



Monday Monday

Connecting the Dots with Karen Kaplowitz



*Helping you create and reinforce the habits of successful career building,
gleaned from my work as a business development strategist, trainer and coach*

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The Legacy of a Legend

On March 24, 2024, my late law partner and friend **Marshall Grossman** would have turned 85. On that day, I had the privilege of joining hundreds of Marshall's friends and family at a memorial service in Hollywood at Temple Israel, his family's synagogue for over 70 years.

Marshall would have been proud of his family for organizing such a memorable event which captured every facet of his remarkable life and work: his career as a giant of the national trial bar; his institution building as a law firm leader; his public service as a member of the California Coastal Commission; his pro bono work in recovering sacred religious texts from the Russian government on behalf of Chabad; and most notably, his devotion to his family.

Marshall would have appreciated the humor, wit, and charm of his actress daughter Leslie Grossman, who started her remarks with a photo of Marshall showing off the cemetery plot he bought years ago for himself and his family and concluded with how meaningful it was to always know how cherished she was by her father.

Marshall would have loved the moving video his son Rodger, a talented filmmaker turned businessman, created to chronicle his life and work. The video will eventually be available on YouTube. I was honored to share my admiration for Marshall in the video.

And Marshall would have been thrilled that the poignant memoir he completed before his death was published privately under his wife Marlene Grossman's direction and shared with friends and family at the memorial. The memoir, aptly titled "Marshall's Law", chronicled many of his greatest victories as a lawyer starting with his groundbreaking consumer class action against the Playboy Club as a young lawyer at age 29. Marshall's memoir is filled with so many vivid memories of his flamboyant, bold, and very successful career. He recounts, for example, the JAMS mediation in which we successfully settled a patent suit against our client Apple. When the plaintiff complained that Marshall brought his son's pit bull to the mediation, the mediator, referring to Marshall, brushed aside the complaint and said, "what's one more pit bull?"

Marshall's legacy was on full display at the memorial service in both the content of the program and the assembly of guests. **Burt Pines**, who joined Alschuler Grossman & Pines ["AGP"] when he left office as Los Angeles City Attorney, was there with his family. Many AGP litigation partners who have become successful mediators were there: **Rob Shlachter**, **Frank Kaplan**, **Bruce Friedman**, and **Jeff Kichaven**. The next generation of great trial lawyers who were mentored by Marshall were on hand: **Michael Sherman**, **Michael Cypers**, **Seth Gerber**, **Jon Loeb**, **Michael Taitelman**, **Johnnie James** and retired lawyers **John Schwimmer** and **Gwyn Quillen**, now an organic farmer. AGP alumni **Michael Brill**, **Jerry Kagan**, **Craig Corman**, **Karen Corman**, **Robin Gerber Carnesale**, **Debby Schaeffer**, **Andrea Hodges**, **Solange Bertet**, **Rosemary Schwimmer**, **Betty Bales**, and **Ali Shahidi** were also there. The memorial provided a forum for a reunion among many of us, a bittersweet gathering in tribute to our dear departed partner, leader, and friend.

Many notables from the Los Angeles legal community were there, too. Marshall's co-counsel in the landmark Equity Funding securities class action, **Marc Seltzer**, was there with Senior United States District Court Judge **Christina A. Snyder**. **Patricia Glaser**, a formidable adversary of Marshall's, was there along with **Lisa Specht**; **Robert Fairbank**, a prominent mediator and fellow leader in the Association of Business Trial Lawyers; prominent entertainment lawyer **Ken Kleinberg** with his wife **Helen**; **Peggy Saferstein**, **Harvey Saferstein's** widow; and **Marshall Zolla**, a high school classmate of Marshall's.

As I [shared](#) at the time of his passing, I learned a great deal from Marshall and am proud to be among the many colleagues, friends and family who will remember his remarkable life and work and carry on his legacy.