

## **2015 INTERNATIONAL ADVOCATE FOR PEACE AWARD**

### **FIFTEENTH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL ADVOCATE FOR PEACE AWARD HONORING PETER, PAUL AND MARY**

On February 22, 2016, the Cardozo Journal of Conflict Resolution presented its fifteenth annual International Advocate for Peace Award to Peter, Paul and Mary, the legendary peace-activist folk music trio. What follows is a transcription of the award ceremony, including Peter Yarrow's acceptance speech on behalf of the trio.

DEAN MELANIE LESLIE: Welcome to Cardozo Law School. I am sorry, in advance, for my voice—but I think I can still bellow as I usually do and with a little bit of help from the microphone. As the Dean of the law school and an alumna and a faculty member of over 20 years, it gives me great joy and pride to welcome you all here tonight for this really important event. Cardozo Law School has long been committed to promoting peaceful resolutions to conflict, and to recognizing the achievements of those who advocate for peace. Thirty years ago, Lela Love started our mediation clinic, and I think it was the first of its kind in the country. And two years later, the Journal of Conflict Resolution was born. It is now one of the most highly regarded journals in the field of civil litigation and conflict resolution and we are extraordinarily proud of the work that the students have done year after year after year. Twenty-five years ago, we expanded to welcome the Kukin Program for Conflict Resolution, which afforded us more opportunities to train students to learn how to bring alternatives to litigation to people locked into seemingly intractable problems.

People often think of lawyers as litigators. We see it on TV and in the movies and in the cases that we read about—that, you know, we are cutthroat fighters who bring a scorch-earthed approach to every single conflict. But the truth is, so many lawyers work tirelessly to bring people together, rather than to force them apart—to find common ground and work to come to an optimal solution in which there doesn't have to be a loser. Others work tirelessly on the world's stage to try to advance the cause of world

peace. We are so proud to be a home to so many of the lawyers who engage in this optimistic and very important work.

The International Advocate for Peace Award was born of the recognition of the Cardozo community and, in particular, the students who publish the *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, who have a strong belief in the power of peace making. Past recipients of this award include two United States Presidents, ambassadors, filmmakers, journalists, and diplomats. All of them were chosen by the editorial staff of our student-run journal.

I would like to extend my gratitude to Peter Yarrow on behalf of the entire law school community for coming here tonight to accept this award. It is an honor to welcome you, and we are so happy that you are here to represent the wonderful and unique trio that was Peter, Paul, and Mary. None of this, of course, would be possible without the tireless dedication of Professor Lela Love. She is the spirit and backbone of the program. She has dedicated herself to teaching generations of law students the value of developing alternatives to litigation. It is my pleasure to welcome her tonight and to welcome all of you who started your careers here, back home. Lela! [Applause]

PROFESSOR LELA LOVE: So, Peter really welcomed me this evening. We had never met, except in my endlessly listening to his music, and I got this wonderful hug. So, I am going to give you, Peter, some good news to start this off—and here it is.

So, you've been around for a long time. Well now, when my grandson comes up to my apartment and I mention music, he says "Puh", "Puh". He is not great with the "P" word yet. What do you think he's saying? [Audience: "Puff!"] Yes, Puff! Puff is the one song he wants to hear, and he's two years old. He is going to want to meet you! [Applause].

Thank you Dean Leslie—that was so wonderful. This is the fifteenth year of the International Advocate for Peace Award. For our previous awardees, we have had, as Dean Leslie said, presidents, international mediators, journalists . . . we've had one filmmaker. We've never had a song artist, or somebody who wrote songs. So, this is a first, and I want to say a little bit about this.

Actually let me digress for a moment. As a teacher, we think a lot about teaching knowledge and skills—and knowledge and skills for negotiation and mediation. There's a lot to teach. But the hard thing to teach is attitude—the ability to make emotional connections between people. And I would say that Peter, Paul,

and Mary are the magicians of creating a bond that leads to emotional connections.

