if we thought they were tough and unforgiving, we should have been a young associate when you were the assigning partner. They said you were truly terrifying!

Rob Matlin

Andrew Morrison / Former Associate / New York

Dear Barry:

I always enjoyed our “Barry’s Group” meeting of junior associates. I remember how you explained that we could bill time thinking about a matter even if we were in the shower. Seeing your extension “2500” (I still remember it to this day) on my desk phone always gave me butterflies. I remember one time picking up your call full of nerves and trepidation. You were calling to ask if I would be able to chaperone Hon. Lewis Powell, associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, who was arriving by train to give the first Leslie Arps Memorial Lecture at the City Bar Association. I remember how honored and thrilled I was to be asked by you to represent the Firm in that capacity. I also remember how upset I was that I was out of town on the day of his arrival and could not chaperone him. I never liked to disappoint you. Thank you for your mentorship, guidance and friendship through the years. You are a giant.

Andrew Morrison

Susan Butler Plum / Senior Advisor, Skadden Foundation / New York

Dear Barry,

Since the founding of the Skadden Fellowships, no trustee has had more of a positive impact than you. You were the only one who had experience as a foundation trustee, based on yours at New York Community Trust. Therefore, you were an exemplary role model from Day One. Consequently, every time over the years we wanted to do something difficult like funding two coal miner worker safety projects in contiguous states, we would always say, “Give it to Garfinkel,” and you managed to sell it every time. You never disappointed us, and we are still using the phrase and acting accordingly, 33 years later.

Thank you for your magnificent leadership.

With admiration,

Susan Butler Plum
Dear Barry,

Congratulations on achieving such a momentous milestone — 65 years of service to Skadden Arps and its clients. It is not just the longevity that is extraordinary. It is the high caliber of your lawyering over all those years. I saw it on a hostile takeover when I joined the Firm in 1980, and I saw it again on one of my last matters before I retired in 2018, when you were helping John Gardiner on a complicated international arbitration for Portland General Electric. It was always my pleasure and good luck when I got to work with you.

I wish you all the best and hope that when things return to normal Mark Kaplan will invite all of the over-65 crowd to lunch and I can congratulate you in person.

Wishing you all the best,

Mike Rogan

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Dear Barry,

You have been a mentor, role model and friend since my third day at Skadden. Back at a time when there was no orientation for a new class of associates — one was handed your ID, shown to your office and waited for your first assignment — I remember your sticking your head in my office, offering a warm hello and taking me to my first Thursday attorney lunch. Since then, through your extraordinary legal skills, your unerring sense of what’s right, your commitment to the profession and public interest issues, and your warmth and empathy (evident even when challenging us on our analysis of a legal issue), you’ve set the example that I and thousands of others at Skadden and at large have lived by.

You were the first person who I heard use the term “Skadden family,” always messaging that a big part of what makes the Firm so special is how we care and look out for others here as part of an extended family. You and Gloria extended this concept beyond lawyers to their significant others and children. Whether it was inviting younger lawyers out for dinner or to a cultural event, or writing a letter of recommendation for a child, the two of you were always committed to the broader well-being of others at the Firm. As Skadden has grown, it’s become more challenging to maintain our culture of family (now more often referred to as “community”). But that’s never stopped you and neither should it deter the rest of us.

You’re still one of the first people I turn to if I need to work through a tough legal, ethical or life issue (I remember just a couple of years ago your coming up with a creative solution to a client’s quandary that had eluded the rest of us).

I honor you by trying to live up to your example as a lawyer and person.

Congratulations on 65 spectacular years at Skadden (and please never take “Social Security” instead of remaining here with us)!

Paul Schnell
Scott Seaman / Former Associate / Chicago

Dear Barry,

I first met you in 1987 as a new litigation associate in the Chicago office as part of a Firm-wide litigation training session. You had a profoundly positive impact on my career, demonstrating by example the importance of integrity, preparation and strategy. Over the years, you provided me with sage advice in settling complex cases and in connection with dispositive motions. On top of everything else, you taught me Shakespeare. I still remember one of your favorite sayings, that something was “honored more in the breach than the observance.”

Your generosity in sharing your wisdom, knowledge and technical lawyering skills benefited generations of litigators. The positive impact you have had on Skadden, its lawyers and the legal profession is incalculable.

On this remarkable milestone of your 65th anniversary at Skadden, it is my honor to say thank you, best wishes and congratulations!

Best regards,

Scott Seaman

Pierre Servan-Schreiber / Retired Partner / Paris

Dear Barry,

We first met in the late ‘80s, when as a young French lawyer, I became one of Skadden’s correspondents in Paris. I was already impressed by your stature, voice and warm smile that made your eyes all but disappear in a grin.

My most vivid memory is when you came to visit the Paris office, Barry. It was in the 2010s, probably around 2012 or 2013. I asked you to say a few words to our roughly 25 young attorneys. After having politely declined, you came to the luncheon and told them about your history but mostly about the Firm itself. The Firm that you saw grow from its very early days to the mammoth it has become. I remember seeing in their eyes the definition of awe. When you left the room, I stayed with them for a couple of minutes. They were humbled by your experience, but they felt, like maybe never before, what it meant to be part of the Skadden adventure. And more importantly, they felt that they were a part of it, following your steps from a distance.

Thank you for that, Monsieur Garfinkel!

Pierre Servan-Schreiber
Scott Simpson / Partner / London

Dear Barry,

Kathleen and I were amazed and delighted to learn that this year marks your 65th anniversary with the Firm. It is an extraordinary milestone and an opportunity for the two of us to thank you for all that you have done for us as professionals and also for your (and Gloria’s) friendship throughout the years. It is also a chance to step back and reflect on the powerful force you have been at the Firm.

When I was a young associate in New York, you were an inspiration and always available to give guidance, even if I was a corporate associate and not one of your litigators. After I became a partner, you remained available to me with words of encouragement and invaluable advice, as I built my career in New York and in London. In Kathleen’s case, as a young legal assistant working for you, she remembers fondly how fair and considerate you were as one of her many bosses, notwithstanding your seniority and the many client matters you were juggling.

You and Gloria were always supportive of us and very kind in tracking our family during the years as the kids grew up. You both were part of instilling in all of us across the Firm the notion that Skadden was all about family and all about a collegial and supportive culture. Your first question to me each and every time we met over more than 30 years was, “How is Kathleen, and how are the kids?”

