

UFLC 75
Fredric Levin
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127 pages – Open

Fredric Gerson Levin begins by telling his family history and talks about his family life while growing up in Pensacola, Florida (pages 1-14). Next he tells how he and all his brothers became Gators, and about his time at the University of Florida as an undergrad (pages 14-24). He briefly mentions the illness and death of his brother Martin, and talks about his time in law school at UF, mentioning his relationship with George Stark (pages 25-31). He then tells how his brother David and Reuben Askew began a firm together, and then how he joined the firm and found the direction of his law career doing personal injury cases (pages 31-36).

Mr. Levin next discusses the expansion of the firm and moving from place to place (pages 36-37). He talks about his growing reputation as a successful lawyer and his stand against segregation within the Society of the Bar, as well as his own defeat during an election for the Bar Association (pages 37-39).

Mr. Levin talks about his relationship with Fred Vigodsky, getting into the restaurant business, and later, the dress business (pages 40-43). He again talks about his growing reputation as a successful lawyer and some of his high profile cases, as well as his part in getting Reuben Askew elected (pages 43-45). He talks about working with Charlie Ruttenberg and Fred Fisher on the Orange State Life Insurance business (pages 45-46). He then talks about becoming Dempsey Barron's lawyer and defending W.D. Childers (pages 46-37). He talks about forming BLAB television in 1984-1985, and being considered a big shot in politics (pages 47-50).

Mr. Levin mentions different members of the law firm and the growth and prestige it was experiencing in the mid 1980s, as well as the moves the firm made (pages 50-52). Next he talks about becoming the defense lawyer of Gulf Power, and the suicide of Jake Horton (pages 52-55). He goes on to talk about some of his big cases over the years (pages 55-62).

Mr. Levin discusses his entrance into the insurance industry with the Orange State Life Insurance Company in Largo, Florida (pages 62-63). He goes into his work and involvement with the tobacco settlement in Florida [1993-1998] (pages 63-71). He talks briefly about the fen-phen and chloromycetin drug cases (pages 71-75).

Mr. Levin discusses his contributions to the University of Florida and the naming of the law school after him (pages 75-89). He tells about the two instances of censure he received from the Bar in the 1980s, as well as the criticisms from other lawyers (pages 81-84). He refutes the idea that so many people were against naming the law school after him for anti-Semitic reasons, but assigns it to pure jealousy (pages 89-91). He then goes on to talk about some of his other philanthropic activities (pages 92-97).

Mr. Levin talks about the penthouse he bought and the purchase of his own home (pages 97-99). He then talks about the death of his father during Hurricane Opal in 1995 and the impact it had on the family (pages 99-101). Once again he mentions the beginnings of BLAB television and the radio station in Pensacola, Florida (pages 101-103).

Mr. Levin talks about representing Roy Jones, Jr., and how the relationship eventually led to representing Ike Quartey and a nomination to become a chief in the country of Ghana (pages 103-113). He discusses some of his strengths and weaknesses (pages 113-114, 116-119). He talks about being involved with the computer program for cops, SmartCOP (pages 114-115).

Mr. Levin discusses his family and gives a little personal information about each of his kids (pages 119-121). Next he talks about himself and his interests, then goes on to discuss the role he has played in politics both locally and at the state level (pages 121-126). He talks about the event he arranged in Pensacola which brought in Mohammed Ali, Roy Jones Jr., and Governor Chiles to speak to highschool seniors about tolerance of others (pages 126-127). He concludes by discussing his relationship with his father, stating it as one of the reasons he allows himself to be viewed as a cheat although his life refutes the accusation (page 127).