5th EDITION NEW “SHOWOFF” FEATURES

The third edition of UAUA bore a black cover in respectful mourning for my Uncle Anthony’s death at age 86 in November 2011. The fourth edition added two entirely new sections for my friends in the legal profession, especially those, one of my heroes, Harry Philo, Sr., Esq., used to say “trial lawyers on the side of people.” In past updates I added TOASTS for uplifting prayers and blessings to share at happy times. Also, in the fourth edition I added a more solemn topic—EULOGY, to help those, like myself, who have strained and searched through fitful, sleepless nights to find the very perfect farewell message for an entire family. The other new topic was, in my professional opinion, the most important part of any jury trial—OPENING STATEMENT. Even if you do not practice law, any introduction or new “start” to a written or oral presentation can be enhanced with a well-turned phrase. I hope this recent addition helped “break the ice” for you.

This new fifth edition has what many trial lawyers consider the penultimate skill for any trial advocate: CROSS-EXAMINATION. As U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens said, “Even if one does not completely agree with Wigmore’s assertion that cross examination is beyond any doubt the greatest legal engine ever invented for the discovery of truth,” one must admit that in the Anglo American legal system cross examination is the principal means of undermining the credibility of a witness whose testimony is false or inaccurate.” United States v. Salerno, 505 U.S. 317 (1992).

This fifth edition has what I know my late Aunt Mary Carlo from Brooklyn, N.Y., would have called “Showoff Time.” My Aunt Mary absolutely loved going to the movies—especially the Saturday double-features. She was “catholic” and all-consuming in her tastes and cinematic choices. She loved westerns, WWII, “Film Noir,” sci-fi, horror, and comedies—but her favorite genre was musicals. It didn’t even matter if the movie was black and white—The Jazz Singer (1927), with Al Jolson, 42nd Street (1933) with choreography by Busby Berkeley. Rose Marie (1936) with Nelson Eddy and Jeanette MacDonald, Shall We Dance (1937) with Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. Her all-time favorite musicals were any of Shirley Temple’s with Bill “Mr. Bojangles” Robinson, The Wizard of Oz (1939), and South Pacific (1958). As a tribute to my Aunt from B’klyn, and a treat for paremiologists, I have included in each topic below at least one of my Aunt’s favorites . . . or I have taken literary license to give you her unique twist thereon.

Aunt Mary used to say—“if yer gonna quote somebody, ya may as well SHOWOFF and quote some big-shot movie or TV star from some popular movie or TV show . . . after all they gotta have better writers for dere quotes den you and me put togetter!”