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Paul was a pillar of the Law and Popular Culture movement, the co-editor of *Prime Time Law* (the only reference book on legal television series). Paul loved to explore the by-ways of pop culture, finding interesting and serious legal issues which everyone else overlooked. Few took *Ally McBeal* seriously as a law show. Paul did. Few thought about discussing the legal issues and bureaucratic institutions in *Harry Potter*, but Paul and Lynn Wolf did. Few cared about law and lawyers in science fiction, but Paul did. Nobody regarded *Pleasantville* as a treatise about freedom and democratic values, but Paul did.  I came to know Paul when he invited me to serve as a visiting Goodwin lecturer at the Shepard Broad Law Center at Nova Southeastern University a few years ago. It was a great experience, meeting the Nova students and faculty and seeing how many of them were interested in and attracted by the collision of law and pop culture. Best of all was the opportunity to get to know Paul and Lynn personally. Their warm hospitality was unforgettable.  Paul and I planned to collaborate on a book to facilitate the teaching of the law and pop culture interface in both undergraduate and law school environments. He wrote parts of it, although conflicting commitments forced him to drop out. That book will be published early in 2004, but Paul won't be here to enjoy the event or to use the book in his own teaching.  Shockingly, Paul Joseph is gone. Brain cancer doesn't respect youth, talent, or human worth. Paul was diagnosed with cancer, and not very long after, he was dead. I have lost a good and decent friend and collaborator. Our field of law and popular culture has lost one of its most devoted and most imaginative scholars. So I take this opportunity to say goodbye and farewell to my good friend Paul Joseph.  Michael Asimow  I first met Paul via email when he and Bob Jarvis were putting together a set of essays on law and television that later became *Prime Time Law*. I was just getting started in legal academia and I sent in my expression of interest fully expecting to hear, at best, "Thanks but who are you?" Instead he and Bob invited me into the wonderful world of legal scholarship and treated me as an equal, though I contributed much less to the project than I got out of it, including what is now apparently a permanent identification with the critique of pop culture women lawyers! In subsequent conversations and emails and in person, Paul helped me make what was for professional reasons a more than usually difficult transition into law professoring. He probably knew how important that was to me; that he made it important to himself was more than I could have expected.  I doubt that Paul Joseph ever knew just how much he helped those of us who needed to talk to him, whether just for a quick "pick me up" at a difficult or confusing time, or as in my case for a much longer term. He was ever generous with his ideas, with his enthusiasm, with his certainty that if you work at something with enough energy and commitment you will get the results you desire. And he was ever willing to help out those of us with "impossible dreams." He was wise, he was funny, and he was with us for much too short a time. His presence was precious and his absence hurts. To his wonderful wife Lynn and his family, please know, if you need me, I am right here.  Christine Corcos  My favorite memory is watching Paul devour an ice cream cone one weekend at Disneyworld. I was going back to the hotel and a book on popular culture, but Paul and Lynn were living it. He told me that he had spent a lot of time at Disneyland while growing up in the LA area and had always enjoyed the atmosphere of fun and imagination he found there. And the fantasy world of Disney did seem an appropriate setting for Paul since he was more than any law professor I have ever met able to retain that sense of wonder and play most of us lose after childhood.  This sense of fun also was a great asset to Paul in his business dealings. I can not remember even one harsh word (or thought) in my years of dealing with Paul during his tenure as Managing Editor of PJ. Since this is a singular occurrence in my professional life, I have to credit it to Paul's optimistic temperament and supportive manner. No matter the issue, you always felt Paul was on your side and that things would work out for the best. I'll miss him.  John Denvir  My regards. I was saddened to learn of the loss.  I truly enjoy the site and it's sad to see one gone with so many years left to experience and share.  v/r,  Robert Don Gifford  I did not have the chance of meeting Paul in person, but we corresponded extensively by e-mail from the moment I started as the webmaster for Picturing Justice. When he heard about my plans to give the site a new look, he was very supportive and enthusiastic and contributed his ideas and opinions until every part of the site was as good as we could make it. He also put a lot of his time and energy into encouraging new authors to write for the site and keeping it dynamic and current.  