WHY CELEBRITY LAWYERS HESITATE TO LEND THEIR GOOD NAMES TO WORTHY CAUSES

Consider the case of Justice Thurgood Marshall. After agreeing to serve on the board of "A Presidential Classroom for Young Americans" (see below), he received a dunning letter of a sort from an advertising specialty products manufacturer (see next page). Marshall ended up as either the target or the agent – depending on how you look at it – of the company.



A PRESIDENTIAL CLASSROOM FOR YOUNG AMERICANS

1726 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 (202) 638-2234

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COMMANDAM, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

THE HONORABLE WALTER E. WASHINGTON

February 18, 1969

Mr. Justice Marshall United States Supreme Court Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Justice Marshall:

We regret that you will be unable to be our Commencement Speaker at our third Presidential Classroom graduation banquet, to be held at the Washington Hilton Hotel - Jefferson Room at 8:00 p.m., or at the suggested alternative dates, March 7 and March 28, 1969.

Our first Classroom session begins February 22, just 4 days away. For your review, our program's schedule is enclosed. We cordially extend to you and Mrs. Marshall an open invitation to participate in the many varied activities during the first Presidential Classroom five-week session. In particular, our evening programs promise to be exciting. We are privileged to have prominent figures from the Diplomatic Corps, the National Press Corps, and Congressional Representatives to speak on controversial topics of today as related to the American Government.

A Presidential Classroom for Young Americans - 1969 is off to an excellent start. We are indeed grateful that you are lending your interest to what we consider to be a very valuable program. We will keep you informed of all activities and welcome your advice and comments at any time.

Respectfully yours,

Charles G. Allison Chairman

CGA/jmd Enclosure

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KRUEGER SPECIALTIES CO., INC. Calendars Executive Gifts Gift Plans Advertising Specialties

MEMBER DAK PARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

16 CHICAGO AVENUE DAK PARK, ILLINIDIS

DAK PAPE

19 September 1970

Justice Thurgood Marshall The Supreme Court of the United States Washington, D. C.

Dear Judge Marshall:

I am writing you since your name appears on the stationery of A PRESIDENTIAL CLASSROOM FOR YOUNG AMERICANS as a member of the Board of Advisors.

On November 10th of last year, Charles Allison of the CLASSROOM ordered imprinted gift glassware amounting to \$1,927.98. This merchandise was imprinted and rushed to him for Christmas presentation on the 26th of November, 1970. Payment has not been received. On May 19th, after many phone calls and telegrams, I received a letter from Allison stating that some of the merchandise had been unsatisfactory, and he would not pay for any of it until credit had been given for the allegedly defective portion.

Even though both our acknowledgement and invoice clearly state "all claims must be made within 10 days after receipt of Shipment", I extended myself and requested him to ship a sample of the supposedly defective crystal bowl for factory inspection. A bowl suitable for inspection has never been received.

On June 29th Allison called saying that the CLASSROOM has no money to pay for even that part of our shipment he claims was satisfactory.

Believe me, we would never have accepted Allison's order had not his letterhead included so many names of outstanding governmental people ---- and the Presidential Seal of the United States. We are a small, honest business, and cannot afford large losses like this from an ex officio arm of the Federal Government.

I will appreciate any action you will take, or any help you can give me to speed collection.

Respectfully,

Ray Krueger //jet

20 Green Bag 2D

Marshall responded to the letter from Krueger Specialties Co., Inc. by sending this letter to Robert F. Finch, who was then serving as Counselor to the President in the administration of President Richard M. Nixon:

September 23, 1970

Honorable Robert F. Finch The White House Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Finch:

I received the enclosed letter this morning. I do not know who in the White House has the responsibility for the Presidential Classroom for Young Americans. Would you be good enough to refer this to the proper person and advise me so that I can, in turn, write the Krueger Specialties Company.

With all best wishes,

Sincerely,

A few weeks later, Marshall received a reply – spiced with some gentle trolling – from Nixon's White House Counsel, John W. Dean (see next page). The whole chain of correspondence must have been an annoying and embarrassing exercise for the Justice.

Can you promise your preferred celebrity-lawyer board members that they won't be blessed with similar opportunities?

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 1, 1970

Dear Justice Marshall:

I am writing in response to your letter to Mr. Robert Finch concerning the Presidential Classroom for Young Americans.

There is no White House responsibility, as such, for the Presidential Classroom for Young Americans. This organization is privately funded and privately run. I understand that the program was created by John Macy during his service with the Kennedy/Johnson Administration.

In a conversation with Mr. Allison of the Presidential Classroom staff, the question of the unpaid bill to Krueger Specialties Co. was discussed. Mr. Allison indicated that his organization mailed a check on November 6, 1970 of approximately \$1,000 to Krueger Specialties Co., Inc.

I hope this information will be of assistance to you.

Sinderely,

John W. Dean, III Counsel to the President

Honorable Thurgood Marshall Associate Justice Supreme Court of the United States Washington, D. C.

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