Interview with Ed Abel

June 10, 2009

KEK: Hi, this is Karen Kalnins; I’m a Reference Librarian at the Oklahoma City University Law Library and today is Wednesday, June 10th 2009. It is a little bit after 9:30 here in the morning. I am in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. This morning I am going to be speaking with Mr. Ed Abel. Mr. Abel is an attorney here in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. This interview is part of the larger oral history project that the Oklahoma City University Law Library is sponsoring. As a part of that project we are interviewing attorneys and judges throughout the state of Oklahoma. So, welcome Mr. Abel.

EA: Thank you.

KEK: Thank you I was so pleased when you agreed to do this interview. So what drew you to the law Mr. Abel?

EA: You know when I was in high school I had a lot of debating experience. Debate, I was very active in debate for several years in high school. But I was sent off to college by my parents, my parents were both school teachers. In fact a lot of my family, uncles and aunts, those types of relatives were school teachers. So my parents sent me to OU to be educated to become a teacher. I just decided I didn’t want to do that, not that that’s not a good profession; but I just decided that was not what was for me. And I decided I wanted to put my speaking skills to use, that I wanted to be a trial lawyer. To me a lawyer was a corporate lawyer and that’s what I decided I wanted to do. Of course my father especially was quite disappointed when I told him that I wanted to be an attorney because his concept of attorneys was they were pretty smart, pretty crafty and about 95% dishonest. He was not very happy with that decision. Now later after I became an attorney he realized, you know they have honest attorneys. He became very proud of the fact that I was an attorney. But that’s kind of the background on how I became an attorney.

KEK: What did you do to prepare yourself for law school?

EA: Well I studied hard. I made good grades in undergraduate school. And I had that debating experience all the way through college. So really that’s what I did to prepare for college and for law school. Then of course once I got into law school I spent the time to study because I did want to pass. When I went to law school it was a brand new experience for me. Of course I was afraid that I wouldn’t pass so I studied real hard. Of course I did pass, but you know that fear of not doing well I think drove me to do well in law school.

KEK: Where did you apply for law school?

EA: I applied at the University of Oklahoma; that was the only place that I actually applied for. I considered going out of state. I considered going to Harvard or to Northwestern in Chicago,
Illinois both of which were really good law schools at that time and there were other good law schools. But I had, I was advised if you are going to live in Oklahoma, if you’re going to practice in Oklahoma, a good thing to do is to go to law school in the area where you live because you’ll make a lot of contacts in law school. That’s what I chose to do and that advice turned out to be good advice because a lot of the people I knew in law school now are practicing attorneys here in Oklahoma. Some of them have been judges, important people that I appear either with or in front of, that I knew from law school.

KEK: What year did you enter law school?


KEK: Tell me about your experiences and your time at the University of Oklahoma Law School.

EA: Well I really enjoyed my time at OU. As I say it was a new type of study for me. I was scared to death when I went to law school, afraid I wouldn't make it. Then when I got out of law school and had to take the bar, I was scared to death again, afraid that I might not pass the bar that type thing. Fortunately I was successful in both endeavors. It took a lot of time. I tried to be prepared for class, tried to be prepared for when I was called on. That proved to benefit me well when it came to exam time and that type thing because I was prepared and was able to pass.

KEK: It sounds like it. Do you remember any professors that left a mark on you or that mentored you during your time in law school or did you have any internship experiences?

EA: Well I had some of those, now my freshman year at OU I was not employed. My wife was employed and through her income we were able to financially make it. And I did have some professors that were very meaningful to me. Dr. Frank L. Curry was one of my professors at OU that I really admired. I took property law and labor law from Dr. L. Curry and worker’s compensation law. Dr. George Frasier, we called him “Tiger Frasier” because he was known for really getting after the students if you weren’t prepared in class. I had a lot of courses from him. Dr. R. Dale Valeet who I was fortunate enough to be on the law school review, law review and I can remember I wrote my first law review paper under Dr. Valeet and it came back corrected, looking like it was bleeding to death. It had so many red marks on it. But he taught me a lot about writing. Not that I’m a good writer, but I’m sure a lot better writer now because of Dr. Valeet than I was when I first went to law school. But yes there were professors like that that worked with us. My experience at OU Law School was a very good experience. I had professors that were willing to, they were good professors, good teachers in the class room. Leo Whinery for example that I had and then he ended up later being of counsel to my law firm because he wanted to not only be a good professor, but he had never really actually practiced law and he wanted to get some of that experience of actually working in a law firm. Because he wanted to be able to pass on to his students a better experience from a professor who not only talked but
who had practiced. He felt like that experience would help him be a better professor. So I had people like that, men like that who taught me. I felt like I had good professors mostly.

