

FROM: HERCULES AND THE UMPIRE

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND FAREWELL

Richard G. Kopf^f

This blog started in February of 2013. It is now January 1, 2014. During this time, I have written 416 posts and there have been about 425,000 page views by readers. Roughly 3,700 comments have been made.

Yesterday, the *Wall Street Journal* published a very interesting article in which this blog was prominently mentioned. See Joe Palazzolo, Jurist Prudence? Candid Judges Speak Out,¹ *Wall Street Journal* (December 31, 2013.) That in turn generated a thoughtful post by my friend, Pat Borchers, the former dean of Creighton Law School. See “Talking judges”² on *The Way I see it*, posted by Patrick J. Borchers at 12:12 PM on December 31, 2013. This attention generated over 4,400 pages views of *Hercules and the umpire* just yesterday.

In short, *Hercules and the umpire* has exceeded my wildest expectations. And so – it is time to kill it. In this forum, I have written all that I want to write and then some. It is that simple. My decision is final.

Before I conclude this last post, I wish to make several points:

^f Judge, U.S. District Court, District of Nebraska. Original at herculesandtheumpire.com/2014/01/01/happy-new-year-and-farewell/ (Jan. 1, 2014; vis. Mar. 4, 2014). I *don't* claim a copyright on any of the stuff I have written or will write in the future on this blog. If (for reasons that I cannot fathom) you want to reprint, republish or re-anything-else any of my thoughts posted on this blog, feel free to do so.

¹ stream.wsj.com/story/latest-headlines/SS-2-63399/SS-2-415839/.

² patrickborchers.blogspot.com/2013/12/talking-judges.html.

- I am not quitting because of ethics concerns. Such problems are real, but vastly overblown. A thoughtful judge has about the same chance of violating the Code of Conduct when writing a book, giving a speech, authoring a law review article or writing a blog post.
- Conspiracy buffs need not fret and anti-judge nuts need not cheer. No one has given me the slightest trouble about expressing myself here. I am quitting voluntarily and without a nudge from anyone.
- Although I am truly worn out, I am OK. I am not quitting because of health reasons.
- This is a powerful medium for, among other things, making federal trial judging transparent and for trying to wrap one's arms around the conundrum of judicial role. I hope some other federal trial judge takes up that hard but enormously satisfying labor.
- I look forward to commenting on other blogs now that I am out of the biz.
- To my astonishment, I have made several, perhaps many, friends along the way. I will maintain the e-mail address for the site, and I welcome hearing from these kind, smart (Oxford comma coming but just for fun), and thoughtful people. But, I don't promise to respond as quickly as before. The foregoing said, you and each of you have my sincere thanks. Readers have taught me many valuable lessons about how to become a better judge and human being.
- I will keep the blog "alive" for archival purposes, but nothing more. I will shut down the comment section in a week or so.
- The photo below is how I picture myself today. That is, I am one lucky, old dog.

All the best.

The end.