

# University of Pennsylvania Law Review

FOUNDED 1852

Formerly  
American Law Register

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VOL. 135

DECEMBER 1986

No. 1

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MARTIN J. ARONSTEIN

CHARLES W. MOONEY, JR.†

I first encountered Marty Aronstein in 1978 at the Annual Meeting of the American Bar Association held in New York City. He was a panelist on a program dealing with the (then newly promulgated) revised Article 8<sup>1</sup> (Investment Securities) of the Uniform Commercial Code. After listening to him speak I was in awe. I was not surprised that he had a command of his subject—after all, he was the Reporter for the Article 8 revisions. What struck me was his ability to explain a very complicated and technical area of the law in a way that almost anyone could understand. Perhaps just as striking, his manner, good humor and enthusiasm moved me to *want* to understand. In recent years we have become good friends and we have worked together on many projects. I remain in awe.

Marty's retirement from our faculty is a great loss to the Law School. No doubt that statement could be made about the departure from any law school of anyone with such a high and visible professional stature. But in Marty's case the most significant point is *who* will bear the brunt of the loss. The Law School without Marty will be less, as an institution, but it will continue and will prosper. His faculty colleagues will miss him, but likewise will continue to shine. The loss, alas, will fall most heavily on the students who will not enjoy the op-

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† Associate Professor, University of Pennsylvania Law School.

<sup>1</sup> U.C.C. §§ 8-101 to -408 (1978) (Investment Securities).

portunity to share his classes with him.

Above all else, in my view, Marty is a teacher. To be sure, his accomplishments (some of which are mentioned below) have demonstrated that he is a first rate scholar and a first rate lawyer. His professional essence, however, is that of a teacher. Not surprisingly, the "teacher" in Marty adds much to his scholarship and his practice. During my years of practice and since my arrival at the Law School I have heard his praises sung by many of his former students. It is my loss that I have never observed Marty in the law school classroom. From the day I first saw Marty in 1978, however, I have known that his gift as an educator is something special.

It must be true that Marty's varied and interesting life experiences have provided much depth and richness to his teaching. He was born in Manhattan and spent his early years on the Upper West Side. At the age of eight he moved with his family to Long Island. After receiving a degree in mechanical engineering from Yale and serving as a Naval officer, Marty earned his M.B.A. at the Harvard Business School in 1948. He then began a successful business career. In 1962 Marty returned to school—this time to the University of Pennsylvania Law School—where he was the oldest student in his class. Although he continued to manage his businesses, he excelled as a student and was an editor of the University of Pennsylvania Law Review. Another of our retiring colleagues, Professor Noyes Leech, recently commented that Marty was the only law school student that he has ever observed who never took notes in class. Marty has his own way of doing things.

After graduating from the Law School in 1965, Marty began his career as a practicing lawyer. He practiced law for the next four years. During this period, as a lecturer at the Law School, Marty reinstated the course in accounting. Then, in 1969, he returned to the Law School as a full-time member of the faculty. Again, Marty excelled. In addition to teaching in the commercial law field, Marty instituted a course in "transmission of wealth." Once again, Marty was moved to enter practice in the "real world" and he left the Law School in 1977, only to return again in 1981. Now Marty has turned once more to practice, as counsel to Morgan, Lewis and Bockius in Philadelphia. Once the oldest student in his law school class, Marty is now the University of Pennsylvania Law School's youngest Emeritus Professor. But he has many other things on his agenda. (Remember, Marty has his own way of doing things.)

Marty's agenda for the future includes a great deal of time and effort to improve our laws—in particular our commercial laws. As mentioned above, Marty served as the Reporter for the revisions to Ar-

ticle 8 of the Uniform Commercial Code from 1972 until 1978, when the work on the revisions was completed. Since 1978 Marty has served as a member of and, since 1980, as counsel to the Permanent Editorial Board for the Uniform Commercial Code.<sup>2</sup> I have been fortunate enough to observe Marty in action during meetings of the Board and have dealt with him extensively in connection with its projects. Marty's gifts as a teacher stand him in good stead. Not only does he communicate well, but he thinks and listens well. Our work together on many projects, programs and activities of the American Bar Association, where he also has been a leader, reinforces my view that Marty is special.

The Law School community will miss Marty's presence in the classroom, his companionship, and his endless humorous anecdotes. Yet Marty will, no doubt, continue to entertain, educate and enlarge his classroom outside of the Law School. In his relationships with his colleagues in practice, in the field of continuing legal education, in his writings and in his law reform activities which mean so much to him, Marty will continue to be a teacher. I write in these respected pages, speaking for Marty's many colleagues in fact and spirit through the world, to say: "Farewell, Professor Aronstein." But, we are not ready to say "Goodbye."

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<sup>2</sup> The Board is a body created by the sponsors of the U.C.C.—the American Law Institute and the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. It is primarily responsible for preserving and improving the U.C.C., which has been enacted in 49 states and the District of Columbia.