I have three M words here that I'm going to use. They are the Masters of Music—lyrics that connected people around the world. And for many, many decades, they have been the Movers of Attitudes—of reconciliation, and human connection between people. So it's true that you're the first Musicians to get this award, or writers of songs. But you should, perhaps, go right to the top of the list in terms of what you've done for building bridges, which is what we're about, importantly.

In a moment, we are going to see a video, which will give everyone here a history of Peter, Paul, and Mary—a really wonderful video. Before I go there, before we go there as a group, I wanted to say a word about one other group we should be honoring here tonight.

A school, law school, any kind of school, rests on its students, and its alumni. We have really an amazing group of students who have not only created this award, but who have masterminded this invitation to Peter, Paul and Mary and made this really difficult event, pulling it together with its many, many details.

So, the Cardozo Journal of Conflict Resolution, led this year by Lara Traum, deserves a deep bow. Everything else this evening is going to be about Peter, Paul and Mary but, just for a moment, we need to recognize these students and, in particular, Lara Traum. She is one of the most energetic, talented, idealistic, committed students that has ever walked into this law school and we are so lucky to have her and so lucky, we feel so lucky, that she brought you, Peter, and your Mary, and Noel Paul, to us here tonight. So before we will be applauding for Peter shortly, if we could all give a hand for the. . . [Drowned Out By Applause, Led by Peter Yarrow].

[After Professor Love's remarks, the audience viewed a fifteen-minute video prepared by Jim Brown Productions. The video traced the peace activism efforts of Peter, Paul and Mary through the ages, featuring original footage of the March on Washington, rallies against the war in Vietnam, a human rights delegation visit to El Salvador and Nicaragua, and a series of related performances.]

LARA TRAUM: Beethoven once said, "music is the mediator between the spiritual and the sensual self." We have all experienced this. Some of us bob our heads to hip-hop music, while others muse to string quartets. Some of us perform and some of us

listen. But each and every one of us has experienced that moment—that moment when you come home after a long day of conflict and sit down on your couch and close your eyes and turn on something that makes all that conflict go away. We at the Cardozo Journal of Conflict Resolution appreciate that music, and specifically, Peter, Paul and Mary, serve as a powerful mediator between conflict and resolution.

Thank you to Lela, for her incredibly warm remarks, and to Dean Leslie, who spoke so beautifully. And thank *you*, all of you, on behalf of the sixty-six student staff of the Cardozo Journal of Conflict Resolution, for joining us this evening. Our Journal, the publication arm of the Kukin Program here at Cardozo, is one of the most highly ranked legal publications of conflict resolution scholarship in the world. This year alone, we have published on everything from online dispute resolution to neuroscience and mediation, conflict resolution models in the Middle East, Hong Kong, and Japan, family dispute resolution, and even musings on the biblical origins of win/lose frameworks. Perhaps the only ADR technique that we have not yet been able to capture with the written word is the sound of music.

Every year, the Cardozo Journal of Conflict Resolution presents the International Advocate for Peace Award to internationally recognized leaders for their efforts in dispute resolution. These leaders, individuals such as President Bill Clinton, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Senator George Mitchell, and Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat, are the kinds of illustrious personalities that often come to mind when we think about tense negotiations and political peace advocacy. However, when we recall uniquely polarized periods of history—the Civil Rights movement, Vietnam, the Cold War – when we picture those faces and imagine those voices—we hear the songs.

You saw the powerful clip about Peter, Paul and Mary. Thank you to Jim Brown Productions for that. You have read about the trio as a legacy, cultural force, and beacon of change in your programs. Many of you are intergenerational followers of the peace movement that is Peter, Paul and Mary. I personally grew up on their music, grew “zen” on their music—somewhere in the midst of an artful triad and guitar strum was where I myself became a mediator.

