

RONALD ROTUNDA, FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE

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Ronald Rotunda joined me on the faculty of the University of Illinois College of Law in 1974. We at once became friends, and our friendship has continued ever since, despite our widely differing political views. Ron's career as a leading authority and super-prolific writer on constitutional law and legal ethics is too well known for me to repeat here. And I must admit that I have not tried to check out the 6,820 hits I got with a search for "Ronald Rotunda" in Google,¹ nor the 3,601 mentions in the Westlaw text and periodicals database,² nor the more than 1,000 citations of his constitutional law writings in federal³ and state⁴ court decisions.

Ron, I believe, was also a reincarnation of Humphrey Bogart as Sam Spade private investigator. Just before joining our faculty, he served as assistant majority counsel for the Senate Watergate Committee. Years later, he obtained an international reputation for working with the Special Prosecutor's office during the Clinton administration.⁵ But I remember him most from law school disciplinary proceedings. Our law school had an incredibly complex and confusing disciplinary process (designed by Wayne LaFave?) that imported all the intricacies of a full-fledged court proceeding. When I was acting Dean, Ron played the roles of investigator and prosecutor, much to the distress of the accused students.

In the 1990s, when I started working on problems of law reform in the countries newly liberated from Communist domination, I urged Ron to join in the effort. He did so, advising Moldova, Romania, Ukraine,

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1. Search for "Ronald Rotunda," at <http://www.google.com> (Jan. 27, 2003). Admittedly, some of the hits involved mention of Ronald Reagan in the Capitol Rotunda.

2. Search for "Ronald /3 Rotunda" in the TP-ALL database, at <http://www.westlaw.com> (Jan. 27, 2003).

3. Search for "Rotunda /s Constitutional" in the ALLFEDS database, at <http://www.westlaw.com> (Jan. 27, 2003).

4. Search for "Rotunda /s Constitutional" in the ALLSTATES database, at <http://www.westlaw.com> (Jan. 27, 2003).

5. *Starr erwagt angeblich Klage gegen Clinton*, BERLIN ONLINE, Sept. 9, 1998, available at <http://www.berlinonline.de/wissen/berliner-zeitung/bin/dump.fcgi/1998/0309/politik/0047/> (last visited Apr. 3, 2003).

the Czech Republic, and Cambodia on the modernization of their legal and judicial systems.

Ron cheerfully lent his spacious home to student organizations for parties where faculty and students could mingle. Those who visited his home learned of his secret life—as a technology buff and amateur astronomical observer. His house was full of gadgets, including a talking robot. He even published high-quality photographs of celestial objects.⁶

Ronald Rotunda was a leader of the fight to uphold state-imposed term limits on members of Congress. Four members of the Supreme Court were persuaded of the correctness of his position on the constitutionality of term limits.⁷ Unlike many term limits supporters who were unwilling to limit their own terms of office,⁸ Ron decided last year that he had served long enough at the University of Illinois. His colleagues and I, of course, would have been happy to see him continue much longer with us.

6. See, e.g., Ronald D. Rotunda, *Star Gallery '74*, 2 ASTRONOMY MAGAZINE 57 (Feb. 1974) (displaying photographs of Mercury Transit of the Sun).

7. U.S. Term Limits, Inc. v. Thornton, 514 U.S. 779, 903–04 (1995) (citing Ronald D. Rotunda, *Rethinking Term Limits for Federal Legislators in Light of the Structure of the Constitution*, 73 OR. L. REV. 561, 574 (1994)).

8. Search for “renege term limits,” at <http://www.google.com> (Jan. 27, 2003).