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Vincent L. Broderick — A Distinguished Jurist and Great Teacher

Jay C. Carlisle, II*

The Pace University School of Law was established in 1976. That same year, Vincent L. Broderick was appointed to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. Judge Broderick first sat in Foley Square, but soon began hearing cases at the “temporary” federal court house on East Post Road in White Plains. Shortly thereafter, he began hiring Pace law students as interns. The students who were fortunate enough to be selected as “Broderick interns” claimed they learned more law from him than they did in the classroom. Pace University Law School students were always grateful for the fact that Judge Broderick taught them how the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure operated in the “real world.”

In the real world, I argued a RICO motion before Judge Broderick in 1993. I relied on three published, Second Circuit, civil RICO decisions, confidently citing them at length to support my position that a prior ruling by Judge Broderick was incorrect. When I finished my argument, Judge Broderick leaned forward from the bench, allowed several seconds to pass, and, with a smile on his face, quietly informed me that “In terrorem tactics will not work in this courtroom.” My students often remind me of his admonition.

Judge Broderick had a wonderful sense of humor and taught our law students, the bench and bar, and his colleagues, to be stronger professionals and better human beings. He will be sorely missed by the faculty, deans, students, and alumnae of the Pace University School of Law.

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