Of the many fond memories I have of conversations with you, my favourite was a phone call more than 25 years ago when you asked me to help you gather support in London so that you could launch your vision for an international arbitration practice. I remember being flattered that you would ask for my help and also being focused on supporting you as best I could and not letting you down. Now, when I look at where your vision took the Firm and the stunning success of that practice, it is impossible not to be impressed with your achievement and the impact you have had. The fact of the matter is that this is only one of many examples of what you have done for the Firm.

Kathleen and I wish you all the very best.

All our love,

Scott and Kathleen Simpson

Mal Wheeler / Former Partner / Los Angeles

Dear Barry,

My warmest congratulations on your 65th year with Skadden Arps and on continuing to contribute to the Firm’s clients and the sound development of law both in the United States and throughout the world. Knowing you and working with you during the years when we were partners was one of the great pleasures of my career, something that I’m sure is similarly felt by scores of other lawyers now spread through the United States and other countries. Thank you for having contributed to my growth as a lawyer.
Best wishes for continuing productivity and great personal happiness in years to come.

Sincerely,

Mal Wheeler

Earle Yaffa / Retired Managing Director / New York

Dear Barry,

It’s been over 40 years since we first met. You were instrumental in recruiting me to the Firm. I particularly remember when you were “assigned” to chaperone a meeting for cocktails with Joe at the top of the Pan Am building. You were pacing throughout our conversation, only hoping that Joe would not mess things up … which he did not. Since that time, we worked together in building a world-class litigation practice, and you were always the Firm’s most loyal cheerleader.

It’s been my privilege to know you.

All the best!

Earle Yaffa
Preeta Bansal / Former Partner / New York

Dear Barry:

I could never have guessed that our first chance meeting would mark the beginning of a 20+ year friendship. I remember so vividly sitting next to you and Gloria in 1999, at the dinner table of former Chief Judge Wilfred Feinberg at the Second Circuit Judicial Conference. I was still relatively new in my role as New York state solicitor general, and you both were like long-lost friends who were so captivating and welcoming. It was the beginning of a personal friendship that continues to this day — through my time at Skadden and then onto D.C., London and thereafter. I’ve so enjoyed the time I’ve spent with you and Gloria at your beautiful place in Hudson Valley, as well as over shared meals in D.C., London and, of course, New York.

To this day, I love receiving news and updates from you about things you know I’ll be interested to hear — I appreciate so much the kindness and attention that you always extend. And above all, I enjoy following and reveling (along with you) in Gloria’s remarkable and beautiful artistry. One of the great honors of my life is to have been offered one of Gloria’s beautiful, colored textured paintings, which I enjoy viewing every single day in my home. It allows me to think of both of you every day. Her commitment and vision have inspired me, throughout my own life, to continue moving beyond surfaces in favor of seeking, in the words of Thoreau, to “live deep[ly] and suck out all the marrow of life.”

What I value above all in you, dear Barry, is not simply your tremendous legal acumen and devotion to your own art of lawyering — but to your and Gloria’s deep sense of personal friendship that transcends the professional. I recall once when one of our mutual friends (a public official at the time) was facing some difficulty. Your first instinct was not to dip into the mill of public speculation and gossip that was so prevalent, but immediately to extend a loving and nonjudgmental heart and listening ear that only a true friend could offer. And you continue to do that — to be a friend first and foremost, a quality that is so rare among those who are at the top of their professions and with such pronounced professional identities.

I’m so grateful for both you and Gloria, and I join so many who have been touched by you — as we join in celebrating your lifetime of contributions to Skadden, to the legal profession and to multiple generations of lawyers!

With gratitude for you, and with warmest wishes,

Preeta Bansal

Jack Butler / Retired Partner / Chicago

Dear Barry:

What an honor to reach out to you to celebrate your 65th anniversary with Skadden!

We first met in a substantive way in early 1990 when Joe Flom, Bob Sheehan, Wayne Whalen and others introduced me to senior leaders across the Firm as I joined as a lateral partner to help
advance Skadden’s distressed M&A and corporate restructuring practice. What I remember from those early days was the thoughtful perspectives you shared about the Firm’s culture and the interaction and orchestration of Skadden’s diverse practices and personalities. That your encouragements and cautions to your colleagues were based (back then) on more than three decades of service dating back to the Firm’s earliest days provided reassuring and thought-provoking context.

Even above those awesome contributions, what I admire most is your very early and innovative focus on alternative dispute resolution. While your achievements in the arbitration world are legendary and iconic measured today looking backwards, the more impressive achievement in my view is that you foresaw the relevance, unmet demand, future utility and profitability of an early-stage practice area that your leadership helped to create, define and grow. The business world values lawyers who can efficiently and effectively resolve disputes. In no small measure, you have taught the business world what we should expect.

Cheers!

With warm regards and appreciation,

Jack Butler

Emily Campbell / Former Associate / New York

Dear Barry,

Congratulations on a milestone anniversary!

You were an excellent mentor for me, during my Skadden tenure from 1994 to 1996. I entered as a lateral hire, and it was the best decision I ever made to join Skadden, as it brought me into contact with great people like you and allowed me to work on significant and complex matters, learning from the best attorneys on the planet. I have two stories that I would like to share that indicate the kind of influence you had on me as a young lawyer that has shaped my career.

First, you recognized my creativity and allowed me to utilize it in my advocacy. In a case for an international client, where we represented the defendant, and the plaintiff was claiming an ongoing fraudulent scheme was occurring, I had drafted the opening line of our motion to dismiss to read, as I recall: “Plaintiff would liken this case to the Eveready Energizer Bunny. It just keeps going and going and going.” And you let me keep it in! That reinforced my writing skills and rewarded me for good storytelling as a means to sway the decisionmaker. I have told that story often, as it spoke volumes about the kind of place that Skadden was; it was hands-down the best large firm I worked with during my training years. I am forever grateful for the opportunity to have been part of your team.

Second, you introduced me to the business side of law as a third-year associate. I received a call from your assistant one morning. “Mr. Garfinkel wants to see you.” Those were the 919 days,
when elevator bank changes were the norm, and young associates have plenty of time to wonder, “Why does he want to see me?” Turned out that you asked me to come up to your office to review a bill and to prepare a billing summary. That bill not only had my time, but also your time and Jeremy Berman’s time. (Jeremy and I have been friends for many years, as we got to know one another well working with you, so you gifted me a great friend along the way to boot!). I didn’t know a single other junior associate at the time being asked to have anything to do with billing, and it gave me a lot of insight into how client relationships are formed and maintained. It no doubt influenced me in my decision to go the entrepreneurial-law route and reinforced my confidence to start my own law firm years later — The Campbell Firm PLLC, which will celebrate its 20th anniversary next year.

