

May 23, 2017

The Tuesday luncheon session of The American Law Institute convened in Salon III of the Ritz-Carlton, Washington, DC, and was called to order at 12:18 p.m. by President Roberta Cooper Ramo.

President Ramo: Good afternoon. Well, that morning was pretty darned interesting, I thought, as part of an interesting day.

Hello. My name is Roberta Ramo, for all of our guests. The other people have heard more than enough from me.

This is one of the wonderful events of The American Law Institute, and that is the celebration of those of you who have been members for 25 years and become—I think this is such a great thing to say in the ALI. You've been here for 25 years, and you're now new life members. So you're kind of—we're extending, I think, things in the best possible way.

And we also are happy to say that we have, happily enough, at least one member of the class that was elected 50 years ago, and I'll speak about that in one second.

So let me, first of all, just they're going to serve right along here because we have to have our 1:30 p.m. time, and we have a hard stop time at the end of the day so we can transform our meeting room into a place where we can actually have dinner.

Let me ask, first of all, for all of the 25-year members of the class to please stand up so that we can recognize you and tell you thank you and we're so grateful to have you. (*Applause*)

And now let me ask David Levi to please present to the representative of the class from 50 years ago, Ralph Halpern from Buffalo, New York, his 50-year medal.

Thank you very much, Ralph. (*Applause*)

We said something at the new-members lunch yesterday. Somebody pointed out that it was very important for them to have their picture taken so we could tell how well they aged 25 years from now, and I want to say, Ralph, I hope I look like you. So, all wonderful.

Let me ask, please, the class-gift cochairs to come up to the podium. Gail Agrawal, Mitch Lowenthal, and Steve Weise, if you would come up here. Greg Palm could not be here.

Let me just say, as they make their way up, the idea of the class gift was a wonderful, brilliant idea of Susan Appleton—Susan, are you here somewhere? Right there—many years ago. And it is so enormously important because the money for the class gift has allowed us to make sure that all members of the ALI, particularly judges and those who work for nonprofits, people who work for the government, are able to come to our meetings, go to all the events, the dinners, the receptions, and everything. And that’s what the money for the class gift goes to. So we’re very grateful for the idea.

Now having said that, obviously, it’s true that when you look at every class every year, it turns out that you never know who is there because it depends on how active the Membership Committee was 25 years ago. And when we looked at this class, we thought, oh, boy, this may be the smallest class we’ve had, and we weren’t sure how well we would do.

Well, let me introduce Steve Weise, who will introduce his fellows, and you will see if that you ever have a committee, you want them to be in charge. Steve?

Mr. Steven O. Weise (CA): Thanks, Roberta.

So, as Roberta said, the class-gift fund is one of the ways the Institute raises money to support its activities, including helping those who need some support to come to our meetings and Advisers groups and MCGs and other projects.

And sometime last year, Gail—here—Agrawal, Dean of the University of Iowa College of Law, Mitch, recently retired from Cleary Gottlieb, Greg at Goldman Sachs, and I each got calls from Roberta. And when Roberta calls you, you say yes, and then you find out what you’ve said yes to.

And we discovered we’d agreed to be on the cochairs of this fundraising committee. And then after we had accepted, Judith Miller, who’s sitting down here, who’s head of the Council’s Development Committee, let us know that we had a goal of \$150,000. And then, after we agreed to that, we learned, as Roberta said, that our class was the smallest class ever involved in the six years of fundraising.

There are 69 people in our class, which ranges from 53 percent to 73 percent of the prior classes. And the \$150,000, two of the five prior classes had met the \$150,000, and I again reported to Judith that we were 73 percent of the size of those two classes. And Judith said, “Too bad.” (*Laughter*) “You’re going to do this.” So we started having phone calls. We laid out a plan.

I was in Philadelphia for an MCG meeting, and I met with Beth Goldstein, who’s standing back there, and Kyle Jakob, who is also standing back there, who are in charge of riding herd over us. And we laid out a plan.

We came up with a strategy. It was very specific. We figured out who knew whom in the class. We had professors call professors, and outside

lawyers call outside lawyers, and inside lawyers call inside lawyers. And we made real pests out of ourselves. And it was—as much as, I think, or as little, rather, as any of us likes to call somebody and ask for money, it was really quite rewarding.

Some of the people I spoke to or with took the opportunity to tell me what was wrong with ALI, and then they gave money. And it was great because they support the overall activities and the approaches of ALI. And personally, I could not believe I had ever gotten into the Institute or that I have been doing this for 25 years.

So we worked and worked and worked, and we actually got to \$150,000, and we proudly reported it to Judith and Roberta, and Beth and Kyle, and they said, “That’s good,” a little pat on the back metaphorically. Then they said, “Now keep in mind that one of those other classes that was a lot larger than yours raised \$185,891. Surely, you can beat that.”

So we went back to our people, and even though Greg had promised people he would never, ever call them again, he, indeed, called them again. Money kept coming in, and I’m happy to report that we moved past the record. We collected \$186,907. (*Applause*)

And for those of you who don’t have your calculators out, that’s \$1016 more than the prior class. And Judith told me she just got a message this morning. Somebody else whom we’ve been after has committed to send in even more money. Our average contribution was \$3975. Our class participation was 68 percent of the members, which is the second highest ever.

And as we stand here, we are thoroughly pleased that our class came through. People gave what they could give, at all price ranges, which was great. And we hope to be sitting out in the audience next year and hearing that the class of 1993 has beaten our record so we fall into second place.

So we’re very happy to do this, and have a very nice lunch.

President Ramo: Well, Steve, thank you.

Let me just show that for each of you, and you don’t have to take this through security. We’ll send it to you. It does have a sharp edge. (*Laughter*)

It is a recognition of what you have done, which truly is extraordinary. But I want to say in particular to you, Steve, but all of you, I often wondered how I got in. I know how you got in, but you’re never getting out.

So thank you again. Remarkable in every way. Thank you. Thank you.

So let us enjoy our—(*Applause*)

We’ll enjoy our lunch for a little bit, and then we’ll move on to our wonderful speaker.

Thank you.

(*Lunch was enjoyed by the group.*)