

RUSSELL TROUTMAN

DOING MORE

by Tim Stephens

As with virtually any highly successful attorney, on Russell Troutman's shelves are law books, manuals and periodicals from which he can tap into a wealth of information to guide him. For his most important legal project, Troutman used none of them, instead opting for a verse from the Bible as his inspiration.

"If you are going to be a Christopher Columbus you have to be a risk taker."

"For I was hungry and you gave me meat; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; naked, and you clothed me; I was sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came unto me," Troutman says, quoting Matthew 25:35-36.

A 1955 graduate of Marshall University, Troutman recognizes the need of the less fortunate for competent legal representation. Thus was born Troutman's legacy, the Legal Aid Society of Orange County, Florida. The Society provides legal services to low-income citizens of Orange County, providing \$2 million of *pro bono* services each year to more than 80,000 people since 1967.

Troutman spearheaded the idea in response to President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty. The Economic Opportunity Act of Johnson's administration inaugurated a vast legal service program for the poor. However, Troutman deeply believes the oath

of office every lawyer takes obligates lawyers themselves to provide representation to the needy, regardless of the ability to pay.

"It struck a chord with me that a lawyer has a duty to provide legal services to the poor," Troutman says. "Our legal aid program at the time of Johnson's War on Poverty was virtually no program at all. It was a secretary answering the phone and then trying to refer the call to a lawyer to take the case."

Frequently, attorneys were not interested in such cases, especially if it meant spending their own money for filing fees. That left low-income people scrambling to find attorneys who would accept their cases. The War on Poverty, funded by vast taxpayers' dollars, served at least one real purpose. "The federal government sent us an alert that we needed to do more," Troutman says.

And do more, Russell has. In an effort to keep legal aid services local, he filed suit against the federal government claiming the Economic Opportunity Act was unconstitutional and constituted an unlawful delegation of legislative authority to an administrative agency. The Orange County Bar Association and surrounding bar associations joined Troutman as party plaintiffs.

The case wended its way through the federal court system to the United States Supreme Court, which with one dissent decided the case, not on the merits, but on the principle that neither Troutman nor the bar associations had standing to test the constitutionality of the Economic Opportunity Act. Nevertheless, the several years it took to get through the court system gave Troutman time to implement a locally funded staff of lawyers to deal with poverty law on a local basis.

Troutman ran for vice president and president of the Orange County Bar and was elected overwhelmingly. The Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association, Inc., was formed with Troutman serving as the first vice president and president during the first full year of operation. A legal staff was employed and guidelines for accepting cases were adopted during his year as president. Additionally, funding sources were raised from lawsuit filing fees, and contributions from the City of Orlando and Orange

County. However, major funding was generated by each member of the Orange County Bar contributing \$350 a year to the Legal Aid Society in lieu of accepting a case.

The Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar has served as a model both for the state of Florida and nationally for local bar association legal services. The Florida Supreme Court, in fact, has adopted a payment in lieu of representation as a requirement for all members of The Florida Bar.

During Troutman's year as both president of the Orange County Bar Association and president of the Legal Aid Society, The Florida Bar for Troutman's presidency conferred upon the Orange County Bar Association its best local bar association in Florida award. The Orlando Jaycees awarded Troutman its Good Government Award and characterized him as the "driving force" behind the formation of the legal aid program in Orange County, Florida. "It was a tribute to our Legal Aid Society that we were able to do it with local funds," Troutman says. "It was a rebellious position at the time, but since then, the program has been hailed nationwide as a raging success."

A strong contingent, including the American Bar Association, preferred the program of the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO), an agency that was created specifically for the antipoverty initiative and that reported directly to the President. OEO was responsible for nearly all of the War on Poverty's best-known and most controversial programs: Head Start, Job Corps, Legal Services, and the Community Action Program. There were also those who opposed Troutman's upgraded local concept for fear it would take clients from private practitioners. Troutman, though, won the support of the Orange County Bar Association, the Lake County Bar Association, the Osceola County Bar Association, and the St. Lucie County Bar Association. He spoke to all of these groups and rallied them to reject the OEO concept and comply with their oath of office to provide legal services to the poor.

