

When I graduated from Texas Law School in June of 1966, the recruiting wars and elaborate summer clerkship programs had not yet arrived. In December of 1964 when I was home for Christmas, I contacted several Houston law firms about the possibility of a summer job. At each firm, I asked to speak to someone whose name my dad had given me or who was identified by the receptionist as the hiring partner. I don't recall having an appointment at any of the firms. I just dropped by and presented each person with whom I spoke a copy of a resume I had put together. Several of my interviewers asked me what I anticipated I would do, to which I replied that I assumed there would be a need for legal research which I could perform. I ultimately received offers from two firms for a three month "clerkship" and an offer for a two-month program at NASA, for which I had applied by mail. The law firm offer I accepted was for \$250 per month. When I mentioned that NASA had offered to pay me \$1000 for two months, the law firm offer went up to \$300 per month for three months. I spent the summer in the library researching and met a lot of lawyers whom I really liked. Free lunches were pretty much non-existent, but I did get to play on the firm soft ball team. As I was preparing to leave at the end of the summer, I went around to each of the four partners on the newly formed employment committee to tell him I appreciated the clerkship experience and would very much like to come back to work for the firm if I had the opportunity. One of the men with whom I spoke told me that, when I got back to school, I needed to write a thank you letter to the committee on Texas Law Review letterhead stationery in which I committed to accept an offer if one were extended. I found a piece of Law Review stationery, wrote the letter as suggested and felt very fortunate to eventually receive an acceptance of my willingness to come to work if offered the opportunity to do so. I have no idea if the use of TLR stationery made a difference in whether I received an offer, but for sure it didn't hurt. The offer led to a career as a trial lawyer at what was then Fulbright, Crooker, Freeman Bates & Jaworski, now known as Norton Rose Fulbright at which I am still Of Counsel.

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