

## **From Yash Ghai and Jill Cottrell (Ghai): a tribute to William Twining.**

Both of our relationships with William were combinations of the very important professionally and the close personally. And both parallel and converging, you might say.

Yash had finished his BA at Oxford, been called to the Bar, and started postgraduate studies at Nuffield College. He went to Harvard to do an LL.M. and was contemplating whether to stay in the US or return to Oxford and do a doctorate. But William visited him in Cambridge (Mass. that is) and persuaded him that he really ought to go to Dar es Salaam and join the Law Faculty - where William and Patrick McAuslan were among the first staff, with AB Weston the founding Dean, when it opened its doors in 1962.

For Yash, about to become a Kenyan – that country did not become independent until December 1963, and he was an early applicant for citizenship - it was almost coming home.

Yash has often said that his period at that University was one of those stimulating of his life. William was about four years his senior, with previous teaching experience, and an important influence and guide for him. And their friendship began then – including with Penelope and ultimately the family – and endured.

In 1976 Yash was looking to leave Sweden and perhaps move to the UK, and to apply to Warwick, where he knew several people – not only William, but Patrick McAuslan and Sol Picciotto, and Geoffrey Wilson who had visited Dar es Salaam - was an obvious thing to do.

Jill recalls William performing a Warwick staffing ritual: moving from office to office saying something like “If xxx has applied for our vacancy, would you support them?” But he broke the rule and told Jill that Yash actually had applied. We both agreed that maybe he would not stay long, but we should try to get him.

Jill also came to Warwick partly because of William. She had met him when he was an external examiner at her then law school in Nigeria. A supportive and encouraging external – a far cry from the one (whose name she has forgotten anyway) who said, “I would never approve a first class mark because no-one teaches to first class in Africa.”

She was invited to Belfast to stay with the family for a day or so soon after – and it is because of that personal connection that when leaving Nigeria unexpectedly contacted William – and it turned out that the Law School was just filling a vacancy.

A striking thing about William’s career has been how in various ways it was focussed on others. He was a very encouraging colleague, especially to the younger ones. Abdul has made that observation about the Law in Context series. And Jill recalls that the only time she published in the *Modern Law Review* it was because of an invitation from William.

In his writing there was rather less of “what I want to tell the world” than “contributions of others I want the world to know about”. This is true of the Karl Llewellyn book, of course, and of *Human Rights, Southern Voices*, the product of William’s conviction that there were excellent scholars whose work was undervalued because of their third world background and focus. It was an extraordinarily demanding, and self-effacing, project, involving the reading of the works of those four scholars, and editing it to bring out the essence of their work. He used to refer to the project as “my friends”. Yash was one of those friends.

To end on a personal note: it is highly likely that we would not have married if we had not been colleagues at Warwick. So we have a particular personal reason for fond memories of William –

and the family. When we visited the UK from Hong Kong not very long after we married, William and Penelope organised a party for us at their home. We are pleased that we were able to visit and even attend William's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party in 2024. We remember him with admiration, love and gratitude.