



Rob McKenna
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON

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November 2, 2006

Mr. Val Foubert
29876 12th Avenue SW
Federal Way, WA 98023

Dear Mr. Foubert:

Our mutual friend, Jeff Martine, wrote to me recently to update me on your move to Federal Way. His letter brought back many fond memories of my time as one of your students at Sammamish High School in the late 1970s. In particular, I recall the Junior/Senior Humanities course you taught which remains my favorite high school course.


You were one of the finest teachers I had in high school, a school that was blessed with many excellent teachers. What distinguished you, in my experience, was your passion for the subject matter, combined with the rigor of your instructional methods. Your passion for literature and philosophy was infectious; I remain an admirer of Camus and the existentialists because you exposed me to them. Your demanding, meticulous approach to writing benefits me to this day, positively influencing everything I write and edit, from letters to Supreme Court briefs.

My professional success owes a great deal to my education. My education was immeasurably enriched by your teaching. Now, I find myself passing along some of those same lessons to my children and to my colleagues. (Ask any of them and they will confirm that I will not tolerate "got" or "get" in their writing!). What a great gift to all of us is your legacy of passion for the humanities and demand for excellence.

You once told your class a story about a college paper you wrote during summer session, entitled "A Basket of Summer Fruit". Your professor criticized the title as frivolous. I've always believed that the professor was too harsh in his judgment, and I know that the countless students who passed through your classroom, to the full extent of their accomplishments and achievements, represent the real fruit of your labors.

Please accept my best wishes for health and happiness, and my most heartfelt thanks for the gifts I have received from you.

Sincerely,


ROB MCKENNA
Attorney General

RMM/jlg

cc: Jeff Martine