

Daily Journal

Louis Brown's

Legacy

'The Father of Preventive Law' Had Much To Teach The Profession

By Forrest S. Mosten

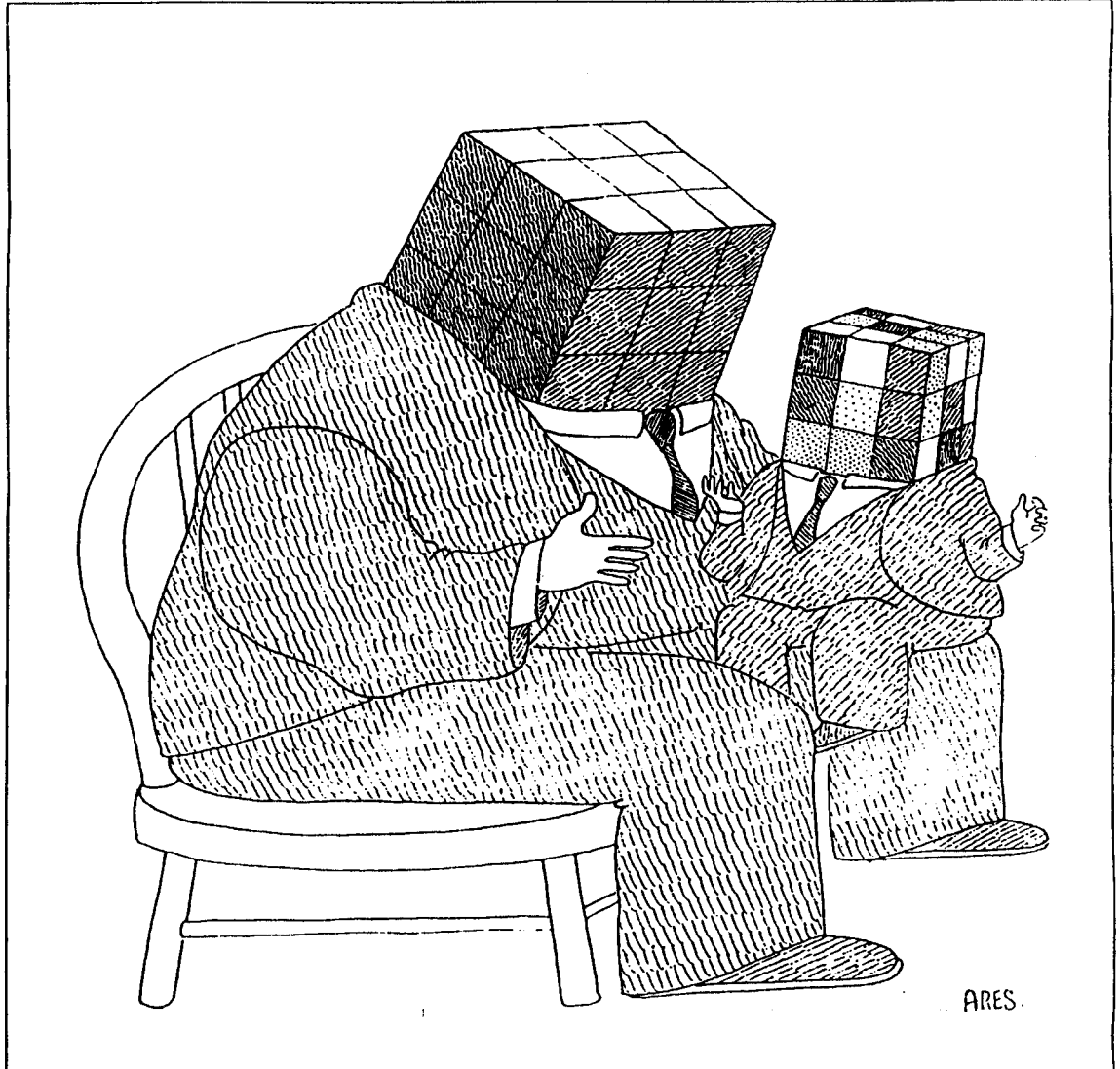
Preventive law is the outlet of life's purpose. The objective is to help people in the way I know through a profession of learning that I have studied and experienced. It should be clear that I care more, much more, for the people that the profession is here to serve, than I do for the profession itself. Yet I believe that the help the profession can supply gives the profession a basis for its existence in our complex society of people.

— Louis M. Brown, "Lawyering though Life" (1986).

These words of Louis Brown reflect the values that propelled his life's work. Louis contributed a staggering level of output, a brilliant level of quality and an unwavering commitment of compassion and intellectual and moral integrity.

Until his peaceful death last Thursday, Louis was constantly breaking new ground and lighting the path for the rest of us. He has left both the legal profession and our society with memories and legendary contributions that seem Herculean for just one man to accomplish in a lifetime. He has also challenged us with an agenda of important work that will take us the next several decades even partially to fulfill.

When Louis graduated from Harvard Law School in 1933, few could have predicted the historical impact he would have through his writing, teaching and tireless development of preventive law. His many accomplishments have included his revolutionary concept of preventive law as a discipline, redefining the role



In 1994, the American Bar Association established an annual Louis M. Brown Legal Access Award. The award recognizes a person or organization that has contributed an innovative, successful model of the delivery of legal services to middle-income people.

The ABA named this award after Louis due to his pioneering efforts in the development of legal services. For example, he chaired the American Bar Association Committee on Military Legal Services, which developed the largest legal services program

to teach students the principles of client-centered lawyering and preventive law. Beginning in 1969 with two teams, from USC and the University of San Francisco, Louis administered and funded the competition for three years until it had grown to 20 teams.

In 1972 the American Bar Association Law Student Division assumed administrative responsibility with a \$25,000 grant from Louis, who chaired the competition committee for the next 10 years. Today, approximately 65 law schools in the United

States and abroad have been inspired by Louis' mind, his gentle resolve, his devotion to the law and his love of humankind. Louis was my mentor, colleague and close friend. For 25 years Louis gave me his total support.

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