**KEK:** That’s great. What were your plans after law school?

**EA:** Well you know when I first went to law school I thought I’m going to be a criminal defense lawyer that’s what I want, that came from my debating background. After my, well during the second semester of my freshman year I started thinking I want to work for a law firm. I wanted to do that this summer and that’s when we were committed to get a job now. At that time we didn’t have an official legal intern program. You just applied for a job with the law school, I mean with different law firms, you apply for jobs with different law firms. So I went around and was interviewed by law firms and I wasn’t getting very far very fast. I’ll tell you frankly, you know I, my folks lived in Oklahoma City although my wife and I lived in Norman while I was in law school. So I went over to my folks’ house and I was just kind of there by myself and I spent some time in prayer about it and about being able to get a job because I needed it, I needed a job. I picked up the phone and I just started calling and trying to make appointments to go interview and I just for some reason started at the rear of the alphabet. I called the first firm, the first lawyer I called his name was Joe Wolf because he was near the end of the alphabet. When I talked to Joe he said “Yes I’d be interested in talking to you. When can you come see me?” I said “Well I can come to see you just as soon as you want me to.” He said “Well how about you coming this afternoon?” So I went down and interviewed with him and that night I had an offer to go to work for the Lamkin and Wolf firm, Ben Lamkin and Joe Wolf were the senior partners and that’s who I went to work for. Now as it turned out, I didn’t know anything about them when I made that call I was just looking for a job with a law firm. They could have been a tax firm. They could have been business firm. They could have been any kind of a law firm. They were a trial firm representing persons who were injured in personal injury claims. Of course that’s what I have done now for-this summer will complete my 43rd year. This July the 26th I will have completed 43 years of doing that very kind of practice. I ended up working for them beginning in the summer after my freshman year of law school and I worked for them all the way through law school, summers and during the year while I was still in school. I went, they gave me a job offer after law school and I was with that firm for 10 years; then went out on my own of course with my own law firm. I didn’t leave with the intention of developing a law firm. I just, I left because I wanted to do things a different way; it turned out to develop a law firm. They gave me my first job. They gave me my training. I learned a lot, got an opportunity to try a lot of cases in that first 10 years that I was in practice with that law firm. That’s what I still do today is I represent people who are injured or have loved ones that are injured or killed in all sorts of accidents, everything from car wrecks to air plane crashes to product liability cases where a product maybe blows up and injures somebody or burns somebody very badly, a lot of medical malpractice type cases, insurance bad faith type cases. That’s what I’ve done for 43 years.
KEK: Wow, that’s amazing. Now tell me the kinds of things that you learned in that first firm. You said you were there for 10 years and you worked there during law school. What kinds of things specifically do you think that you learned?

EA: Well I learned how to deal with clients. I learned how to put the knowledge that I learned in law school to work in cases. I learned how to take depositions. I learned how to try cases. I had a lot of debating background but I didn’t have any friends or relatives that were attorneys, so I was the first attorney in my family. Under the guidance of Ben Lamkin and Joe Wolf they would try some cases with me. They let me second chair cases. Raymond Burger was a criminal defense attorney in that firm and I second chaired some cases with him. I just learned the techniques. I learned my way around the courtroom. Then of course they started me trying some cases on my own. Frankly I got to try a lot of cases that nobody else in that firm wanted to try. They needed to be tried and they said, “Here Ed, you go try it.” I didn’t have any choice that was my job. So I went over to the courthouse and tried a lot of cases and won some of them, won some of them that I was told nobody could win. Lost some, you know got beat up a few times, figuratively in the courtroom. But I learned from every case, from every experience. Appearing in front of different judges and trying cases against different lawyers was a real learning experience. Of course anytime I was trying a case by myself, I could go back, my senior partners Joe Wolf and Ben Lamkin were real good to say to me very frankly “Well why didn’t you do this or why don’t you do this” and that kind of thing, giving me ideas that I had not thought about. I learned how to cross-examine the witnesses. I learned how to put a doctor on the stand and ask him questions, such as one of my client’s doctors for example. I learned how to and how not to cross-examine an opposing doctor. These were all experiences that were given to me under the guidance of Ben Lamkin and Joe Wolf. So it was very valuable experience with them.