We at the Journal are proud to honor Peter, Paul and Mary. We are proud to honor them for uniting the nation in song at the March on Washington in 1963. We are proud to honor them for

adding music to the Selma to Montgomery March in 1965. We are proud to honor them for contributing an iconic anthem to the National March to free Soviet Jews in 1987. We honor them for collectively addressing human rights, women's rights, farm-worker rights, gay rights, progressive media, and education. We honor them for launching decades of musical activism and activists. We honor them for their grace, for their compassion, for their humanity, and for their vision of a better world.

On behalf of the Cardozo Journal of Conflict Resolution, it is my honor, and my distinct privilege, to present the Fifteenth Annual International Advocate for Peace Award to Peter, Paul and Mary. I invite Peter to join me to accept this award tonight. Noel will join us momentarily on this screen. And I know that Mary, whose beaming and vivacious soul has touched so many of us, will be with us tonight through the love and the unity shared by each and every one of you. Peter? [Applause].

PETER YARROW: This has been a real highlight for me. I had the pleasure of meeting and talking to the law students and to Professor Love who, just, has the right name. [Laughter]. I must say, it was thrilling for me because they are so heartfelt, they are so not about the "thugs". They are so about "breaking the trend" of that kind of categorization. They are smart, they are warm, and they are real. And they are sweethearts. It made it all worthwhile just to have that experience, because they really are so, so wonderful. Your words were very warm too.

I know I do speak for Mary and Noel Paul in accepting this award in several ways. First of all, hugs are a very good antidote or alternative to litigation. [Laughter]. That's what we've been doing, the trio, for those almost 50 years. We embraced each other with our whole hearts, and our audiences. And when they would sing to us, as you saw with Pete Seeger, when Noel went [Waves Hand], it unified the spirit—people opening their hearts. Because when you sing, it doesn't come from the logical parts of your brain. It comes from something mysterious, and it's not mediated entirely with your logical thinking. It reaches right down to the emotional and heartfelt centers of one's being. And you cannot imagine what it feels like to be hearing that coming to you.

That was true in the March on Washington in 1963, when something happened to us that made us determined for the rest of our lives together, and now without Mary, to hold the chorus—in terms of the civil rights movement, and in terms of the very basis of

why we were marching. We never veered away from that. Because we were not alone, singing there and saying, “Oh, we just sang the song really well” and “That makes us feel good” and “We planned our voices very cleverly” and “Isn’t that a delight” and “What skill we have” and “Yes, lets get off the stage now.” We were there as, Ozzie David said, to express what this gathering was about in musical terms. We were, as they say in Central America—we were “cultural workers”. And we were doing the work of activism, with our music, which we learned from Pete Seeger and the Weavers. We carried on a tradition. This was handed to us. The path was clear. It was created by people who paid a terrible price for standing up to injustice and saying “No, it is *we* who are standing up for justice and who are patriots when we *oppose* what the United States is doing—when it is hurtful and illegal and violates the very sense of what that dream has been and needs to be in the future.” *We* are the Patriots, rather than accepting the idea. “Oh, you know, Peter, Paul and Mary, a bunch of pinko commies.” You know, we were picketed at one point with some signs, after we came back from El Savador and Nicaragua, I think it was in Delaware. We were doing a concert and there was a sign up that said, “If I had a hammer, if I had a sickle.” [Laughter]. Nobody realized that there is nowhere to go with that. There is no way to defend yourself. And you realize that you’ve just had a tiny taste of what Pete Seeger and the Weevers endured.

Then we were blacklisted and prohibited from working anywhere. And when you realize that Josh White, who had sung for President Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt loved him, literally couldn’t feed his family—and he was extraordinarily successful—you realize how desperately we need an alternative to that kind of dysfunctionality and wrongheadedness in society.

And now—and I speak for Paul and Mary now, I know—we are facing an era where the forces of cruelty and mean-spiritedness and a kind of fascistic mobilizing of hatred that has crystallized in a way that is frighteningly reminiscent of Mussolini and that era of Nazi Germany. And you say, “Who is going to bring us forward? Who is going to bring us together in the face of this?”