Over the years, you and I have been involved in similar causes. We’ve seen one another at charity events. We even served on an AFHU committee to honor Jay Kasner one year. And I’ve always looked forward to seeing you at the Skadden alumni events. You are a constant figure at Skadden and embody all that Skadden is — a meritocracy where best ideas win the day.

You are a gem among attorneys. It is my honor and privilege to have trained with you and to know you. I hope this anniversary is a happy one, and as you look at all the letters singing your praises, I hope that mine will bring a smile to your face, as writing it has made me smile.

Mazel tov!

Emily Campbell

Jim Carroll / Partner / Boston

Dear Barry,

I started my several-decade (i.e., a long weekend by Barry standards) Skadden career in 1990 and only met you in person for the first time a couple years later. But I had already heard plenty about you, mostly from Tom Dougherty, who frequently invoked your name when issues of producing quality work, maintaining the highest ethical standards or general good lawyering arose. (Thousands of times I heard: “Well, Barry Garfinkel would say ...” or “Barry Garfinkel would never ...” or “you better never try that $#&** with Barry.”) Through Tom’s frequent and sometimes rather thunderous invocations, I developed a mental image of you as a legal Paul Bunyan, standing 10-feet tall and adorned by a golden halo radiating all that is right and just and industrious.

And I wasn’t too far off, as I came to appreciate more first hand in the ensuing quarter century or so.

Skadden lawyers of my generation have the benefit of standing on the shoulders of giants. Your shoulders are among the broadest.

Thank you, Barry,

Jim Carroll
Toni Hamburg Clithero / Former Associate / New York

Thank you for your inspiration and support. We worked together on the first SLAPP suit in New York state court, representing *amici* Scenic Hudson *et al. pro bono* in support of the Nature Conservancy, which prevailed in the case. Our diligence and the quality of our briefing was expressly acknowledged by the court. Even better, a great precedent was set that protects environmental and other justice warriors to this day. The very reason many of us became litigators. You were always on point and upbeat, brilliant and witty — a force to be reckoned with. Thank you so much for the experience and the memory.

Toni Hamburg Clithero

Anthony Dreyer / Partner / New York

Dear Barry,

Congratulations on your 65th Anniversary with Skadden. The entire Firm will forever be in your debt, not only for helping to launch and steward a premier litigation powerhouse, but also for instilling in our DNA the highest commitment to our clients and to the practice of law. Skadden would not be the firm it is today without your tireless dedication to the Firm, and your mentorship of so many great Firm leaders, who have passed your ethos on to the next generation of Skadden litigators.

On a personal note, in many ways I owe my career to you. While that may seem like an overstatement, it has the benefit of truth. You may recall that as a rising 2L at Fordham, I did not get an interview with Skadden. Although I made the law review and moot court, my first-year grades were fine, not spectacular.

Disappointed, I confided in my friend Paul — a 3L — that I regretted not having had the opportunity to interview with Skadden. What I did not know at the time, was that Paul’s father just so happened to be the head of litigation at Skadden.

Luckily for me, Paul spoke to you and encouraged you to look at my resume. Even luckier for me, you decided to take time from your hectic schedule to interview me — and luckier still, recommended me for a callback. A few weeks later, I received both a call and a letter from you, congratulating me on being offered a summer position at the Firm. I accepted immediately.

Now, 25 years later, I cannot imagine what my life and career would have been like had you not taken a chance on me. All that I have become as a lawyer can be traced back to the opportunity you gave me. The opportunity to join the Firm and learn how to practice law the right way — with tireless commitment, dedication and integrity. I will be forever grateful.

Regards,

Anthony Dreyer
Dear Barry,

We first met in or around 1997, when I made partner. I enjoyed talking with you at partners’ meetings over the years, but the memory I’d like to share is just a few years old, at a more recent partners’ meeting (perhaps 2018?). You and I ended up talking for about an hour, sitting off at a table by ourselves. I asked you about the old days. With considerable excitement, you regaled me with stories dating back from your first years with the Firm but spanning decades after that to reach current times. I’ve been around long enough to have overlapped with some of the personalities you talked about, but far from all. It was like I tapped into a vein of oral history about Skadden with a world expert! And a very passionate one at that! All for an audience of one.

You made me feel lucky that day to be privileged to be a partner of the greatest law firm in the history of the world. And you made me feel luckier to be able to call you a friend. You are the salt of the earth.

John Estes

Sally Feldman / Director of Global Marketing and Communications / New York

Dear Barry,

Before joining Skadden in 1990, I was, of course, familiar with the name “Barry Garfinkel.” Frankly, I don’t know whether I heard more frequently about your litigation prowess or the fact that you were “terrifying,” but needless to say, I was intimidated at the prospect of meeting you.

However, when Barbara called me down to your office, the Barry Garfinkel who greeted me was warm and welcoming, if a bit gruff. And you have been wonderful to me, and exceedingly supportive of the Marketing Department ever since. Whereas many partners are quick to alert us to their wins and recognition, whenever you call, it’s about someone else’s good news or an accolade for the Firm as a whole. This spirit of generosity is also clear in your mentoring of so many — numerous partners have quoted you over the years in explaining the right way something should be done — and your countless hours as a Skadden Foundation trustee, on the PLI board and at the NYC Bar Association.

It is an honor to work for and with you, Barry. Many congratulations on your 65th anniversary with the Firm. And congratulations to Skadden; we’re beyond lucky to have you!

Sally Feldman
Dear Barry:

When I began as an associate in Skadden’s litigation department in the fall of 1994, I felt the awe and excitement of starting my legal career at one of the world’s preeminent law firms. But I also felt like a new kid on the block trying to get my bearings.

One thing that gave me comfort during that very innocent stage of my career was the mentorship that you offered junior litigation associates through the breakfasts that you led. I was touched that, out of your love for the law and desire to train new lawyers, you volunteered to act as our guiding light. During those breakfasts, you conveyed not only the rules of the road but also the solemn duty we had to act with professionalism and excellence in all our endeavors.

I will never forget you telling us that being the toughest litigator did not mean yelling. It didn’t mean cursing during a deposition or being disrespectful to opposing counsel.

I remember you saying that if you are strong, work hard and make the best case, you will usually prevail — all while acting professionally. The late Chief Judge Judith Kaye had helped spearhead standards of civility, and you read them to us. You looked up at us, paused and asked us to take these words very seriously. I thank heavens that when I was in my early 20s, you warned us that boorish machismo was not the way to prevail or feel good about being a litigator. Even today, at age 53, when I am about to lose my temper with an unfair or unwise opposing counsel, I often bite my tongue, think of you and think of how to outsmart the adversary the right way.

