



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Tim Newsom

EVEN THE LONE RANGER HAD TONTO

You probably know the name Mike Eruzione, the Olympic hockey player that scored the go-ahead goal for the 1980 USA Hockey Team that beat the heavily favored Russians. But, can you name the player that scored half of USA's four goals in that match? You probably know the name Steve Jobs, the late founder and CEO of Apple Computer. But, can you name the Apple employee responsible for the design of the iPhone? You probably know the name Neil Armstrong, the first human to walk on the moon. But, can you name the astronaut that piloted the command spacecraft alone in lunar orbit until Mr. Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin returned from the moon surface?

Without Mark Johnson's two goals, not to mention goalie Jim Craig's 36 saves, and the unparalleled effort of the other 18 members of Team USA, Mr. Eruzione's goal would have simply tied the match, not moved the USA into the prevailing lead. Without Jonathan Ive's vision, and 1,000 other Apple employees involved in the highly confidential "Project Purple", the world might not have ever known the iPhone. Without Michael Collins flying solo in the command module and the determined focus of innumerable scientists and engineers in mission control, Mr. Armstrong would not have walked on the moon and successfully returned to Earth. The 1980 Olympic victory, the invention of the iPhone, and the first moonwalk were not accomplished by three people. Each of those moments in history culminated from years of hard work by thousands of people that unselfishly played their often unseen role for the success of the team and its objective. Unfortunately, we only see the accomplishment by the individual when highlight reels are played of these historic events. Let us not ever forget the roles played by those who are not glamorized in the highlight film.

This month we celebrate "Administrative Professionals Day". I want to broaden our celebration this year to include all members of our firm, not just administrative professionals. Rarely does our legal support staff receive the credit it deserves. The legal support staff includes other lawyers, paralegals, secretaries, receptionists, and even the runner. We depend on fellow lawyers to brainstorm ideas and share responsibility. We rely upon paralegals to draft discovery and organize volumes of documents for instantaneous access while

examining a witness. Legal secretaries are like a circus juggler multi-tasking between processing mail, typing letters, calendaring deadlines, and handling clients. Our receptionists are the voice and face of our firms; they comfort clients in legal trouble with their friendly voice and smiling face. Our poor runners pay the price for our procrastination and shoot like a rocket to make timely deliveries. We must make no mistake about it—the practice of law is a team effort. Our clients' success depends on the team, not just the lead lawyer, unselfishly performing like clockwork to accomplish a common goal.

Although we celebrate "Administrative Professionals Day," there is another vital part of our team that does not come to the office but lives with the office—our family or, in the cases for the unmarried, significant others. The practice of law is ever demanding. We depend upon our loved ones for support, refuge, and understanding. Support for the tough times, and there are plenty. Refuge from the 24/7 demands from clients, courts, and opposing parties. Understanding of the long physical hours away from home and non-stop mental preoccupation while we are at home. They are an irreplaceable part of our legal team. Indeed, they are irreplaceable in our lives.

Even though your name appears on the letterhead and, at times, in the press, please remember the team that surrounds you, supports you, and allows you to be a successful lawyer. I implore all of you to make time from this month forward to genuinely thank all the members of your legal and personal team. Let them know they are an integral part of this journey, and that you would not be who you are, or where you are, without them.