"When the general membership of the Orange County Bar Association overruled the vote of the executive council, and joined me in the lawsuit, it gave the respect I needed to avoid ignominy

for opposing the OEO concept, which was sweeping the country," Troutman says. "The temperament of the bar association has changed since then and our Legal Aid Society now has an outstanding staff of attorneys and state-of-the-art facilities. Our Legal Aid Society is clearly and justifiably the proudest achievement of the Orange County Bar Association."

Troutman, in great part because of his faith and somewhat because of his own gritty determination, held strong against foes. He admits now he was a starry-eyed young idealist at the time. In many regards, he still is.

"I was very proud to be a lawyer, still am," Troutman says. "It is our responsibility to provide representation to people who cannot afford a lawyer. The Bible says to tithe ten percent of our income. We need to give ten percent of our time as well. I had no idea how the program would turn out, but looking back on it, my leadership role in the matter appears to be my most salient career legacy."

In the early 1980's, Russell won a big personal injury case, and approached Sister Cathy Gorman of the Sisters of Notre Dame De Namur, who, together with her colleague sisters, operated a ministry of social services to migrant workers in the farming industry. Troutman offered Sister Cathy his entire fee on the major case he won if she would use the fee to finance a trained paralegal as part of the services she was affording migrant workers in the Apopka area in Orange County.

Sister Cathy accepted his offer. She immediately started "People's Legal Action" and employed a paralegal. Within a year, she employed a licensed lawyer to deliver legal services to the farm workers.

Troutman provided annual funding to finance legal services as part of People's Legal Action. Also, while serving on the board of trustees of the Florida Bar Foundation, the entity used to collect and disburse millions of dollars from interest on the lawyers' trust account, Troutman advocated and voted in favor of including Sister Cathy's People's Legal Action on the list of qualified recipients of IOTA funds.

"Through his intervention, Mr. Troutman enabled the creation of People's Legal Action, still in existence to this day, and through his financial support and more importantly, the hundreds of cases he and his firm have handled which we could not handle, thousands of people have received legal representation otherwise unavailable to them," Sister Cathy said. "In 1986 alone, we recorded 5,000 people who received legal services from the People's Legal Action. Always he works to secure the dignity of those most in need of legal services."

As Sister Cathy points out, Russell Troutman has done more than create legal service programs. He has worked in the trenches representing the poor. Before *Gideon v. Wainwright*, which brought the public defender system into existence, Troutman volunteered his services to represent the poor.

The *Orlando Sentinel*, on July 29, 1960, carries the headline, "Defense Wins Case For Negro," and a portion of the accompanying news story read as follows: "Russell Troutman scored his second legal victory in as many trial days yesterday in the Orange County Criminal Court. Troutman, with the firm of Akerman, Turnbull, Senterfitt & Eidson, successfully defended a man charged with assault and battery on Tuesday and yesterday he won his case defending Sammy McBride, a 19-year-old Negro parolee charged with breaking and entering with intent to commit petty larceny."

Troutman learned hustle from his Huntington High School baseball coach, Doug Greenlee, who insisted that players sprint on and off the field and try to "beat it out" to first base on grounders or pop ups. Greenlee is a Marshall University Hall of Famer who excelled in three sports. "Doug Greenlee was a big inspiration in my life," Troutman says. "He let us know in that foghorn voice of his if we hustle on and off the field, these same principles can apply to everything we do."

The son of a mother who was a circus performer and a father who was a doctor, Troutman took on more of his mother's personality, with a sprinkling of his conservative father. His mother, Florence Walleth Troutman, was a trapeze artist with the Wheeler Brothers Circus.

"My mother was an optimist, an idealist, an enthusiast," Troutman says. "She graduated from Marshall the same day I graduated from Huntington High School. She went on to get her master's in English at Marshall. She was always busy in self improvement, taking voice and piano lessons, globetrotting the world over, learning French, dancing at Arthur Murray's Studio, becoming a champion bridge player, and even in her later years, becoming a hole-in-one golfer."