Those lessons and that commitment to strive to find the best case, the best theory, the best strategy — all within the bounds of ethical fair play — run with me still. It was your words of wisdom and your serious commitment to the law that helped me to realize all my dreams, becoming a partner at a major firm and ultimately co-founding my own boutique litigation law firm.

The success of Skadden’s litigation department and its alumni are certainly in large part the result of the truly extraordinary partners who led the way, most notably you — one of Skadden’s legendary attorneys. I will always remember Skadden for the incredible diversity of backgrounds of its attorneys, who shared the common spirit and philosophy that we were part of a Firm that truly was among the handful of top firms on the planet, and who were going to change the world.

Barry, I am lucky to have had you as a mentor during my amazing years at Skadden. I am blessed to have sat for years next to a legend, listening and learning, and taking to heart that if I tried my hardest and brought the “Skadden excellence” to everything I did, I could not only reach for the sky, but soar. Thank you, Barry. Don’t ever stop!

With love and deepest respect,

Tom M. Fini
Dear Barry,

If there is a heart and voice that defines Skadden, they are yours. There are many Skadden legends responsible for its development into a legal juggernaut — some, like its mastermind Joe Flom, I had the privilege of working with. But for me, you are and will always be the resonant and powerful voice I hear in my head when I think Skadden and the sometimes masked, but radiant and concerned heart that I feel.

By the time I came to Skadden and began working with you in 1999, you had already forged a hall of fame career as a litigator and a founder of the blossoming international arbitration group. You were as you are today, a Skadden cornerstone. Hard to believe that in the 20-plus years since, I have now retired and you march on. I count myself lucky to be one of your adopted “Skadchildren” and friends whose career and personal paths you nurtured. In this respect, it was not simply the new associates, whose coffee klatches I was pleased to participate in with you, but partners and others. A prime example was the late Judge Judith Kaye. A legal titan and trailblazer in her own right, in my eyes Judith would never have been so successful at Skadden if not for your ever-present advice, support and friendship.

Of the many memories I have, professional and personal with you — including celebratory and functional dinners, Gloria’s art exhibits, meeting your kids and the painful loss of your son David — there are a few that stand at the forefront. Of the many wonderful and wild rides I had at Skadden, Elektrim will always be among the few at the very top of the list. The list of characters and memories from that case alone could fill a scrapbook and then some. A few of ours stand out. We flew to London together approximately a week before the first round of hearings. I had not slept in a day and a half, in part drafting an opening statement for you to deliver. As we sat down in business class, I looked forward — mistakenly — to relaxing and falling asleep for a good portion of the flight. I can hear your bass-baritone voice to this day: “Let’s get a glass of wine and pull out the opening statement. I liked it, but we need to hit their (Pennecom’s) fraud even harder.” For the next three-plus hours, we revamped the opening statement, with me as scribe using multicolored pens to edit the hard copies, added the word “FRAUD” after almost every factual declarative sentence and drank several more glasses of wine. You smiled, and proclaimed: “That is a great start. Now we should get an hour or two of sleep before we land.” After Bob Davidson opened for Pennecom by calling Elekrim’s actions “the most egregious breach of contract I’ve ever seen,” you stood and in booming voice you responded, “Fraud … fraud, fraud, fraud; there is no breach of contract when the contract is induced by fraud.”

Our third round of hearings, the first closing arguments, was conducted in Puymirol, France, on July 4th weekend. After prepping in London for two weeks, we flew to Toulouse. The attached
photo depicts our slimmed down travel team at the Toulouse airport — you, me, Brady Priest, Kim, John and Joanne. Puymirol was another two and a half hours’ drive away. The location was so obscure that the stenographers and their equipment were unable to get there; the temperature for closing argument was 104 degrees, with no air conditioning. You, John and I did it in slacks and shirts.

Seven months later, our fourth round of hearings, on damages, concluded in New York. As the witnesses finished, the tribunal — Philippe de Coulin, Bob Sisk and Hans Smid — told us to give our closing arguments right then. You gave me one instruction: “Brooklyn. Let ‘em have Brooklyn.” An associate at the time, I took your license to heart when my section of the closing took place; it was among the most fun arguments in my Skadden career. When we finished and left the hearing room, you came up to me. It remains one of my most prized Skadden memories. You beamed, a huge smile on your face, gave me a bear hug and told me, “That was great. That was Brooklyn all the way.” To this day, I can still feel that hug and the glow I felt from it.

Happy 65th anniversary, Barry. I am humbled and very, very proud to call you my friend, partner and mentor.

From my heart, all the best,

Jonathan Frank

Joanne Gaboriault / Former Associate / New York

Dear Barry,

I am delighted to take the opportunity of your 65th anniversary at Skadden to convey my deep appreciation for all that you have contributed to my life as a lawyer. From getting me an interview at Skadden, to your mentoring of first-year litigation associates, to working with you on the PenneCom case as a first- and second-year associate, I learned so much from you.

Working with your outstanding team on the PenneCom case was truly the experience of a lifetime. I learned that, no matter how grim a case may appear at first, with superlative lawyering, we could prevail. Reading our post-hearing brief recently, it struck me how much I learned about the process of weaving together the research and discovery into exhibits and argument and what a tremendous amount of great work our team accomplished. And what a cast of characters! The hearings in London and working out of our London office after the hearings each day was exhilarating. And then our adventures in Puymirol for the closing arguments were unforgettable and beyond my wildest dreams. It was inspiring the way you and John presented such compelling closing arguments. You are the best! I have the photo Gloria took of the team in the Toulouse airport on my desk. It always makes me smile.

I am eternally grateful for your generous mentoring, your kindness and your appreciation of my work. Congratulations, and best wishes on your 65th anniversary.

Affectionately,

Joanne Gaboriault
**Angela Garcia** / Former Partner / New York

Dear Barry,

Congratulations on your 65th anniversary with Skadden! Although it has been more than 14 years since I left the Firm, the singular experience of knowing and working with you remains fresh in my mind. Your energy was boundless, your insights were unfailingly spot-on and your dedication to serving the best interest of the client was unwavering. Working with you required us to be constantly on our toes. And yet, amidst the hustle and bustle of law firm work, you always took the time to provide younger attorneys like me your guidance, support and friendship. For all that and more, I shall be forever grateful.

Angela Garcia

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**Jonathan Goldblatt** / Former Associate / New York

Dear Barry:

Congratulations on the incredible achievement of reaching 65 years at Skadden Arps.

