

## **Tribute to Mark Gordon by Scott Glickson**

### **ITechLaw Annual Meeting and World Conference in Chicago April 27, 2007**

Thank you, Enrique and Ken.

Good Morning. I'm privileged to be here this morning to say a few words about Mark Gordon – my partner of 27 years and friend for many more – who was, with Shelley, his wife of 33 years, so suddenly and tragically taken from us nine months ago. It's still something that, though undeniable, is impossible to accept.

First, I'd like to welcome you all to Chicago and wish you a successful annual meeting. We're proud of our city and our technology community here, and I hope you enjoy your visit – especially now that the rain has ended.

Also, on behalf of Mark's family, friends and colleagues, I want to thank the iTechLaw Association for creating a memorial to Mark. It is a fitting recognition of the accomplishments of a man who dedicated most of his professional life to the development of the information technology community – not just the legal aspects of it, but the business side as well –

and not just the Chicago and Illinois communities but the national and, indeed, the international as well.

I know that those of you who knew Mark know that he came from a very close knit family and many of you have asked me – or if you haven't yet had the chance, probably plan to ask me – about how his parents and son are doing.

The short answer is that they're doing just about how you'd expect. They've lost two people who were integral parts of their lives. They are adjusting in their own ways and, as are the rest of us, moving on with their lives. Mark's parents, George and Betty, Mark's sister, Rita, and Shelley's brother, Roy, have all appreciated the outpouring of support they have received. This is a family that has always stepped up to help those around them, and they are deserving of the care and love they've gotten from so many people.

Mark and Shelley's son, Michael, is finishing high school and plans to attend college in the fall. He is a bright and articulate young man who has been forced to grow up much faster than he should have and has also gotten

great support. Your concern for him is wonderful and reflects the high esteem in which you held his parents.

In the days since Mark's death, I've heard from many people who knew him. The comments made by those people are remarkably consistent in their descriptions of Mark. They talk of Mark's sense of humor and his ability to use it to put people at ease, to entertain and to build relationships. They talk about, as Paul Bent put it, Mark's generosity of spirit, and they talk about his great leadership and professional skills. I'd like to take a few moments to share with you some of the comments I've received.

Mark Gordon was a man of immense talent and generosity of spirit. Technically, he was a master of his craft. Professionally, he was a man of honor and integrity. Personally, he was a delight and a joy to be around. He will be sorely missed.

-- Paul Bent

I very much admired Mark as a pioneer in the technology law field and valued his friendship highly. In addition to his professional dynamism, I will remember him for his generous spirit and fine sense of humor.

-- Christopher Millard

My principal memory of Mark is his consistently good humor and positive outlook that enabled him to take on those of us who didn't see things his way and to find a way forward that we all could agree to.

-- Ollie Smoot

I, for one, will long cherish the memory of Mark and Shelley. They are both still very real to me. Indeed, one of my fondest memories is when I visited Chicago, over a decade ago, and Shelley took me shopping to Marshall Fields and I ended up not only acquiring the presents for those who were then my young children but also ended up having to acquire an additional suitcase to take home my purchases!

-- Fred Chilton

Long before his term as president, Mark was a leader of the CLA. He contributed as a board member, as a member of the executive committee and as a frequent speaker and conference organizer. Mark always had a smile and a positive attitude as he worked tirelessly for the association. At board meetings he contributed levity and sound practical judgment, a great combination in a volunteer organization.

-- Ian Kyer

I owe much of my success in ITLA (then CLA) to Mark Gordon. When Mark was elected President of CLA, I had been newly appointed to the CLA Board. Mark asked me to head up the Membership Committee for CLA. The Membership Committee ultimately enjoyed great success and I was rewarded by being elected president of CLA myself. Mark gave me the opportunity to advance up the leadership ladder at CLA.

Mark was a leader in every respect. He was a great president of CLA. He was a frequent speaker at CLA events. His presentations demonstrated his cutting edge knowledge of business and legal and technology issues affecting technology lawyers. He was a superb teacher and lecturer.

Mark's many contributions to our profession reflect great credit on him and will leave a lasting legacy.