Dr. Holmes Fielding Troutman, however, was much the opposite—stoic, sedate, conservative. He did, though, take a sabbatical as a physician to join the circus as a cornet player/doctor. Dr. Troutman met his future wife while traveling with the circus when he was 35 and she was 15. They married ten years later.

"My father was a practical and prudent man," Troutman says. "My mother was a risk taker and was more than willing to accept failure. If you are going to be a Christopher Columbus, you have to be a risk taker."

The Troutmans had three children—Joanna, who graduated from Marshall in 1949, Florence, a member of the Class of 1950, and Russell, a graduate of the Class of 1955. All three were born in the tiny West Virginia town of Glen Rogers; then, shortly after Russell's birth, the family moved to Page, West Virginia, a community owned by a coal company. Dr. Troutman was a coal mine doctor in Glen Rogers, and then later for the Loup Creek Colliery Company in Page. Dr. Troutman delivered all three of his children and circumcised Russell. "That's when I decided to specialize in medical malpractice," Russell jokingly recalls. A chair with Dr. Troutman's name has been dedicated to his memory at the Marshall University Medical School auditorium.

Russell Troutman met his wife-to-be, Patricia Lee Bullion, in the first grade in Page. Pat's father was deputy sheriff of Fayette County at the time, and together with Dr. Troutman worked many beer joint scenes where a fight or injury ensued.

In 1944, the Troutman family moved to Huntington, where Russell continued his education at Cammack Elementary, Cammack Junior High School, and Huntington High School,

where he led the Pony Express baseball team in hitting his senior year. He was class honorarian, and majority leader in the West Virginia House of Delegates at Boys' State at Jackson's Mill. At Huntington High's graduation ceremony, Troutman was decorated with the American Legion Citizenship Medal, and was voted the person who contributed the most to the school. In 1987, Troutman was inducted into the Huntington High School Hall of Fame.

Prophetically, in his junior year, Troutman was elected by the Hi-Y Club to serve as city attorney for a day, and in his senior year, as mayor for a day when Walter Payne was the mayor.

While growing up, Troutman stayed busy working at the White Cross Pharmacy on Ninth Avenue and First Street for Dr. Bill Lawrence, as a commercial representative with the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company, as an addressograph operator with the Huntington Publishing Company, operating a mowing tractor for the Huntington City Street Department, selling shirts and ties at Angel Men's Store, and, almost every summer, mowing lawns for steady customers.

During his Marshall years, Troutman purchased a 1937 one-ton Chevrolet truck, and "made more money than I have ever made selling horse manure for fertilizer. I could deliver a load before an eight o'clock class and make myself \$10 and on a Saturday, could easily make \$40 in one day. I seriously wondered why I needed a college education to make a good living."

When Troutman left Page and came to Huntington in the sixth grade, which was taught by Mrs. Houston with Narcissus Roberts as the principal, he lost contact with his childhood sweetheart, Pat. However, while attending a Pi Kappa Alpha Dream Girl Dance at Marshall where he was featured on the program as leading the singing, Pat, a young nursing student at St. Mary's School of Nursing, noticed the name "Russell Troutman" on the program. She still remembered the little boy in Page and asked her date to point out Troutman.

"When we met that night, I was immediately smitten. I have always been a pretty good dancer, and I brought my date over in front of her table and strutted my stuff to impress her. She was

pinned to the guy at the time," says Troutman, who had just broken up with a girl he had dated for two-and-one-half years. Troutman, displaying his steely determination, kept track of the relationship between Patricia and her boyfriend, and when he heard they had broken up, moved in.

They married when Troutman was a senior. Together they had three children—Holmes Russell Troutman, Jr., a general and vascular surgeon in Naples, Florida, Richard Byron Troutman, an attorney in Winter Park, Florida, and Teresa Lee Troutman, a veterinarian and mother of four boys in Pine Mountain, Georgia.

Russell remembers sitting around a pot-bellied stove with Patricia in school warming their feet. He remembers participating in plays such as "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" and many PTA skits. For the record, in "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," Patricia was Snow White. Troutman was Doc.