I recall distinctly first meeting you at a training session for Skadden summer associates in 1992. You appeared straight out of Hollywood casting, oozing with old-school class, gravitas and wisdom, as you explained the art of billing to us aspiring attorneys. In your legendary booming, authoritative voice, you prescribed, “If you’re thinking about a case on the john, you bill that!”

I had the privilege and pleasure of working with and learning from you throughout my Skadden career, including on several litigations involving the Unanue family (“Oh, Boy-a”). You were effective, savvy, practical and client-focused. But also charming, honorable, generous with your time and wisdom, and a true gentleman, who was treated like royalty when I was fortunate enough to accompany you to court or to the Bar Association. (No offense to Mr. Flom, but you were hardly a sewer rat!)

While some may decry a 65-year tenure at the same Firm as the mere product of inertia and indecision, I suspect it has more to do with your investment in and loyalty to your profession, your Firm and your partners.

Best wishes,

Jonathan Goldblatt

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**Michael Hatchard** / Retired Partner / London

There was a great deal to assimilate to when joining Skadden in 1994, especially for a Brit. The overwhelming recollection of a broad-based warm welcome is highlighted by individual cameos of which a standout example was first engagement with Barry and Gloria. Gloria
was busy with installing art for our meeting rooms in London, while Barry was demandingly enquiring about individual members of the British judiciary that I would presumably/should know, intimate details surrounding a variety of cross-border proceedings, all charged with warmth, energy and permeating massive ability. Always hugely engaging and informed, you are an icon, Barry. It is no surprise but absolutely a signature moment to be celebrating your 65th year with the Firm.

Happy anniversary, congratulations and thank you.

As ever,

Michael Hatchard

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**Keith Krakaur / Retired Partner / New York**

Dear Barry,

It was November 1994, and I had just come to Skadden from the U.S. Attorney’s Office. Back then, there were weekly 8 a.m. “coffee klatches” for the New York litigators, including the then-tiny White Collar Group. There were a few regulars, but you were the lynchpin. It wasn’t about the coffee: It was about sharing updates about what everyone was working on, about who knew whom. It was about the occasional idea for a legal argument or a connection that could lead to an opportunity for new business or a new hire. It was about developing personal relationships with each other, so the professional relationships could grow, sometimes around the margins, sometimes more meaningfully.

Your tone and unfailing presence conveyed the same basic message each week that you had conveyed when we first met in the summer of 1977, when I was a legal assistant: It’s the people and the relationships that make the Firm. You were always at the coffee klatches, and you’ve (almost) always been at Skadden. I’m sure you didn’t know it, but your influence made me a better lawyer.

Thank you, and congratulations on your 65th Skadden anniversary. Truly an incredible milestone.

Keith Krakaur

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**Lea Haber Kuck / Partner / New York**

Dear Barry,

Congratulations on achieving this milestone! The Firm has been incredibly fortunate to have had your unwavering devotion for these many years. Not only have you always embodied the best of the Skadden culture, but you have worked tirelessly to instill it in the lawyers coming after you. We have all benefitted tremendously from your efforts.
Some of my earliest memories of joining the Firm are from the “Barry breakfasts,” always held at 8:30 a.m. (an ungodly hour for an associate, but worth making the effort to attend in order to avoid the inevitable call from Barbara seeking an explanation for the absence). These meetings instilled in new associates the core values of the Firm, including for “upper margin work” and responding immediately to clients (and partners), and educated us in the history of the Firm. I knew that I had made it when I was invited to address the group myself. I also fondly recall how you championed associates at bar dinners and the annual Federal Bar Council pre-Thanksgiving lunch, always going out of your way to proudly introduce us to judges and other luminaries of the bar.

Thank you for your vision and commitment to building our international arbitration practice. My first international law experience (and still one of the most interesting) was working with you and John Gardiner on Pierre Talenti's attempt to invoke the Hickenlooper Amendment to obtain redress for the expropriation of his property in Italy. Although many other interesting cases followed, my most recent memory of working with you, after the practice had become one of the most highly regarded in the world, is when you generously agreed to moot us as we prepared for hearings in the Docomo/Tata case. Of course, your first question was the one question for which we had not yet come up with an answer.

Although the world and the practice of law have changed tremendously over the past 65 years, the core values that you have sought to instill in all of us will remain critical to our future success.

You have been an integral part of my time at the Firm, and I am grateful to have this opportunity to congratulate you and personally thank you for your many years of support and mentorship.

With warmest regards,

Lea Haber Kuck

J. Mark Lane / Former Associate / New York

Dear Barry,

When I first started at Skadden in 1990, I was pretty quickly assigned to work with you on something. I thought you were a grumpy old man. I soon learned, however, that just beneath that sometimes gruff exterior was a kind and generous person, an old-school lawyer who cared about his work and, more importantly, about the young lawyers in his charge. You wanted us to be tough, but you also taught us, by your example, to be thoughtful, ethical and compassionate. Over the six years I was there, I worked with you a lot, and I truly enjoyed it.

In the years since, I have thought of you often and wondered how you were doing. I have run my own law firm now for going on three decades, and your example continues to be a part of who I am, professionally and personally. I am deeply grateful for that.

Happy anniversary, sir! And thank you.

J. Mark Lane
Dear Barry,

My earliest memories of you include your well-known oratorical voice, people around the Firm calling you “Mr. Garfinkel” and, of course, our first-year litigation breakfasts. You would hold monthly breakfasts for first-year litigators and those of us coming back from a clerkship. Each month would be a different topic of interest or a “guest” from somewhere at the Firm to help us learn the ropes. You still lead those first-year litigation meetings today (although no longer at 8:00 a.m., as I guess we’ve become a kinder and gentler place)! To say the least, you were intimidating to a young lawyer. I recall one such breakfast where the guest in the hotseat was a woman from the records center. You turned to her and asked her something along the lines of, “If I had a case from 1978 and can only remember one of the names, how long would it take you to get the files to my office?” Remember, this was before email. The woman responded, “I can have it for you the next day.” We, the new associates, were all impressed. But not you. You responded along the lines of, “How can we do our work, if it takes 24 hours to get our files back!” The truth is that we learned the Skadden ethos from the stories you told during those breakfasts: upper margin work, responsiveness, teamwork and all you have is your integrity, which should never be sacrificed for any client.