KEK: It sounds like it. What kinds of skills do you think someone needs to have to be successful as a trial attorney?

EA: Well I think first of all that it’s more than just skills. I think to be successful you’ve got to want to represent your client. You’ve got to want to do a good job for your client. Now all of my representation is on the plaintiff’s side, I’m representing the people. So for a lawyer to do that, you’ve got to want to do that, help people. You’ve got to care about your client and you’ve got to care about how you represent those people. Secondly, you’ve got to be competitive because being a trial lawyer you’re going to have really good lawyers on the other side of you who oppose you and who figuratively eat you alive if you are not prepared. So you’ve got to be really well prepared. You’ve got to know your subject. You’ve got to be at a moment’s notice to be able to stand on your feet and make a response to an argument that the other side is making. Those are things that you’ve got to study hard to do. Cases are won or lost generally speaking before you ever get to the courtroom. It’s not like Perry Mason, the old Perry Mason TV shows that you saw something unexpected happen and the truth comes out by a witness all of a sudden that you didn’t know about in the courtroom. For example, I take a lot of depositions and I work
hard at pretrial preparation. But I know that case ahead of time when I go into the courtroom. I know exactly what those witnesses are going to say and what they are not going to say and if they say something different, then I’m prepared to cross-examine them either from statements that I have taken or depositions that we have taken and that kind of thing. The case is pretty well scripted. Of course there are additional things that of course you’ve got to do like how to pick your jury. I can try the same case to 2 different juries and get 2 totally different results, depending on who is sitting on that jury. You’re given 3 preemptory challenges for example. So you’re looking for people on that jury that you want to kick off, that you want to eliminate. Rather than people that you want to be on there for you. You’ve got 12 people who sit on that jury and normally a judge will seat 18 people and you’ve got to kick off 3 people. So you’re not looking for people that you want to keep, you’re looking for the people who are going to be strong in opposition to your case. You want to get rid of those people. Those are the things that you learn as you do this trial work.

KEK: Right. No, it sounds like you’ve definitely learned a lot along the way. Tell me about some of your most memorable cases in that first practice, in those first 10 years.

EA: Well one of the most memorable cases was for a young man; there were actually 4 young men who were students at Oklahoma State University. They were given a summer job working in the oil field after their freshman year at OSU. They were called by their employer to go out to clean out an oil storage tank. These oil storage tanks these big round tanks that you see when you’re driving down the highway. They were involved in cleaning this empty oil storage tank out. These oil storage tanks are put together with nuts and bolts. They bolt these big plates of steel together to make this round oil storage tank and they were given an electric impact wrench to take the bolts off and put the bolts back on. There was a, on this particular tank there was a plate that was cracked and it was leaking. So my clients were involved in taking that plate off and putting it back on and at the same time there was a lot of sludge in this tank so they were cleaning that out. Well unbeknownst to my clients and I suppose unbeknownst to the, I’m going to call him a tool pusher, the tool pusher that was in charge of this operation there was a, in this electric impact wrench, internally the electric impact wrench would spark. It had an armature in there and it would spark. Of course if you got the right mixture of fumes coming off of the oil storage tank and then the sludge that was in that oil storage tank, the right mixture of fumes and air and then the spark it could cause a fire and an explosion and it did. Four boys were very badly burned, 3 of them over 80% of their bodies and one over about 50% of his body because he was standing at a further distance away at the time of the explosion. Those boys were all taken to the Oklahoma Burn Center at Baptist Hospital and ultimately two of the boys died, two of the boys that were burned over 80% of their body. The other young man that was burned over 80% of his body and the young man that was burned over about 55% of his body survived. I ended up representing all of those boys and we were able to make a recovery. We tried the case. It was an interesting case. We could not try what was called a 3rd party case against, at least at that time the
law wouldn’t allow you to try a 3rd party case against your employer. We were limited to the worker’s compensation. So we looked to other parties that were involved in the case. We brought a lawsuit against the manufacturer of the electric impact wrench because it did not have the proper warnings on it to warn somebody who was not educated in the fact and did not have the experience to know that that impact wrench could be the ignition source for the fire and the explosion. Also it could have been designed in a way so that it would not have done that. We worked with petroleum and chemical engineers. We worked with safety engineers. We tried that case against Black & Decker who was the manufacturer and designer of the electric impact wrench that was being used. The jury in Oklahoma brought back a ten million dollar verdict on behalf of one of those boys and ended up for a judgment for a little over 12 million dollars. Now at the time that that was rendered that was the largest verdict, personal injury verdict that had been awarded in the state of Oklahoma. I was very, very proud to represent that boy and of course that verdict resulted in the rest of the cases not having to go to trial and being settled. So I was proud of the fact that I was the attorney that got to represent those 4 boys and the families of the 2 boys that did not survive. Not only was I proud to be the attorney that represented them and got the award but I also learned a lot in that case, in handling those cases. I learned a lot from my clients that were so badly burned. My client’s name that I took to trial on that case was Greg Walton. Greg Walton at the time he was burned was a, he was a, it was the summer after his freshman year in college. Greg Walton went on to become a very fine physician and I learned a lot from Greg. Greg was burned as I said over about 80% of his body and horribly, horribly scarred. In fact in medical school even though he was one of the top students in his medical school class he was unable to obtain residencies in studying, he wanted to be a pediatrician. He was not able to be admitted to some of the top programs, residency programs in the country. I talked with a doctor who was an ear, nose and throat surgeon and that’s also another area that Greg Walton had considered was to do ear, nose and throat surgery. We were, we couldn’t figure out why he couldn’t be admitted to some of those programs, those residency programs.

