

Robing Room Rules

"It is inappropriate to define the governmental interest as maintaining only opposite-gender marriages, just as it was inappropriate to define the governmental interest as maintaining same-race marriages in *Loving*."

- *Griego v. Oliver*

Of the people.

Better yet, E pluribus plebe

A New Mexico in which all New Mexicans get a fair shake.

Where we hold the right to fall in love sacred.

And there will be occasions where we are called upon to separate the rights of customers from those of the corporations.

Where there may come a time when we are called upon to protect the next generation's future

property interest

in the present environment...

... to protect their right to equal access and protection. Their unenumerated right to marathon the same mountaintops we did.

To know the difference between human rights and wrong.

To forego the practice of profit for the practice of law.

To fancy ourselves a court with liberty and justice

for all.

"When litigants allege that the government has unconstitutionally discriminated against them, courts must decide the merits of the allegation because if proven, courts must resist shrinking from their responsibilities as an independent branch of government, and refuse to perpetuate the discrimination—regardless of how long it has persisted—by safeguarding constitutional rights."

- *Rodriguez v. Brand W. Dairy*

In this business, our opinion is someone's reality.

We hold ourselves accountable for accessibility. Knowing that there is a whole 'lot riding on our humanity.

Just because it's called a bench doesn't mean it's a game.

Every court is the last resort for those with little to no means.

The kind of zealous advocacy that believes you've got to lose a little sleep for the things you believe in.

That competent representation is not a function of circumstance it is a Constitutional guarantee.

Whether you went to college "back East" or spend summers cattle ranching in La Palma, there is place in this profession for people who look like you.

The kind of court that serves as a mirror to remind all of us

what justice looks like.

"[A]n owner/occupant of a commercial baseball stadium owes a duty that is symmetrical to the duty of the spectator ... Spectators must exercise ordinary care to protect themselves from the inherent risk of being hit by a projectile that leaves the field of play and the owner/occupant must exercise ordinary care not to increase that inherent risk. This approach recognizes the impossibility of playing the sport of baseball without projectiles leaving the field of play."

- *Edward C. v. City of Albuquerque*

When you render a judgment deliver it with your whole entire body. When age and illness inevitably catch up with you

you will be glad that you did.

Just because life isn't fair doesn't mean we shouldn't strive to be. Justice is its own language and every judge and jury ought to be accent agnostic.

Give these cases everything you got, kid. As though the faith of this institution depends on it. But not at the expense of your family and all the things you love dearly.

To remember that the law simply serves as a collective reminder of all the things we, as society, deem *sine qua non* to protect.

To be more than curious, to be unafraid to question.

To take incredible pride in the amount of labor required to arrive at the unpopular answer

so long as we are just.

*By Hakim Bellamy
Inspired by the life and times of Ret. Chief Justice Edward L. Chávez
Presented by Hakim Bellamy on behalf of Equal Access to Justice*