

behalf. It was so glowing, he was so generous with his praise, that I would have been embarrassed to read it—but for a rubber stamp across the text. In big, red block letters it read “BULLSHIT!” I can just hear that laugh of his. It went something like “mmmmmm.”

Penny A. Hazelton*

What's in a Name?

¶1 There are some people in this profession that you just cannot call by their first name. That assumes, of course, that the first name is the one they want to be called by in the first place! The person may have no expectation of formal salutation, but still, using their first name is, well . . . impossible.

¶2 Joseph Myron Jacobstein was one of those people to me. He was, after all, the author of one of *the* legal research textbooks in our business, and he was the director of the law library at Stanford University. He had been president of AALL. That makes him untouchable by mere mortals, right? Previous to coming to Stanford he was the law librarian at the University of Colorado, Boulder. He served as professor and law librarian at Stanford from 1963 to 1987. Whoa . . . read, *important person*.

¶3 But, as I discovered in the early years of my career, Professor Jacobstein was *anything* but formal or stiff. As with many of the influential people in our business, Professor Jacobstein was witty and warm. I never had the good fortune to work with Professor Jacobstein directly, but he was always gracious when I ran into him professionally.

¶4 What I think I remember most is that he was always talking in an energetic and demonstrative way. This may have led me to believe that he was unapproachable. Or he was smiling . . . a big inclusive smile. You knew just by looking at him that he loved his work as a law librarian.

¶5 It is hard to adequately remember a great man in our profession like Professor Jacobstein. The imagined gets mixed up with the real. Perhaps my reluctance to use Professor Jacobstein's first name was that I didn't know whether to call him Joseph, Joe, Myron, or Mike. But more likely, calling the outstanding librarians in our profession by any name that does not signal the respect and honor we hold for them is, well . . . impossible.

¶6 So, Professor Jacobstein, I salute you as a warm and generous man and as someone who shared his intelligence and analytical skills with our profession. Thank you, Mike.

* Professor and Associate Dean for Library and Computing Services, University of Washington School of Law, Gallagher Law Library, Seattle, Washington. President, American Association of Law Libraries, 1990–91.