Tom Friedman on Iraq: “Make them fight us all”

Speaking to over 1500 people at Ham Hall on February 25 at the opening lecture of the Saltman Center’s PEACE IN THE DESERT™ series, Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times columnist Thomas L. Friedman addressed the issue of how we got where we are in Iraq and what to do now. He acknowledged that at the beginning of the current conflict, he was supportive of the war, because he thought the development of a truly democratic Iraq could have an influence on the other Arab states in the region but he said he thought it would be “difficult” and take time. Unfortunately, the administration thought the war would be “easy” and short, which led to the morass we are in now.

Friedman pointed out that the burden of the war is being borne by the 120,000 American troops in Iraq, along with their families, and smaller numbers of fighting forces from Britain and a few other countries. The rest of us have not had to make any sacrifices or extend ourselves to help the war effort. According to him, the way to make it harder for the insurgents to succeed was to “make them fight all of us.”

At one point, Friedman asked, “Where is the Islamic Martin Luther King? Where is the Muslim who will stand up and condemn the actions of these people who have hijacked the Islamic faith?” He said he had not found anyone willing to take on that role.

But he was not without hope for the future. His assessment of the government was brusque: “I live just outside Washington and it is simply brain-dead.” But according to Friedman, “the rest of the country is alive and well and coming up with one idea after another.” He said he had two piles of letters on his desk at home: one pile from people who were experimenting with different ways to improve education, and the other from individuals interested in more energy independence.

Friedman, well-known for seeking and promoting environmentally sound, or ‘green’ solutions for the world’s problems, saw the future as positive as long as the country was generating ideas like the ones on his desk.

Friedman left time for audience questions, and the level of questioning showed Las Vegas citizens as thoughtful and on the cutting edge of the issues.

The PEACE IN THE DESERT™ lecture series aims to bring speakers with firsthand information about world trouble spots to Las Vegas to assist citizens in forming their opinions about major issues of the day and to suggest possible solutions for the most pressing problems.
Boyd Students, Top American Team in National Client Counseling Competition, Represent U.S. in Internationals Down Under!

Coached by Professors Jean Sternlight and Rebecca Scharf, a member of the Legal Writing faculty, Boyd students Elizabeth Naccarato and Jennifer Routheaux reached the semifinals in the International Client Counseling Competition held in Australia. Maintaining a tradition of success begun just three short years ago, Beth and Jenny won first place in the regional ABA Client Counseling Competition held at Boyd in February 2007. They then went on to take second place in the national competition held at Southern Methodist University’s Dedman School of Law in Dallas, Texas. But Canada’s University of Victoria Faculty of Law placed first, so the Boyd team had the honor of representing the United States at the international competition in Sydney during the week of April 9.

This year’s competition involved the area of family law. For the preliminary rounds this year at the regional competition, teams were given fact patterns concerning some topics in that area of law (the ‘problem’) about ten days before the competition. Judges and ‘clients’ are given a different problem version with confidential information. The task of the client counseling team is to interview the client, determine what legal issues the client has, and discuss fee arrangements. Teams that make the final rounds have very little time to prepare, since they receive the final problem only a short time before the round begins.

Boyd actually sent two teams to the regional competition held here in February. The other team, composed of Paula Gregory and John Courtenay, placed third. It is a major achievement for one school to have two teams in the top three places in a competition, and the Boyd community is enormously proud of Beth, Jenny, Paula and John. Many thanks to all the other faculty members who volunteered their time and expertise to help prepare the teams.

In 2005, Boyd students Lisa McClane and Jay Odum took first place in the international competition held in Hawaii. Last year the team of Stacey Perez-Roe and Jerrold Creed took third place at the national Client Counseling Competition in Chicago.

Saltman Happenings

February 1, 2007 Professor Robert Rhee, Washburn School of Law (Topeka, KS) spoke on “The Effect of Risk on Legal Valuation.”

February 12, 2007 Professor Michael Moffitt, University of Oregon Law School, made a presentation on “Customized Litigation: The Case for Making Civil Procedure Negotiable.”

March 27, 2007 Perry Rogers, son of Nevada Higher Educational System Chancellor Jim Rogers and agent for sports superstars Andre Agassi and Shaquille O’Neal, returned to Boyd to reprise his talk on how to negotiate. Margaret Edwards, president of the Saltman Dispute Resolution Society, and Jeffrey Todd, president of the Sports and Entertainment Law Society arranged for Perry to appear.

Staff Activities

Jean Sternlight presented the annual Stanley Schwartz Lecture on Dispute Resolution at Ohio State University’s Moritz College of Law on April 4. Her topic, “Good Lawyers Need to be Good Psychologists,” will also be the basis for an article to be published in the Journal on Dispute Resolution and for a book she will be co-authoring with Professor Jennifer Robbennolt. University of Illinois College of Law. She has already co-authored a paper with Prof. Robbennolt on this subject...Ray Patterson has been named to Las Vegas’s Citizen Review Board, the entity that is charged with reviewing investigations of complaints against the city’s Metropolitan Police Department. Before joining the Boyd faculty, he was the Director of Communications and Dispute Resolution at New York City’s Civilian Complaint Review Board for eight years...Peter Reilly has made presentations on negotiation before the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce and the Business College at UNLV, and has also run negotiation trainings for women as well as for area attorneys.

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Ponder this…

“I like to believe that people, in the long run, are going to do more to promote peace than our governments. Indeed, I think that people want peace so much that one of these days governments had better get out of the way and let them have it.”

Succeeding in the Grand Souk

Peter Reilly’s Negotiation Training Director, believes that anyone can be taught to negotiate better, and that anyone can learn to recognize more negotiation opportunities. In fact, in his own life Peter negotiates for things whose price most people would consider fixed: the price of his suits, for example, show tickets and CD players!

Reilly has worked with individuals and organizations from throughout Las Vegas, and throughout the country, on how to achieve maximum results in any kind of negotiation. The training sessions last from 45 minutes to several days in length, depending on client needs.

Peter has worked with a wide variety of organizations, both public and private, including groups of doctors, lawyers, businesspeople, government officials, and public and non-profit leaders. Several clients have been women’s groups whose members believe becoming stronger negotiators is imperative to excelling in today’s highly competitive work environment. Representative clients have included the USA TODAY newspaper, the National Park Service, Turner Broadcasting System, Inc., the American Marketing Association, and Women in Cable and Telecommunications.

By combining traditional lectures with simulated negotiation exercises, role plays, and other group exercises, participants can learn from Reilly as well as from each other. The information is powerful, fun to learn, and immediately useful in all aspects of life, both personal and professional. As one participant noted on his program evaluation form, “Tremendous for me both as an attorney and as an ecclesiastic leader. Not bad information for me as a spouse and father as well.”

Specializing in developing customized trainings, Peter can work with an organization to quickly pinpoint the kind of negotiations in which members tend to be involved, as well as the types of barriers currently preventing the achievement of favorable agreements. Specific materials, role plays and exercises can be selected in order to teach and “drill” the competencies and skills most relevant in addressing problems faced by a particular organization or industry.

For anyone interested in seeing how Reilly conducts a training, he will present “Negotiation: The Essence of Winning in Business” for the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce’s Business Education Series on Wednesday, October 10, 2007, from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m.. This event is open to the general public; please contact the Chamber regarding cost and location.

To learn more about upcoming SCCR trainings, go to http://www.law.unlv.edu/saltman.html. If you would like to schedule training for your group or organization, contact Professor Reilly directly at (702) 895-2675 or at Peter.Reilly@UNLV.edu.

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