Los Angeles

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).

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hese 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.

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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, approxitennis court, Louis was always available and interested and was indefatigable in supplying ideas, support and personal connections. No letter went unanswered, no telephone call unreturned.

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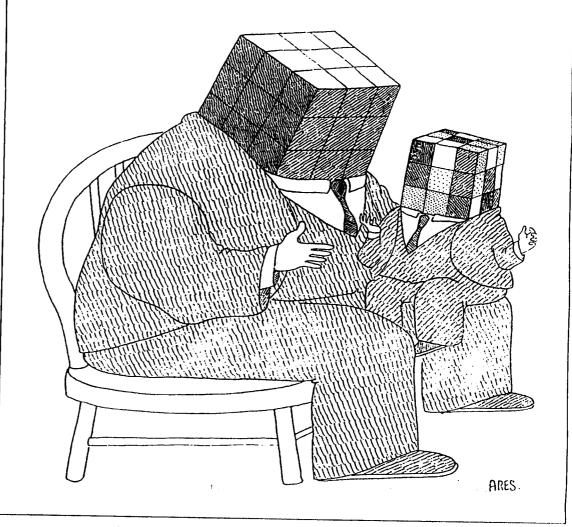
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When Louis graduated from Harvard Law School in 1933, few could have predicted the historical impact he would have through his writing, teaching and tireless development of preventive law. His many accomplishments have included his revolutionary concept of preventive law as a discipline, redefining the role between lawyers and clients. He also recognized and endorsed the use of paralegals and other innovations in legal service delivery and law office management when such trends were decried as commercializing and demeaning an honored profession.

From the publication of his first book, "Preventive Law," in 1950, Louis was comfortable working in and outside of the established legal profession. Not concerned with criticism from traditionalists, he was as willing to write regular legal columns for the popular press and airline magazines as for law reviews and bar journals. He never wavered from his belief that the legal profession is formed solely for the purpose of improving the life of clients.



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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 plan in the United States. He co-founded the first paralegal training program in a major law school. He provided support for private legal clinics in the face of opposition by the organized bar. And he created the "law office classroom" in law schools throughout the country as a setting where students can learn about preventive practice and other noncourtroom lawyering.

Louis often said that conceiving of and implementing the Client Counseling Competition may be the greatest and most long-standing accomplishment in his 60-year legal career. As a professor at the University of Southern California Law Center, he had long desired to find a method 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 85 law school in the United States and Canada participate. In 1986 the competition went international; and in 1993 it became affiliated with the International Bar Association and was renamed the Louis M. Brown International Client Counseling Competition.

ouis was known for his humility and the fact that he would rather talk about his ideas than himself. It is ironic that a study of the way that Louis Brown lived his life best exemplifies a model of establishing, maintaining and nurturing harmonious relationships.

When he wasn't playing his viola, taking photographs, editing his family newsletter or running around the tennis court, Louis was always available and interested and was indefatigable in supplying ideas, support and personal connections. No letter went unanswered, no telephone call unreturned.

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Forrest S. Mosten is a lawyer and mediator in Los Angeles. His book "A Lawyer's Guide to Mediation" will be published by the American Bar Association this fall.