Your stories continued and always provided a unique vantage point into the history of the Firm, whether they were about Judge Weinfeld (you mentioned to me Judge Weinfeld’s fondness for Judge Mishler, for whom I clerked) or how you got to Skadden (meeting in Joe Flom’s office for a double date while you were clerking) or chairing the Second Circuit Conference. As a junior lawyer, I always marveled how, when walking into a Federal Bar Council event with you, everyone from judges to practitioners seemed to know you and you knew them. I once asked you how that happens, and you encouraged me to join the Federal Bar Council, the City Bar and other organizations. It was one of my greatest honors when you asked me to co-chair with you the Les Arps lecture at the City Bar. And when you took me to lunch to congratulate me on being named head of the New York Litigation Group, I kept thinking, “How did this junior lawyer from a Barry breakfast get to a position once held by Barry?” While impossible to fill your shoes, I am humbled and privileged to know I am doing my small part to carry on that Skadden ethos that you taught us so well.

With fond appreciation,

Scott Musoff
Dear Barry,

The format of this occasion (reminiscent letters looking back on the years) is a little out of place for me, since you and I have been and remain in close professional contact, not to mention neighborly contact as fellow residents of the Hudson Valley. In any event, I hope you and Gloria remain well.

Although all of your decades at Skadden are special in their own right, I would like to focus on a relatively recent era, namely, the 1990s — and, in particular, your wisdom at that time in foreseeing the explosion of cross-border disputes work. What was an occasional trickle of interesting, sometimes even obscure, work has now become a steady flow of high-margin disputation, a phenomenon coinciding with the new global economy. Your case flow in the 1980s and 1990s, including the *Meiji Milk*, *Cemex v. Lafarge* and *Unanue* cases, not to mention the famous Mossad spy book case, presaged the current-day practice of international litigation and arbitration.

In our own short time together this century, this practice has taken the two of us to various strange and wonderful places, including hearings in Singapore, Paris, Washington, D.C. and, of course, several epic international arbitration battles here in Manhattan itself. I always have enjoyed your good cheer and camaraderie in the trenches as well as your fine selection of restaurants — Chez André in Paris seems to have a table with your initials carved in it (but still, if it’s all the same, I will skip the frogs’ legs; you have a stronger constitution on that score).

Perhaps most importantly, your nurturing of this practice area created opportunities for any number of aspiring young Skadden attorneys and international visiting attorneys — now collectively a “Who’s Who” of the current-day leading practitioners across the world.

You saw the future and decided to become part of it. I can think of no finer tribute.

Kind regards,

Tim G. Nelson

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Susan Saltzstein / Partner / New York

Dear Barry —

Congratulations on your 65th anniversary at the firm. My first recollection of life at Skadden was one that I shared with you. It was 1991, and a group of 12 newly minted and nervous law school graduates sat around a conference room table in a room without windows at 919 Third. You were in charge of training us — and train us you did. You lectured us on billing practices (some of those
lessons — “make sure you’re capturing your time even if you’re thinking about a matter in the shower” — may be from a bygone era); how to use the library (Carrie at your side, drilling us on our Shepardizing skills); how to dress (Irene Sullivan had some interesting notions of “skirts vs. pants” and their “appropriate” lengths); upper-margin work (expected, always); and how ethics were sacrosanct, never to be compromised.

I left that week-long session with a set of guiding principles that I have carried with me until this day. It was the best training from a fabulous lawyer, someone who lived what he preached. And you championed finding ways to make the Firm a better place and had the vision to see emerging practice areas accepted and promoted (international arbitration) within the Firm. Our International Arbitration Group grew from the support that you provided to it. You gave of your time to see that practice blossom into the powerhouse that it is today.

You are the embodiment of the history of litigation at Skadden, Arps. And I am proud and honored to call you my partner.

All the best,

Susan Saltzstein

Peter Simshauser / Former Partner / New York

Congratulations on yet another remarkable milestone in an exemplary legal career filled with so many signature achievements. It was a true honor and pleasure to work with you, Ken Bialkin and Marco Schnabl, and with dear Frank Rothman, on the Generali matters. I learned so much from you about what outstanding lawyering entails, and more importantly about exhibiting grace under extraordinary pressure and always doing the right thing (even when not always expedient or popular). And what a thrill it was to be on the winning side of 5-4 U.S. Supreme Court opinion, with Justices Scalia and Ginsberg aligned in dissent! Barry, thank you especially for your devotion and contributions to the Skadden Fellowship Foundation. Among an incredible group of trustees, you have always stood out for both the painstaking care with which you review and select the Fellows, and also for always basing your selections entirely on merit (as Joe always insisted the yardstick should be). Sandee and I send you our absolute best wishes for the coming years and for more of these anniversaries, and may God bless you and yours always.

Peter Simshauser
Dear Barry,

Congratulations on this fantastic milestone of 65 years at the Firm! Whenever I see you, I am always impressed by your deep knowledge on, and avid interest in, the Asia practice, as well as the trends in international arbitration and legal practice generally in this part of the world. I was particularly delighted to be told by a senior litigator in Singapore a couple of years ago that he thinks “very highly of the Skadden Firm, not least because of the citation by a justice of the Supreme Court of Singapore of an article by the great Barry Garfinkel and David Herlihy.” The judge in that case felt your criticism of the Second Circuit’s decision in Sarhank Group v. Oracle Corporation had “considerable force.” We can truly say your stellar reputation reaches around the globe. All the best for many years to come!

Jonathan Stone
'00s–'20s
Chiann Bao / Former Asia Pacific Counsel / Hong Kong

Dear Barry,

We met for the first time in December 2003 at Skadden's offices for a hearing in which you served as presiding arbitrator and I was then tribunal secretary for Neil Kaplan, one of the co-arbitrators in the matter. As a young aspiring arbitration practitioner assisting a member of the tribunal, you always included me in the conversation and engaged with me as an equal. This was my first arbitration, and it made quite an impression on me to have the opportunity to participate with such experienced and senior arbitrators. Fifteen years later, when I joined Skadden’s Hong Kong office, once again, you welcomed me to the practice and checked in from time to time. During one visit to New York, I remember attending the New York litigation/arbitration practice lunch, and again, you welcomed me to the office and made me feel part of the team.

While our interactions have been limited, each one has been meaningful to me, and I am grateful for the time you took to engage and open your door to me. Many congratulations on 65 years at Skadden. May you continue doing what you love doing, and I hope that our paths will cross again before long.

Warm regards,

Chiann Bao

Julie Bédard / Partner / New York

Dear Barry, dear mentor,

Do you know how impactful my visits to your office have been over the years? How many times did I visit you fearing your critique and leaving a better lawyer for having heard your constructive comments, emboldened by the sense that you thought that “I could do it.” You communicated to me that all I had to do was simply focus, and I could rise to the challenge. You could see me going farther than I could.