KEK: What was the reason?

EA: We were told ultimately not by the schools, but by the ear, nose and throat surgeon that ended up testifying in the case for us that the reason that Greg couldn’t be, or wasn’t admitted, he could have been but was not admitted to those programs was because how horribly he was scarred and that he would deal with a lot of children and those programs were afraid that the children would be scared of him. So Greg ended up becoming a general surgeon rather than a pediatric surgeon because an ear, nose and throat surgeon deals a lot with children as well as adults. Greg Walton became a very, very fine surgeon. I had the opportunity to visit with Greg and I asked him, I said “How do you deal with the fact that you’re so horribly scarred?” For example there was one incident where Greg had been to a movie with his girlfriend. He walked out of that movie and there were kids there and they pointed at him making fun of him by saying “ET go home, ET go home” and that came from the movie ET.
KEK: Right.

EA: So Greg said to me he said “Well Ed I learned that I was not my neighbor’s greatest concern.” And I said “What do you mean by that?” He said “Well you know when I walk into a restaurant or any public place” he said “People look, they do look at me and I’m aware of that fact.” But he said “After I’m seated in about 10 minutes in the restaurant people aren’t paying attention to me anymore.” He said “You know, the fellow sitting at the table next to me has got other things that he is concerned about. He’s worried about his family. He’s worried about his job. He’s worrying about making a living. He’s worrying about commitments that he has made and pretty soon he’s not paying attention to me even though I’m sitting pretty close to him at the next table.” He said “I learned that I am not my neighbor’s greatest concern.” He said “If they’re not going to worry about how I look, then I could be free not to worry about it too and get about other things that are of greater concern.” Well I learned a lot from Greg Walton and I have learned a lot from other clients that I have represented that have been horribly injured, horribly disfigured. I’ve represented a lot of folks. I recently represented a young man that was involved in a terrible accident, a farming accident. He had his left arm torn off in a, by a post hole digger. He was paralyzed from the chest down. He was 18 years old and he will spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair. I’ve represented other burn victims. I’ve represented other quadriplegics and paraplegics. I’ve represented other amputees. I just, I personally learned a lot from how those people deal with life and deal with other people and deal with themselves. How they deal with those emotional issues so they don’t in fact end up committing suicide.

KEK: Right, because I guess that’s always a risk. I mean if somebody gets that horribly disabled or disfigured you know what keeps them going? You know what gets them out of bed in the morning?

EA: Well there, I have really learned through those experiences with 41 years of dealing with those clients. That there are really about 4 parts of every human being, at least 4 parts and that’s the physical, the mental, the emotional and the spiritual. How they deal with those issues, how they deal with the physical disabilities? How they deal with the injuries, the emotional repercussions from that? How they deal with the spiritual issues? How they relate to God and deal with the issue of “Why me Lord?” Some of my clients thought is this happening to me, am I being punished by the Lord and by God Almighty. Why is this happening to me? Those kinds of issues that I have had to deal with and that I’ve been given the opportunity to deal with. I’ve dealt with a lot of orthopedic surgeons, a lot of plastic surgeons. I’ve dealt with a lot of psychiatrists and psychologists and I have learned a heck of a lot. That has been frankly one of the most intriguing things about my law practice. Because every case has been different and it’s given me an opportunity to learn and hopefully grow and then I have related some of that of course to my own physical problems in the fact that I’ve been losing my eyesight over the past 35 to 40 years and now of course I’m totally blind and I have had to deal with the issue of do I just quit because I can’t see or do I find another way to get from point A to point B.
KEK: That’s right.