Patricia has tried to keep Troutman grounded. After his election to the presidency of The Florida Bar, Troutman asked his wife how many truly great men are in the world. Patricia's response: "One less than you think there is. Now, take out the garbage."

Troutman's initial major at Marshall was political science under Dr. Charles Harper and Dr. Paul Stewart. "Unless you're going to teach, you really can't put up a sign that says political scientist and make a living," Troutman says. He tried to follow in the footsteps of his sister, Florence, who majored in accounting at Marshall. But, he said, "It wasn't my cup of tea. I took two semesters of accounting, got two C's."

Troutman called the Journalism Department and talked with the legendary W. Page Pitt, for whom the department is now named. "I told him I was a junior and asked if it was too late to change majors," Troutman says. "He told me it wasn't too late and gave me quite a pep talk. I got into journalism and found my niche."

Russell became managing editor of *The Parthenon*, Marshall's student newspaper, during the summer session of 1954, and was delighted to find the local newspaper, the *Herald-Dispatch*, was publishing feature stories by Marshall students.

They'd give me some story to write about pottery, for example, and I'd write it and get a byline," Troutman says. "It was great hands-on experience. It's not just history or theory. I'm so thankful for Page Pitt. He was colorful and blustery, enthusiastic and inspiring. He and Virginia Lee were the two best teachers there."

While with *The Parthenon*, Troutman became good friends with Marshall football players Milan Zban and Gunnar Miller. Zban went on to become a nationally known sports writer. On Nov. 21, 1953, Miller made one of the most famous plays in Marshall football history, kicking a field goal to lift the Thundering Herd to a 9-6 upset over Mid-American Conference champion Ohio University at Fairfield Stadium. Troutman's friend from Cammack and Huntington High, Chuck Bell, was a scholarship player for OU.

"When Chuck and Gunnar and I get together, Chuck asks if we can keep the mentions of how Marshall beat Ohio that day to five or fewer," Troutman says with a laugh. "Of course, we mention it a lot more than that."

Troutman cherishes his memories of Marshall. One afternoon he received a ride home from a bright student whom Troutman thought might be good in politics. "I asked him if he'd ever thought about running for student body president," Troutman says. "He said he didn't think he would get involved with campus politics. I asked him if he thought about some day running for the president of the United States. He said that might be a possibility."

That bright student who gave Troutman a lift was none other than Robert C. Byrd, longtime U.S. senator from West Virginia. Byrd and Troutman took English History from Dr. Herchell Heath. Troutman, an avid reader of history to this day, also took every course offered by the legendary Dr. Charles Moffat, author of *Marshall University - An Institution Comes of Age*.

Troutman remembers fondly being elected to the student senate, participating in plays at Old Main, being promoted to ROTC platoon sergeant, serving as president of Pi Sigma Alpha (the honorary political science fraternity), serving as vice president and pledge master of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, serving as managing

editor of *The Parthenon*, singing in the men's concert choir under Professor Hugoboom, being one of two freshmen making the Marshall baseball team, and being elected historian of Omicron Delta Kappa leadership fraternity. However, he particularly relishes his days in the journalism department.

A writer and avid reader, Troutman says his opening arguments often sound like the lead paragraphs in a news story. "Learning that a typical jury has a short attention span, I don't waste time introducing myself or thanking them for serving, I go right to the lead paragraph and tell them who, what, when, where, and why right off the bat. I tell my younger attorneys in the firm to start off in a jury trial by giving the jury a 30- to 45-second opening statement, and then the rest of it is filler."

Throughout his legal career, Troutman has dabbled in journalism. He has written hundreds of weekly columns for the Winter Park newspaper, and was the host of a talk show for 17 years on WFTV television, an ABC affiliate. Some of his guests were Bob Hope, Judge John Sirica, U.S. Senator John Glenn, Art Buchwald, Jack Anderson, James J. Kilpatrick, Lawrence Welk, Ginger Rogers, David Carradine, Johnny Unitas, and Allen Drury.

"My advice to young people uncertain about a career is to major in communications," Troutman says. "If you don't know what you want to do, you can't go wrong with journalism or communications."