Do you recall that you even gave me one of your speaking engagements and, again, you said: “You can do it.” I recall having to repeat to myself that if you said so, it must be so, even in the face of the reaction of disbelief of the moderator and the other (older and so much more experienced) members of the panel when a young woman showed up to join them instead of the legendary Barry Garfinkel. (You apparently had not seen fit to warn them about the switch.)

Do you remember that you taught me what is a Skadden draft? To this day, I share with associates what you told me about the expectations of a Skadden partner for the work product of an associate, that a draft is in fact a finished product that the associate would be ready to file. Such a simple and yet powerful teaching, inviting us to apply ourselves and give our best.

Do you realize that you are the strongest man I know? I leave aside the astounding fact that you have kept your interest and seemingly have so much stamina as to all legal things. There is one
particular memory that never fails to make me smile about our trip to Singapore with Timothy (many have heard this story). The vivid image comes back to my mind of Timothy and me, who were visibly exhausted after a 20-hour trip. Meanwhile, you just wanted to go out for drinks and dinner and discuss our strategy for the meeting with the client the next day.

You do see, I think, that you have an acute sense of time? What a punctual man you are, always arriving on time and complaining about others (mostly Marco and John) being late. To this day, you never seem to want to spend a minute more than is needed on anything. Will I dare add that you can be somewhat impatient when you want a question answered? How many times did you call my office line and then proceed to immediately page me, seeing that I did not pick up? I was on a client call, of course, listening anxiously to the loud sound of my name on the speaker and scratching my head as to how I would ever be able to meet the expectations of clients and Skadden partners at the same time.

What a tremendous privilege to be part of such a large group of lawyers at the Firm whom you have trained and inspired.

Merci.

Julie Bédard

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Jennifer Cabrera / Former Associate / New York

Dear Barry,

I don’t know if you will remember me, but I will always be grateful to you for giving me an early career break. I met you when I started in Skadden’s litigation department in 2006. You invited new associates to stop by and introduce themselves to you, and I took you up on the offer. I told you I wanted to join the Arbitration Group (which was very exclusive), and you invited me to join the arbitration meetings. I worked with that group for four years and maintain those friendships to this day. I remember once talking to you about the Firm’s work for the owners of Goya Foods and referenced a funny headline (“Area Mother Displays Extensive Goya Collection”) I once read on the website The Onion. I think I printed out a copy for you! It’s not the funniest joke, but it reminds me of you.

Congratulations on your work anniversary, and I wish you many happy years to come.

Jennifer Cabrera
Irene Ten Cate / Former Associate / New York

Dear Barry,

I am in a conference room with spectacular city views. On my plate are a handful of rugelach cookies, a bagel with a light layer of cream cheese (no American quantities for me) and a bunch of grapes. Not a morning person, I arrived at Four Times Square just in time for the 8 a.m. breakfast meeting for new litigation associates. You make eye contact with each associate, then ask, rather brusquely, “Is everyone still gainfully employed?” All of us nod nervously. During the onboarding process, we had been instructed to call everyone by their first names, with two exceptions: Mr. Flom and Mr. Garfinkel. You introduce us to the guest speaker, one of the librarians. She is calm, competent and obviously very fond of you. I notice a twinkle in your eyes and start breathing more easily.

Over the next few years, you rope me into several international arbitration matters and a fascinating pro bono case in which we represent Mass MOCA. You also encourage my interest in scholarship, mailing reprints of my student note to your network and sending me to international arbitration conferences. At one point, I realize that while you are still a towering figure at the Firm and in the international arbitration world, you have also become a mentor to me. I start calling you Barry. Shortly before I leave Skadden for an academic fellowship, you recruit me to present at, fittingly, another 8 a.m. breakfast meeting. It is part of a series titled “Brainy Thursdays” and attended by international dispute resolution attorneys from offices around the world. The idea I present will, over the course of the next year, turn into a law review article.

Thank you, dear Barry, for getting me involved in challenging and rewarding work. Thank you for modeling what it means to be a lawyer who keeps an open mind about the facts and the law. Thank you for putting your trust in me at a time when, as a non-native speaker who had only recently moved to the United States, I didn’t always believe in myself. Most of all, thank you for making me laugh and for teaching me that I can be serious about my work without taking myself too seriously.

Irene Ten Cate

John Gaffney / Former Associate / London

Dear Barry,

I can recall in July 2007 attending an arbitration retreat in the London office of Skadden Arps, where I had just begun working with the Firm’s arbitration team. As I entered the reception area at 40 Bank Street, I observed this gentleman in what appeared to be hiking boots, with a bulging shoulder bag slung across his back, presenting his ID. He looked quite out of place in the imposing corporate surroundings, until he turned around. It was the legendary Barry Garfinkel! A few years earlier, you had interviewed me in your office on 919 Third Avenue for a foreign associate role in a series of rapid, penetrating, staccato questions. Sometimes when one meets towering figures
in one’s field, they can disappoint. Not you. I left your office with an even stronger desire to work
with Skadden, Arps. Congratulations on your 65th anniversary — what an amazing milestone!

With my best wishes,

John Gaffney

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Cristina Miller-Ojeda Hagglund / Former Associate / New York

Dear Barry,

What a pleasure it was to hear from Lea and learn about this collection of submissions in honor
of your 65 years at Skadden. In keeping with your prodigious advice to keep things focused and
tightly written, I am reminded of my favorite anecdote of our time together, which took place in
the late spring of 2012, and had absolutely nothing to do with the law.

The Rangers had made the playoffs for the first time, and you and Mark went to as many games
as possible to see your team play. I was fortunate to attend a couple of games and was absolutely
riddled with excitement from what was the most electric sporting atmosphere I had ever
witnessed. During one of the intermissions, as we sat next to one another conversing about the
game, I asked you when you became a hockey fan. In your inimitable voice, full of both pride and
a lingering sense of betrayal, you stated that you’d been a fan, “since the Dodgers left Brooklyn.”
What a remark! It felt like witnessing a piece of living history, which as you can see, I have never
forgotten.

I hope you continue very well, Barry, and wish you many more such anniversaries at the Firm ... as
well as many more Rangers playoff wins!

Fond regards,

Cristina Miller-Ojeda Hagglund

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James Hope / Former Counsel / London

Dear Barry,

Sometimes it is the little comments that mean the most.

I joined Skadden’s London office as a young associate in January 2001. Those were exciting days
at the start of the London dispute resolution practice, but it was also difficult and quite intimidating.
The work was hard, the days were long and some colleagues were difficult to work with.
However, one particular memory stands out. I had been working on a complicated issue concerning a multijurisdictional dispute about a gas field in the South China Sea. The New York, London and Los Angeles offices were all involved. I sent my memo late at night in London, and in the morning I received a short email from you in reply. You thanked me for an excellent piece of work. It meant so much to me that you bothered to do that.