EA: And the lessons that I learn from my clients and my experience have been a wonderful benefit to me personally.

KEK: It sounds like it. Mr. Abel we’re about halfway through, so I’m going to go ahead and stop the recording and then we’ll continue on with our second half. Okay?

EA: Okay.

KEK: Hi, this is Karen Kalnins again. I’m a Reference Librarian at the Oklahoma City University Law Library and this will be the 2nd half of the interview here with Mr. Ed Abel. Again we are in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma this morning. It’s about quarter after 10 or so in the morning. In the first half of the interview Mr. Abel talked about how he became interested in the law and his early experiences in legal practice. Now I wanted to ask Mr. Abel at the end of the first half of the interview you mentioned the fact that you are blind. When did you become blind Mr. Abel?

EA: Well I became totally blind about 3 or 4 years ago but have had a…I’ve been losing my eye sight for the past 35 or 40 years and have had limited vision during a great deal of that period of time. I’ve not been able to for example drive a car or pick up a book and read it for probably the last oh gosh 30 years. So I’ve had people who read to me. People who drive me to get me to places and then have not been able to see well enough really for the past 20 years to go places on my own or at least have not been comfortable in doing so.

KEK: How does that affect, how does this physical, I guess most people would see that as a disability. I don’t know if you would view it that way or not. But how do you, how does that affect your practice, your law practice?

EA: Well at first I had to learn to be able to deal with that and I went through that stage of why me Lord and then I went through that stage of being embarrassed about it. For example I would meet someone and talk with them and then after the person I was talking to had left I might turn to my assistant and say “Was it obvious that I did not know who I was talking to?” Then I had to come to the realization that being of limited eyesight and then ultimately being blind was who I was. I was a different person than I used to be because of that physical disability and I had to learn to accept that and I had to get to an acceptance part frankly because as I said earlier I had to learn a lot from my clients. Then also I was fortunate enough to go see a very good MD psychiatrist who counseled with me for a pretty good period of time. I was able to ask questions. I was able to listen. I was able to learn and I came out of that a healthier person with that medical disability then I would have been had I not had that experience. So I just have learned to do things differently. I’ve learned to do things as I say to get from point A to point B differently
than I used to when I was sighted. But I’ve learned that I can do an awful lot of things even though I can’t see.

**KEK:** No, I mean it sounds like it. You, did you ever contemplate giving up the law practice when you completely lost your sight?

**EA:** Well I thought about it and of course I had to deal with the issue of what can I do. Now frankly I like practicing law. I like the people I work with and I like the clients that I represent. I can’t say that I have always really liked every client that I’ve ever represented. But I have sure liked most of them. I think I have been able to do a good job for my clients. I have been able to get a lot of satisfaction out of helping people. I said to you earlier and I truly mean this, that it gives me a great deal of satisfaction to be able to help people. You know my clients come to me because they are really in need. One of the greatest things that’s ever happened to me in the practice of law, I represented a lady who had 2 little girls. Her husband, their father was killed, burned to death in a horrible truck accident. I was able to represent them. This lady had been married for 35 years. She had never worked outside the home. She wasn’t educated or trained to work outside the home. She’d been a homemaker and her husband had been the financial support of that family. Now all of a sudden that was gone. They were at their, she was at her wit’s end. She didn’t know where to go or what to do and I was able to help them. Well years after I had represented them, I got a letter from one of the girls. One of the twin girls and she wrote to me and she just said “Mr. Abel I wanted to write this letter to you and take this opportunity to thank you.” She said “I am now a pharmacist.” She said “I got to go to college and to pharmacy school because of what you did to recover for my mom and me. Because of you I was able to go to college and get a degree and earn a livelihood.” Now I become emotional even talking about it because you can’t believe how much that meant to me to get that letter. That was one of the nicest things that has ever happened to me. When I… I told you about representing Greg Walton.