After Marshall, Troutman set out looking for a job, sending resumes to newspapers all over West Virginia. "It was always the same. They all offered me \$55 a week," says Troutman, who has been published in the *Mississippi Law Journal*, *The Florida Bar Journal*, the *Orlando Sentinel*, and *Bar Leader*, a publication of the American Bar Association.

The West Virginia Society for Crippled Children, based in Charleston, had a newspaper and offered \$70 a week. By that time with a wife and child on the way, Troutman took the job and found it to be a virtual one-man news staff. He traveled the state visiting children camps and writing news and features stories about them. He was the photographer and film developer, did the layout, and

wrote the headlines. This was the summer of 1955, and little did Troutman know about the life-changing events that awaited him.

In August 1955, right after his Marshall graduation, Troutman sat on the front porch of his home at 124 11th Avenue East with his father. Russell was strumming his father's Gibson guitar and together they were singing "Sweet Rosie O'Grady." His father asked him about his ambitions to become a lawyer. Troutman responded that when he married and graduated, he figured his father's duties were completed. "That's when my father told me the money he set aside for me to go to Marshall was still there," Troutman says. "We went to the Huntington National Bank on Fourth Avenue and he turned it over to me. The mutual funds, government bonds, and stock certificates sent me on the way to Florida."

Troutman made it to Florida by putting a classified ad in the *Herald-Dispatch* offering to drive someone to Florida in the person's own car. A stroke victim answered the ad saying he wanted to be driven to St. Petersburg. After receiving that call, a nurse called Troutman asking if anyone had answered the ad, and if so, could she ride along, too. The gentleman agreed, and the three of them, strangers to each other, made it to Florida in a non-air conditioned car with the requirements by the host that only the driver could have his window down, and he could not drive more than 45 miles an hour.

Troutman made his way to Gainesville, Florida, where the University of Florida is located. Gainesville seemed like a forsaken cow town to him. With the temperature into the high 90's, he reasoned it was not compatible for an enjoyable three years of activities for his little family. The old gentleman whom he was chauffeuring to St. Petersburg waited in Gainesville for Troutman to finish his business, so Troutman could drive him to St. Petersburg.

While in St. Petersburg, Troutman saw an enchanting community with beautiful beaches and found a furnished house for \$65 a month three blocks from Stetson University Law School. He registered immediately, but after one year, transferred to the University of Miami for his junior and senior years.

While at Miami, he was selected by Professor Menette Massey to serve on the law school's moot court team that won in competition with the University of Florida and Stetson. He also served as student prosecutor for the entire Miami student court, was night law librarian at the Dade County Law Library, and served as a law clerk in the firm of Dickson, DeJarnette, Bradford & Williams. In June 1958, he graduated from Miami with a Juris Doctor degree.

Troutman took The Florida Bar exam in August 1958 and passed on the first try before joining the Orlando firm of Akerman, Turnbull, Senterfitt & Eidson, where he was made a partner in 1961. In 1962, Troutman became a partner in Fishback, Davis, Dominick & Troutman, another prominent Orlando firm. In 1968, he was appointed city attorney for Winter Park, Florida, and a year later established his own firm, which is now Troutman, Williams, Irvin, Green & Helms.

In 1976, the lawyers of Florida elected him president-elect of The Florida Bar. During Troutman's presidency, The Florida Bar adopted specialization, upgraded its grievance procedures, incorporated a legal malpractice insurance entity, employed full-time legislative lobbyists, and petitioned and won approval from the Florida Supreme Court to have an interest on lawyers' trust account program which has funded millions of dollars in legal services to the poor. Florida was the first state to initiate interest on lawyers' trust accounts, and others have since followed.

Also during Troutman's year as president, the United States Supreme Court in *Bates v. Osteen* removed ethical prohibitions from lawyer advertising. However, Troutman is philosophically opposed to media solicitation and does not advertise at all. "It's all word of mouth in my getting new cases," he says.

