Increasingly, I am skeptical of writers who begin tributes, not by complimenting the honoree, but by indulging in self-aggrandizing references to the writer's life; sometimes the honoree is almost forgotten in the process. Nevertheless, I start with a personal reference because perhaps my most important contribution to the federal judiciary is that, by reason of my appointment to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, I caused the vacancy which Judge Louis Pollak now fills. His appointment to this extraordinary trial court, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, brings it even more distinction and assures all of us that its extraordinary standard of excellence will be maintained and even improved.

Unfortunately, in recent years with the excessive glorification of "vast trial experience," many have failed to recognize the equal importance of another dimension—vast academic experience. The life of the full time academician brings a different perspective to the legal interplay of ideas and practice. Thus Lou Pollak brings to this great court the insights molded in an arena different from the blood and guts confrontations and machinations of a trial court. For he has been able to observe the fray from a distance more conducive to reflection and thus he brings a degree of instinctive skepticism that will not be diluted by the proclamation "We have always done it this way."

It would be deceptive, however, to suggest that Lou has been removed from the "life of the law" for he has experienced its challenges, frustrations, and gratifications through his magnificent briefs and brilliant oral presentations before the United States Supreme Court and in his consultative and active roles on the cutting edge of many of the most important issues in the field of human rights both in the United States and throughout the world.

Yet Lou's appointment as a law professor to the federal court is not unique. He is joining a noble tradition of distinguished scholars and thoughtful writers who were appointed to the federal courts. Mr. Justice Story, during the "good old days," taught at Harvard Law School while he was also a Justice of the United States Supreme Court. The academicians' tradition has been con-

† Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit; Adjunct Professor, University of Pennsylvania, Department of Sociology; Lecturer in Law, University of Pennsylvania Law School.
continued and exemplified by giants such as Justices Frankfurter, Douglas, and Rutledge, and Judges Hastie and Goodrich of the Third Circuit. Each brought an extra dimension of excellence and insight to the federal court partially because of the opportunity for reflection afforded by an academic setting.

Others will write far more about his profound contributions as a scholar, as an activist, and as a superb advocate. But I will stop now with a tinge of envy and much admiration because Lou Pollak has brought to this distinguished court such an abundance of talent and accomplishment that I doubt his immediate predecessor will ever be missed.

---

1 At least five of the current judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit have taught at some of the nation's most prestigious law schools.