

ADVANCE SHEET – October 25, 2024

President's Letter

Judge Learned Hand , though he was certainly learned, is regarded as a secular not religious prophet. Yet in one of his more notable speeches, he quoted the Book of Ecclesiasticus, not to be confused with the Old Testament Book of Ecclesiastes, as embodying a part of a sound lawyer's creed. This was so even though the Book of Ecclesiasticus is today found only in the Catholic Douay bible, not the King James. We provide below the original King James version, that impressed Judge Hand.

George W. Liebmann



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How Much We Owe

My wife and I were headed home this past Tuesday with precious cargo in our car. We were transporting our carry out order from Matthew's Pizzeria. Stuck in traffic on Pulaski highway, having to endure the aroma of the pizzas wafting through the air was a little bit of torture. We were right in front of the off ramp for I-95 when a young man ran out of the woods that are there, directly in front of our car. My wife, far more observant than I, shouted out in a rather calm, matter of fact way, "He has a gun in his hand." A very few seconds passed when a police officer emerged. Following in quick order were five additional officers, one of whom was carrying a shotgun and another, what appeared to be an assault rifle.

In addition to finding out that I am married to a rather cool lady, I found out up close and personal, how much we owe the men and women who have taken an oath to serve and protect. Two of the officers in the pursuit team were women including the one carrying the assault rifle. I suppose you can only understand what they do, and then only infinitesimally more so, when you see it firsthand. I am fairly certain that the survival instinct does not dictate that when you see someone with a gun, you run after them. The police do it not to keep themselves safe, but you and I. It cannot be quantified how much it is that we owe them.

Just as the officers have sworn to uphold the law, so too have all of you. Most likely the worst that you will have to face in pursuit of your commitment to justice is not a gun, but rather a shrewd adversary. In order to accomplish your mission, might I suggest a visit to the Bar Library where you will find treatises and databases and all that you might need to prevail. Why a trip to the Bar Library? Because we have what it is that you need.

Take care, be safe and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Joe Bennett

Apocrypha

The apocrypha is a selection of books which were published in the original 1611 King James Bible. These apocryphal books were positioned between the Old and New Testament (it also contained maps and genealogies). The apocrypha was a part of the KJV for 274 years until being removed in 1885 A.D. A portion of these books were called deuterocanonical books by some entities, such as the Catholic Church.

Many claim the apocrypha should never have been included in the first place, raising doubt about its validity and believing it was not God-inspired (for instance, a reference about magic seems inconsistent with the rest of the Bible: Tobit chapter 6, verses 5-8). Others believe it is valid and that it should never have been removed- that it was considered part of the Bible for nearly 2,000 years before it was recently removed a little more than 100 years ago. Some say it was removed because of not finding the books in the original Hebrew manuscripts. Others claim it wasn't removed by the church, but by printers to cut costs in distributing Bibles in the United States. Both sides tend to cite the same verses that warn against adding or subtracting from the Bible: Revelation 22:18. The word 'apocrypha' means 'hidden.' Fragments of Dead Sea Scrolls dating back to before 70 A.D. contained parts of the apocrypha books in Hebrew, including Sirach and Tobit.

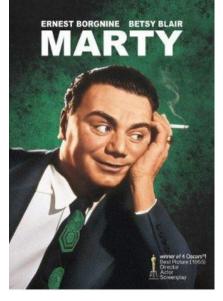
Ecclesiasticus, Chapter 11:

7 Blame not before thou hast examined the truth: understand first, and then rebuke.

8 Answer not before thou hast heard the cause: neither interrupt men in the midst of their talk.

9 Strive not in a matter that concerneth thee not; and sit not in judgment with sinners.

10 My son, meddle not with many matters: for if thou meddle much, thou shalt not be innocent; and if thou follow after, thou shalt not obtain, neither shalt thou escape by fleeing.



The Bar Library Film Series Presents MARTY

When a film wins the Academy Award for Best Picture; Best Director; Best Screenplay and Best Actor, well, enough said. Join us for a splendid film in a splendid setting.

WHEN: Friday, November 1, 2024 - 5:30 P.M

WHERE: The Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse (100 North Calvert Street) Main Reading Room of the Baltimore Bar Library (Room 618)

COST: Free – Soft Drinks & Snacks will be served.

RESERVATIONS: May be made at the Library, by telephone or e-mail. In order to keep track of attendance, **reservations are required**. For more information telephone 410-727-0280 or e-mail us at **jwbennett@barlib.org**.



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