

WORDS ON WHITEBREAD

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In the fall of 2007, I had the distinction of being the executive editor at Whittier Law Review to supervise the editing of Professor Whitebread's compendium of the U.S. Supreme Court's 2006-2007 term—what is now his final piece for our law review.¹ It was both challenging and rewarding to start my law review job working on this lengthy article constructed by a prolific legal scholar.

Due to the contrast between the article's size and the small number of law review members, most of our anxious new candidates were assigned to work on Professor Whitebread's article. For their rookie assignments, each candidate had to take away ninety footnotes at a time to cite-check. Editing this article was no longer an extracurricular activity to list on a law school resume, but a task in the forefront—it could not be marginalized and was in fact, for weeks, the primary job for the members of the team. Early bar prep class, reading and briefing for classes, eating and sleeping, time wasted on watching the leaves on trees turn orange in the fall—all took a back seat. But once it was completed, and Professor Whitebread gave the seal of approval, we appreciated the ability to have made it through the thick forest of footnotes and the long road of analysis. The sight of a completed and fully-edited draft of his article sitting on the edge of my desk, the pages still warm from the printer, made it all worthwhile.

The following summer, I encountered Professor Whitebread again. This time, I was a student in a bar review classroom watching his fatherly figure on a large video screen, from which he explained

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1. Charles Whitebread, *The Conservative Kennedy Court – What a Difference a Single Justice Can Make: The 2006-2007 Term of the United States Supreme Court*, 29 Whittier L. Rev. 1 (2007).

everything I wanted to know about criminal law and procedure, but was too afraid to ask. These were to be his last bar review lectures. From them, I grasped why he was such a widely-admired teacher. Through his booming but southern-gentlemanly demeanor he laid-down the essence of what bar wit and knowledge all of us anxious bar takers wanted to know; delighted us with anecdotes about his experiences practicing criminal defense; about criminal law concepts; and about the slightly-disastrous first day of his own bar examination. He was the first of our bar review lecturers that summer to allay our own insecurities and fears about taking the bar. He was battling cancer at the same time.

My respect for Professor Whitebread developed over a journey that was just shy of a year. During those long hours at the editing desk with his last article, there were times when I felt I understood him from within his writing. It was a distinct pleasure and honor to have the opportunity for a short glimpse of this scholar and teacher.