**KEK:** Right.

**EA:** To be able to see Greg go ahead and get his medical degree and to know that he is a practicing, very successful surgeon and of all the people that he has been able to help and to be able to continue to be friends with Greg because we’re still friends to this day. I see him and talk to him every once in a while, not all the time, but every once in a while. That means so much to me. So many other memories I have of being able to help someone who really needed help and to be able to represent them has just meant a great deal to me. So it gives me a great deal of satisfaction to be able to do that.

**KEK:** No, it sounds like it. Do you ever think that not having your sight has been a stumbling block in a case or has the opposing counsel ever treated you differently, judges ever treated you differently because of it?
**EA:** I haven’t had any of the judges that I felt like have treated me badly. I mean they treat me differently because frankly the judges are good, not that they’ve given me unfair advantage but they have allowed me room to do things because of my lack of eyesight. And most of the attorneys have, now it has been difficult sometimes because they’re, I mean it makes it more difficult. I can’t make notes when I’m listening to a witness testify. I have to remember, I have to be able to remember points that I want to cross examine that witness on. It makes it more difficult without being able to take notes, so what I’ve had to do is figure out a different way to do it. Now I’ve got a pretty good memory, but I don’t totally trust that. So I’ll have somebody sitting there with me. I’ll have another attorney sitting there with me or I’ll have my legal assistant there sitting there with me and I may lean over during the testimony of a witness and I’ll say “Make a note of this, make a note of this” you know that kind of a thing. Then when I’m up cross-examining that witness I may think now I know there was something else I wanted to bring out, another issue that I wanted to bring up so I’ll walk over to my fellow lawyer or I’ll walk over to my assistant and say “Read those notes to me.” For example I’ll say “Judge, I need a minute.” And the judge will say “Okay Mr. Abel go ahead and take whatever time you need.” So maybe I’m a little slower on doing that than if I had eyesight or that kind of thing. But you know my track record has…we’ve been successful. So I think I do a good job. When I get to the point, if I ever get to the point that I feel like that I can’t do a good job for my client, then I’ll quit. I’ll do something different. I’ll become a managing partner and quit going to court and trying cases or something like that. But that has not happened yet.

**KEK:** That’s wonderful.

**EA:** I think if there’s a will, there’s a way. I think you can figure out how to do a good job.

**KEK:** Yes, I tend to agree with that. Do you see your lack of eyesight as a disability?

**EA:** I don’t think of it that way. Now you know if I stop and think about it, the biggest problem with a lack of eyesight is you lose your, how do I want to say that, you lose your privacy. For example I can’t go out and walk out, go in the car and run down to the grocery store. I can’t go see a movie by myself. From I can’t go see a movie by myself. Now I still go to the movies. You know I can pick up most of what’s going on by listening to it but you know I can’t go do things by myself. If I go somewhere I’ve got to have somebody take me. Or at least I’m not comfortable in trying to do things just totally by myself. Now I saw that movie *Ray*, I don’t know that you’ve seen that or not.

**KEK:** No I haven’t, but that’s about Ray Charles?

**EA:** About Ray Charles and he did some things totally by himself. I mean he traveled clear across the country by himself. I probably wouldn’t do that. I’m just not comfortable in doing that. So the biggest thing with blindness is you lose your independence maybe that’s the best way to put it, you lose your independence a lot.
KEK: Sounds like it. What continues to motivate you? You said just a moment ago when you felt like you would no longer be effective for your clients you would go and do something else. What continues to fire you up and get you going in the morning?

EA: The clients that I represent. Those, the people that I represent need help. I like to be able to feel like I can help them. That is the main thing. Now I like what I do. I like the lawyers that I deal with; some of my best friends are the lawyers that I handle cases either with or against. I have some awfully good friends that we’ll fight like cats and dogs when we get in the courtroom but they’re good honest people. Their word is good and they are good people. And I like those people. I also have the privilege of my son practicing law with me, watching him and watching other young lawyers who come through our firm to learn. I’ve had over, over 43 years I’ve had a lot of young lawyers who’ve come work for me. Now they’re out on their own and they’re very successful. I take a lot of pride in that and I’ve enjoyed working with those people. So I like people. I like the clients that I represent. I like the feeling that I get when I help somebody. Those are the things that motivate me.

KEK: Well Mr. Abel I see that we are out of time, but I want to thank you so much for your time today. Do you have anything else to add? Do you have anything that you wanted to say or talk about before we end the interview?

EA: No. I’ve enjoyed meeting you and I’ve enjoyed talking to you.

KEK: Great thank you again very much for your time today.

EA: You’re welcome.