When he announced that for health reasons he would no longer be the managing editor, I had no idea how bad his condition really was, and that there would not be any more e-mails. I will miss his enthusiasm, ideas and good humor.  Remy Kauffmann  I am deeply shocked and saddened by the demise of Mr. Paul Joseph. I have never met him, and the only contact I have was through this site- wherein he helped me, rather encouraged me to publish my work in Picturing Justice. He build in me a confidence to go ahead- his words of encouragement really boosted my morale. thanks Mr. Joseph, may your soul rest in peace.  Narayan Advocate, India and author A FICTION OF LAW (PJ- March 2001)  I had the honor of meeting Paul and Lynn when they came to a conference on law and popular culture at my law school, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. To me, Paul was a figure larger than life. I was a relatively new law teacher and a green scholar, and Paul was a prolific writer whose work in law and culture I had read and deeply admired. Yet Paul was anything but aloof; I was struck by his warmth. When I presented my research in the conference, Paul's was one of those faces in the audience you go back to, because he was paying careful attention, and smiling and nodding encouragement. After the program, Paul said a few words to me about how he found my research promising, and he encouraged me to continue my work in the area. His kindness to give me his attention and his confidence in me were inspirational, and I will always be grateful for that inspiration. I will remain grateful as well for what Paul has given us all in his life and work.  Rick J. Peltz, mailto:rjpeltz@ualr.edu  Associate Professor of Law  William H. Bowen School of Law  University of Arkansas at Little Rock  At the time Paul Joseph died, I was 3000 miles away watching the most adored legal film of all time: *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Losing Paul to cancer seems to me like killing a songbird -- a tragic wasting of one of God's finer creations.  The Picturing Justice website of which Paul was such an integral part, began as a labor of love by John Denvir and me. As we struggled to help our creation to take wing, Paul Joseph suddenly materialized out of cyberspace and asked John if he could join our effort. What fortunate occurrence that was. (We should have known instantly, given he shared his initials with the web site.) Paul gave his enthusiasm and marketing savvy, and soon thereafter took over as managing editor. He got Picturing Justice on email list serves and in newsletters. In short, he got us a buzz. With Paul at the helm, we were praised in the New York Times and had bragging rights as the best site for law and popular culture.  Paul was a caring and thoughtful innovator. He wrote a commentary on the ethical and moral issues posed by Ultima, a competitive online fantasy game. He saw the contemporary political importance of the discrimination metaphors in the retro 50's film Pleasantville and wrote passionately about them.  I followed Paul's fight against cancer through of number of long telephone conversations. In one I most vividly remember, I was hiking to the top of a mountain with a cell phone and we shared the vista together. He remained optimistic and believed that he would be back on line and in the classroom someday. Paul is on line; his spirit permeates Picturing Justice and corses through the Internet as viewers see each new article. He is in many classrooms that make use of the site. For example, I now teach a course on law and popular culture inspired by Picturing Justice and using a textbook written by fellow PJ webitor Michael Asimow. Paul made it all possible.  Rob Waring   |  | | --- | | **List of articles Paul Joseph wrote for Picturing Justice:**  **THE COURT** - [Home Court Advantage](http://docs.google.com/court_joseph.htm) (Mar 2002)  **FIRST MONDAY -** [It's the Writing Stupid](http://docs.google.com/firstmonday_joseph.htm) (Jan 2002)  **INSOMNIA -** [Moral Pragmatism and Public Perception: The "Bad Cop" in *Insomnia*](http://docs.google.com/insomnia_joseph.htm) (May 2002)  **LEGALLY BLONDE** - [*Legally Blonde,* It's A Crime](http://docs.google.com/blonde_joseph.htm) (Aug 2001)  **MINORITY REPORT -** [*Minority Report:* Is The Future Now?](http://docs.google.com/minorityreport_joseph.htm) (Jul 2002)  **PLEASANTVILLE** - [*Pleasantville*: An Election Primer](http://docs.google.com/articles/pleasantville1.htm) (Nov 1998)  **THE WEST WING -** [Sometimes Real Life Is Better Than Television](http://docs.google.com/west-wing-joseph.htm) (Aug 2000)  [**Play It Again, Sam: Election Politics Has Nothing On The Movies**](http://docs.google.com/florida-joseph.htm) by Christine Corcos and Paul Joseph | | | |  |  | | --- | | [Top of page](#gjdgxs) |  |  | | --- | | [Home](http://docs.google.com/index.html) | [Silver Screen](http://docs.google.com/silver_screen.htm) | [Small Screen](http://docs.google.com/smallscreen/small_screen.htm) | [News & Views](http://docs.google.com/newsnviews.htm) | | |