Thank you for always being a gentleman and an inspiration. Congratulations on a very special anniversary.

With my best wishes,

James Hope

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Rich Marmaro / Retired Partner / Los Angeles

Dear Barry,

I first met you in early 2006, when I joined Skadden. My brother Marc knew you for many years from your service together on the PLI Board. Marc told me that I must search you out and introduce myself, because you were not only a great lawyer and giant in the New York bar, you were also a terrific human being.

And, from the day I met you, I knew my brother’s assessment was spot on. While we were on separate coasts most of the time, I regularly heard from you to support and encourage me on my most complicated litigations, or just to forward something of interest, usually related to the high ethical standards lawyers should maintain.

You are indeed a terrific lawyer, a giant of the bar and, most importantly a wonderful human being. Congratulations on your 65th anniversary at Skadden.

Best regards,

Rich Marmaro

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Peter Morrison / Partner / Los Angeles

Dear Barry,

In 2000, when I had just arrived at the Firm following a clerkship, I was introduced to Breakfast With Barry. For my entire first year, I would come in early and listen to you teach us about all aspects of litigation and what it means to be a Skadden lawyer. You were one of the first people to help me understand what it meant to work here and how special an opportunity it was and continues to be even more than two decades later. When you think back on all of your wonderful years at the Firm, I hope you will pause to think about all of the people whose careers you put on
the right path by investing your time and energy. There could not be a more important legacy, and I am privileged to have benefited from it. Let me simply say thank you, Barry, for all you have done for all of us for so long.

With gratitude,

Peter Morrison

Karyl Nairn / Partner / London

Dear Barry,

I first encountered you at Tylney Hall in 1995, when you stood up in a circle of around 40 arbitrators to address a complex problem on discovery in arbitration. After your thoughtful contribution, everyone in the old library nodded appreciatively, and the microphone was thereafter automatically passed to you to answer all the trickier procedural questions. I realized then that you must be one of the famous Great and the Good of the arbitration world that I had heard about from Bertie Vigrass at the LCIA. I remember how you encouraged the younger practitioners to speak up and how generous you were with sharing your knowledge and experience with the group, including a slightly nervous woman lawyer attending her first LCIA symposium (yep, that was me). Later, in 2003, I had the privilege to join the international arbitration practice you had founded at Skadden. You made me feel incredibly welcome right from the outset. Your collegial spirit, enthusiasm for the Firm and commitment to building the very best global practice set the tone for our arbitration group. We have seen it grow under your wise guidance to the international powerhouse it is today. Your example continues to inspire both the young and not so young lawyers. Everything I love about our Firm is in you. I am proud to be your partner. I wish you a very happy 65th anniversary at the Firm.

Best wishes,

Karyl Nairn

Darren Rosenblum / Former Associate / New York

Dear Barry,

As you’ll recall, we worked together from 2000-03, doing international arbitration. In every meeting we shared, you were incredibly sharp and I always learned from you. The funny part is that you and I had the same trainer at the Skadden gym, Liza, around the same time of day. I would walk in and see you bench pressing impressive weights. For years, I thought, “If Barry can do this, surely I can push myself harder.” At every level, you were an inspiration.

Best,

Darren Rosenblum
Dear Barry,

I wish to join your many friends and admirers in wishing you a happy 65th year of service to Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP.

I have a distinct memory of your warm and generous welcome to me when I was elected to the Skadden partnership in 2003. As you will remember, you represented the late Sondra Gilman for many years. In a true small-world event, Sondra was the stepmother to my close personal friend, Celso Gonzalez-Falla. You immediately made the connection and my reception at Skadden was made all the world better by your seeking me out and sharing our connection.

I did not know it at the time, but I came to know that both you and Sondra had deep connections and a sophisticated understanding of the New York art world. One time when I was at Sondra’s townhouse in the heart of Manhattan, I looked up and asked Celso, “Is that what I think it is?” “Yes,” he said, “that is a Warhol of Sondra.” I knew then I was not in Brenham, Texas, anymore.

I fondly remember the many great tuna-fish lunches you and I shared when I was in New York. I sincerely appreciate the many hospitalities shown to me, and they are genuinely remembered.

Here is to many more great years for you and for Skadden.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Schwartz

Anke Sessler / Partner / Frankfurt

Dear Barry,

We met for the first time in the spring of 2014, when I travelled to New York to introduce myself as a new partner. You were — together with Judge Kaye — one of the first people I met at our New York office, and we met several times again at partner meetings and on other occasions. You were always very friendly, approachable and helpful. Your enthusiasm for both Skadden and dispute resolution gushed from your every pore and came across immediately. Your dedication and warmth is compelling, particularly for newcomers like me. You make Skadden special and are definitely one of the reasons I am proud to be a Skadden partner.

Anke Sessler
Jennifer L. Smith / Former Associate / New York

Dear Barry,

Congratulations on achieving this incredible milestone! You are an institution unto yourself, an inspiration to countless lawyers and legal professionals, and an all-around credit to the practice of law. Not to mention a formidable Skadden historian. So many of us lucky enough to call you colleague have enjoyed the privilege of your wise counsel as well as the added benefit of your firsthand knowledge of foundational Skadden lore. You are extremely generous with both.

Truly some of my fondest memories of 4 Times Square involve arriving in the morning to find you and Judge Kaye deeply engaged in one of your frequent chats. Two titans of the legal world, discussing pressing legal issues before most of the rest of the world was awake. I hope you know how deeply she valued those chats and appreciated your guidance.

You are one of a kind.

With admiration and good cheer,

Jennifer L. Smith

Antoine Tinnion / Former Associate / New York

In the early 2000s, you and John Gardiner were defending an international arbitration claim worth US$150 million involving a telecommunications company. The claimant’s case was overwhelming, and there was no prospect of avoiding a finding of liability. Your and John’s client offered US$90 million to settle the case, but the settlement offer was rejected, the claimant keen to get the whole US$150 million. In the event, the arbitration judge found in favour of the claimant (as anticipated) but accepted your and John’s arguments on damages and awarded the claimant only US$40 million — US$50 million less than the defendant had offered to settle the claim. You, John and the client were all delighted by the outcome — I distinctly remember you laughing about it, and telling me, “Not only is Skadden the best at winning lawsuits, we are also the best when it comes to losing them as well!”

Antoine Tinnion