



## DAVID CURRIE

*Montgomery N. Kosma*

**P**ASSIONATE ABOUT THE LAW, and about inciting that passion in others. Fun-loving. Delighting in elegant solutions to difficult problems. Entertaining. Seeing the story in history, not above it or outside it but understanding that our present is woven from our past. Eclectic. Intellectual, yet never taking intellectualism so seriously as to make it inhuman.

This was David Currie.

How could he turn something so mundane as the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure into a living, breathing thing? Here was not a mere practitioner of the Socratic Method, but Socrates himself – as conceived by Gilbert and Sullivan. And his writings often captured the twinkle in his eye. A master of irony, he conducted the first serious inquiry into who was The Most Insignificant Justice. A master of history, he brought to life the constitutional cases and debates from the early Republic, teaching that the lifeblood of history is not particular events, but the people involved and how they responded to their circumstances. David collaborated with me, puzzling together over such conundrums as shipping magnate Samuel Smith, simultaneously a Baltimore congressman and Jefferson’s Secretary of the Navy, who ordered the fleet into the Mediterranean then introduced legislation retroactively authorizing the executive to do so.

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*Montgomery Kosma co-founded the Green Bag, served as Executive Editor for ten useful, entertaining, grueling years, and recently joined the journal’s Board of Advisers.*

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In these ways, without realizing, David planted the seeds in me (and, I strongly suspect, in my co-founders) that grew into the *Green Bag*.

Upon reflection, it seems that in many ways we created the *Green Bag* in his image. Not because of the esteem in which we held him – although we esteemed him greatly. But because, like a good show tune, his passions were catchy!