Russell has given six commencement addresses, including those at the University of Florida Law School, Florida State University Law School, Rollins College, St. Cloud High School, and the College of Liberal Arts at Marshall University, following which the college conferred upon Troutman its 2002 Distinguished Alumnus Award. As class honorarian of Huntington High School, Troutman gave the graduation address as well. In 1951, the Korean

War was in progress, and Troutman's honorarian speech was entitled, "One Foot In The Army."

After Troutman's service as president of the Florida Supreme Court Historical Society for two terms ending on June 24, 1999, Chesterfield Smith, former president of the American Bar Association and The Florida Bar, and about whom a chapter is devoted by Tom Brokaw in his book, *The Greatest Generation*, said of him at the end of his term, "A great lawyer, a great historian, and the best leader ever serving the Florida Supreme Court Historical Society" (Boca Raton, Florida, June 24, 1999).

Troutman's education did not end with his law degree. He has taken 25 courses at Rollins College since relocating to Florida. In 1982, he did postgraduate work at the prestigious Exeter College at Oxford University and is an adjunct professor at Rollins.

"Knowledge without wisdom is an unproductive asset," he says. Having matriculated at five institutions of higher learning—Marshall, Stetson, Miami, Rollins and Oxford—he says Marshall has his undivided loyalty and unconditional gratitude. Troutman encourages others to continue their college education, whether they earn a degree or simply want to broaden their base. "I take one course at a time. One course absorbs me completely. The pursuit of knowledge should not stop with a Bachelor of Arts degree when you are merely 21 years old," he says.

Troutman's course load varies. He has studied Darwinism and Russian history, followed by a People to People trip to Russia and Siberia to study their judicial system during the Gorbachev years, and another People to People trip to China to study its judicial system. He has taken a class on the Revolutionary War from the British point of view, American Foreign Policy, American Constitutional History, Lincoln's letters and speeches, and great dictators of Europe, followed by trips to Italy, Germany, and Japan.

He traveled to South Africa during the last days of DeKlerk and the rise of Nelson Mandela. He interviewed on tape tribal members, professors, newspaper editors, and appellate court judges, and wrote columns about his trip for his local newspaper.

He has a book of poems, one of which he recited at Exeter College. It won him acclaim and was published in two magazines. The poem, titled "A Church by the Side of the Road," was dedicated to Page Baptist Church on October 17, 1999, and now hangs in bronze in the church foyer.

John Frazier, a boyhood friend of Troutman when he lived in Page, wrote Troutman, "I wish you could see the amazement on the people's faces as they look at the plaque and hear the comments they make."

Troutman has composed many songs, one of which, "Apart," was performed by a Huntington High School quartet on the Ted Mack Amateur Hour and won first prize. The song was played many times on WPLH when Cebe Tweel was manager. Recently, during a late-night dinner with Russell on a staff trip to Jacksonville, which included Marshall President Dan Angel and his wife, Pat, former Marshall alumni director Sam Stanley spontaneously burst into singing "Apart." Troutman's main hobby is music. He says he cannot pass by a piano without hitting a few chords. He plays his Yamaha piano every day.

Russell, who was confirmed at Trinity Episcopal Church in Huntington when S. Roger Tyler was the rector, taught Sunday School for Dr. Tyler when he formed St. John's Episcopal Church after his retirement from Trinity. Troutman taught Sunday School to high school senior boys in Orlando for many years but does not consider himself "holier than thou." He does, however, get upset with Christians who do little, if anything, to make a difference in the world.

"If you read the Epistle of James, you see that he emphasized works. He clearly states faith without works is dead," Troutman says. "My theology says that we accept Christ by implementing his teachings and reject him by violating his teachings with hypocrisy and mean-spirited actions."

Troutman's criticism of those who do nothing definitely applies to lawyers. In his inauguration address to The Florida Bar, Troutman quoted Dante's *Inferno*: "The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who in a time of moral crisis maintain their neutrality."

Russell vigorously defends the law profession as indispensable to a free society. In his campaign for president of The Florida Bar in 1978, Troutman promised total commitment of time, talent and energies. His constituency believed Troutman and overwhelmingly elected him to lead the state's 20,500 lawyers.

