

PROFESSOR SCHROEDER

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While I was in law school, I had the honor of spending a lot of time with Professor Schroeder. I took his courses, I was his research assistant, I worked on a couple of his private cases, and I worked on the innocence project with him. Through all of this, I developed a strong friendship with him.

I am honored to write a tribute to Professor Schroeder on behalf of his students. There is no doubt that he had a great impact on his students. He is a legend in our community. In fact, I have quickly learned that a great icebreaker with SIU Law alumni is to exchange Professor Schroeder stories. When I was clerking for Judge Gilbert, an alumnus called me with a question about his case. We discovered we were both SIU Law alumni and ended up exchanging Professor Schroeder stories for about thirty minutes. Professor Schroeder was a unique man, and there are several reasons why we adored him. I will focus on three.

First, he was a genuinely good-hearted man. There was not a fake bone in this man's body. What you saw is what you got. We knew that and respected that. We saw this in his willingness to defend some not-so-nice individuals, sometimes at little to no cost. For those of you who had the privilege of helping him on private cases or heard his war stories in class, you saw that he had a huge heart for those that he felt were wronged by the criminal-justice system.

Second, he loved his work. Professor Schroeder was brilliant. His ability to take an evidence or criminal procedure problem and, without any research, rattle off multiple theories under which the issue could be analyzed was simply astonishing. His passion for the law infected us with a passion for the law. Today, when I am working on complex criminal procedure cases, I think of Professor Schroeder because I feel that passion to solve the problem that I learned from him.

Finally, and most importantly, we adored Professor Schroeder because he was our biggest supporter. He genuinely cared about his students and their success, and he often went above and beyond to support us. He was the first to stand up for a student who ran into a problem—such as a legal problem or a problem with character and fitness. I recall talking to a student who was worried about passing character and fitness. Professor Schroeder drove hundreds of miles to attend her hearing. He wanted to be with us. He attended our events. He played poker with us. He played trivia with us. He

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drank a beer or two *or more* with us. Personally, he supported me when I had any crazy idea. When I wanted to work on the innocence project, he was there ready to sign up. When I wrote an article after graduation, he edited and proofread it within hours. When I had a legal question or just wanted to chat, he was there for me.

I am forever thankful for the unique input Professor Schroeder had in developing my love for the law. To say I will miss him would be an understatement. I will end by quoting Professor Schroeder: “Question, comment concern, insight, offering? Responsible opposing views? Irresponsible opposing views? None of the above? Moving on.”