-- J.T. Westermeier

I'm very sorry I won't be able to attend the iTechLaw conference. As you undoubtedly know, Marilyn and I were good friends of Mark and Shelley.

Mark was an incredibly engaging person. He had a humorous, light-hearted approach to almost everything he did, which masked the underlying creativity and thoughtful analysis he applied to any undertaking. As a result, he brought together people from very diverse backgrounds and nationalities and created an environment in which they felt very comfortable and willing to work with Mark and others to achieve common goals. I know that many people considered Mark and Shelley to be very good friends, even though they might have seen Mark and Shelley only once or twice a year, because when Mark was spending time with someone, whether dealing with legal issues or just social activities, he gave you his undivided attention and made you feel very special. That is a rare talent that undoubtedly contributed to the success of the Computer Law Association (now iTechLaw), the IBA and his law firm. I consider it a real privilege to have known Mark and to have shared many wonderful experiences with him.

-- Dick Bernacchi

When remembering Mark, I think of those same things and, as you can imagine, I think of certain times that are special for their own reasons but exemplify my time and relationship with him. I remember the time many years ago when we were suffering through one of those difficult periods that occur in the course of building a firm, and we started talking in my office about how to get through this period. Well, about three hours and

a quart of Crown Royal later, we were sure we had all the answers and then made it home so that we could resume the battle the next day.

And there was the time that I was talking to one of our clients who told me that one of his colleagues, after a particularly contentious session with the opposing party, had remarked that Mark had certainly been an a\_\_hole during the negotiation. Our client's comment – “Yes, but he's our a\_\_hole.”

Mark had an extraordinary ability to analyze people and issues and to get to the heart of matters. He was uncompromising in his loyalty to his client, was devoted to providing the highest possible level of professional service, and was always on top of not only the legal issues but the business considerations as well. And these same traits were present in his personal relationships as well. Mark would do anything for a friend or colleague.

Many have told me stories of how Mark went out of his way to travel out of town or to visit a hospital to lend his support at a difficult time. Several people have commented that they've never known anyone who was described by so many people as their “best friend.”

And he was, of course, the trusted advisor to many business leaders and civic and professional organizations. As you all know, he was the president of this organization in 1993-94, and an officer of Committee R of the International Bar Association. He was a member of the Board of Directors of Diamond Technology and of Kanbay – both successful, public companies. He served on various editorial boards and wrote the book, *Computer Software: Contracting for Development and Distribution* in the early 80's. He authored enough articles and spoke at enough conferences and programs that his bio is 18 pages long. He was Vice Chair of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago and a member of the Medical Research Institute Council, which is associated with Children's Memorial Hospital.

Mark mentored a long list of other lawyers and played a significant role in their success – whether it was at Gordon & Glickson or another firm. He was the founder of the IT practice at our firm, the driver that led the firm to focus its practice in the IT marketplace and, eventually, the leader of our merger with McGuireWoods and the establishment of its Technology & Business Department. As somewhat of an aside, I must note that McGuireWoods has been exceptionally supportive of our group since Mark's passing and, with the support of its partners and a number of Mark's

friends, is establishing a scholarship in Mark's name at Northwestern University School of Law, Mark's alma mater, to be awarded to a student intending to make his career in the field of technology law.

A final, short, story that I suspect many of you will relate to. When the International Bar Association held its meeting in Chicago last September, Committee R had a dinner that I attended. At that dinner, a number of people told me stories of experiences they shared with Mark and Shelley during IBA meetings around the world. Mark got to go to places like Bombay, Sydney, Munich and Rio. I got the real exotic destinations like Champaign, Pittsburgh and Guttenberg – that's in Iowa. Anyway, at this dinner, several of the Committee members, including Thomas Heymann and Ricardo Barretto Ferreira da Silva, told me that, before each meeting, they would wait to make their hotel reservations until they learned where Mark would be staying because they knew he would be staying in the best place in town.

I know I am better for having known Mark, and I am sure that Mark would want his legacy to be that each of you also feels that you are a better person, in any way, for having known him. I also know that he would want each of you to remember the good times you shared with him, that great

smile of his and his devotion to this exciting industry in which we all work and play.

Thank you again for the opportunity to say these few words of remembrance about our great friend and colleague.