He went to the job with intensity. An admirer of *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*, by Richard Bach, Troutman used a never-say-die attitude to work the Florida Legislature for issues important to lawyers. The issue of credibility was close to Troutman's heart. If a lawyer is deemed not credible, he loses his effectiveness.

That kind of tenacity impresses many who know Troutman, including Marshall football coach Bobby Pruett. "Russell Troutman is an asset to Marshall University," Pruett says. "He has done a lot for this university and we appreciate him." Pruett appreciates Troutman so much that he allowed the lawyer to lead the Thundering Herd onto the field in the 2001 opening game at top-rated Florida. Troutman said he enjoyed the experience of rushing onto the field in front of 80,000 hostile fans. Although the Gators won, if the score had been based on the second half alone, it would have been a tie. "I told the Gator fans on the bus going back to the hotel that I was sorry Marshall humiliated them. I told them we played them to a 14-14 tie in the second half and they had to score with only a few minutes left in the game to tie it. Here we were ranked 18th and they were ranked number one. We had 11 players declared ineligible the day before the game, and we still tied them in the second half."

Troutman often comes across as very serious, but breaks into laughter at the slightest suggestion. He recalls details of years gone by with uncanny detail, a valuable asset, no doubt, to a lawyer. He has a soft spot for Huntington. His mother started the Florence Troutman Scholarship Fund at Marshall in her will, and Russell has systematically added to it every year.

Troutman keeps up with Marshall's academic and athletic achievements. When Marshall defeated the University of Central Florida in football in 2002, that gave him reasons to "puff out my

chest a little bit around here. It is an unusual feeling to have my hometown team playing against my hometown team."

Troutman counts *Profiles in Courage*, John Kennedy's famous book, as one of his favorites and quotes George Bernard Shaw and other playwrights, and then easily moves into a conversation about politics or sports. One moment he might discuss Thomas Jefferson, Henry Clay or Daniel Webster. The next he might bring up Babe Ruth, Bobby Pruett or Byron Leftwich, the talented former Marshall quarterback. In fact, a football autographed by Pruett and Leftwich and a Leftwich bobblehead doll sit on the credenza in his office.

Russell Troutman is a Florida Bar Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyer and has enjoyed an AV Rating in Martindale-Hubbell, the highest rating a lawyer can receive, since his 40th birthday. He is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, an elite group of trial lawyers considered the nation's cream of the crop.

Westlaw, an online legal research source, lists Troutman's name in 64 appellate court cases. In addition to representing the "little people," Troutman has been involved consistently in major trials in his area, representing many celebrities involved in public issues. The Leading Attorneys network lists Troutman as a leading Florida attorney and reports his monetary recoveries for clients in excess of 150 million dollars.

Recently, he represented Ismiyati Suryono, an Indonesian maid pushed down a flight of stairs in Orlando by a Saudi Arabian princess. The case made the *New York Times* on two occasions with Troutman's name mentioned as attorney for the maid. Troutman and Ms. Suryono were both interviewed on national television on Barbara Walters' "20/20" program. He turned down interviews from "Dateline," *People* and *Marie Claire* magazines, and other national media. The settlement was confidential and Troutman can only say, "Ismiyati, the maid, left my office well able to afford a maid herself."

Troutman has had many bouts with corporate America. In 1978, he was appointed special counsel to the Florida Public Service

Commission to square off with Florida Power Corporation over corrupt behavior by its officers during the OPEC oil embargo in 1972, which created a gasoline shortage of crisis proportions. The litigation concluded with Florida Power refunding millions of dollars to its customers.

Russell was hired by the Florida Trucking Association in its struggle to transport tandem trailers on Florida's turnpike. Troutman proved that based on traffic accident statistics, tandem trailers are the safest vehicles on the highway.

Of the many celebrities Russell has represented, most recently he was employed by General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, who after Troutman's representation wrote him on August 13, 2001: "Once again, please allow me to express my sincere gratitude to you for your actions to bring about rapid rulings by the District Court. It was most reassuring to my family to know that you were in our corner and for that we are eternally indebted."

Tim Stephens is Director of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes in Huntington, West Virginia.