There are several groups of people. One of those groups are you, young lawyers, or aspirant lawyers. We need you! I’m here to say, as a fighter for justice and freedom and equity and humanity that I’m honored to know that this legacy is being continued—that the standard is being raised by you young attorneys, with this kind

of spirit. I mean you wouldn't be honoring us if you were Donald Trump-ites! [Laughter and Applause].

He's not the problem, because there are lots of jerks like that around. The problem is that there are millions and millions of people that are mobilized in hatred, and they think the way to resolve this is to find a scapegoat, and attack them, and build that wall. You know, not just a physical wall, but a wall of fear and dismissal. And who is going to bring us forward? Well, it's also the teachers—the teachers of the young people—in law school, but also in preschool and first grade. They will bring us forward. Because, if we can inculcate that kind of caring that you're doing for lawyers with young, young children, we will be able to move forward.

Then, there are the singers, the musicians, the artists, the painters, the filmmakers—the people who somehow have been touched by some kind of wonderment, mysterious wonderment that can translate a hope and a dream into something concrete, whether it's a song or a book or a painting.

So, from Mary, since she's not here, let me tell you what Gloria Steinem said. She said, "For you women of a certain age, she was talking to you." She said, "Mary made us, women, strong enough"—I'm paraphrasing—"strong enough and brave enough to speak the truth. Not by using feminine wiles," by implication of what she was saying, "to get a little power here and there, but to confront the reality that demands equity for women, and to men, and to power." And Mary did that. You can see that. I don't think she had a choice, frankly. I mean, you can say it's a virtue on her part, but I think she was stuck with herself, honestly. Thank God. [Laughter].

And Mary insisted on truthfulness amongst us. And truth is hard! I mean, when you've got to be saying what you really feel all the time, you know. It's rugged. But our being transparent to each other and being revealing to each other and being vulnerable to each other is what kept us together. There never was a subtext, or a harboring of resentment, because it was all out there. That ain't easy. But it was because of Mary. And she was a "dyed-in-the-wool" activist. And she never, never, never backed off in terms of pursuing her ideals, either politically or in terms of the world of straight on advocacy outside of the political arena.

So on behalf of Mary, let me just tell you that you are what she would have loved to have seen, would that she were alive and with us. [Applause]. She would have been so moved to be here. Not because, you know, [Gesturing to Award], "I'd like to have this

thing to show people.” That’s very sweet. But it’s because *this* is the work—carrying this on and saying these things to each other and reconfirming them, these beliefs, in one another. This is the advocacy—the strength in what this is all about. This is not a superficial moment to reflect. I mean, first of all, it’s not superficial. It’s more of a reflection. But it’s also a moment to reconnect and carry it on. It’s a piece that’s undeniably in all our hearts, because we are all here together to share it. And when we do that, we are stronger. And when we are stronger and helping each other to be stronger, we’re doing the work. It’s like the March on Washington—although it’s a little smaller. [Laughter].

For Noel, as you will see in the video in a few moments, Mary and I were politicants—the lefties if you will. You want to know the truth? We were lefties. You think we were pinkos? We were worse than pinkos! [Laughter]. And what does that mean? We were idealists. Mary was one of the people that ringed the White House as a teenager in high school, when the Rosenbergs were electrocuted. She started very early. I did not have that kind of an activism in my background. My mother was a schoolteacher in New York City—high school English, speech and drama—a member of a very subversive organization called the Teachers Union. [Laughter]. And another one called Planned Parenthood. [More Laughter]. Swear to God! It was considered, then, almost as dangerous as something that people consider now. [Laughter].

But Noel came from another place and, because he’s not here, let me speak for him a little bit. He was all about the spirit, and the spiritual self. And not just the religious self—about love. And he wrote about it incessantly. Oh my God. [Laughter]. It was a sort of great embarrassment. [Laughter]. But he was the one who said, ultimately, if we are going to change this, it has to come from the love between human beings. It cannot be superimposed from up high or from above, because that will not hold, it will not sustain. It has to be in the hearts of the people who are living it. And if we do care about each other, and truly love each other—not just as a noun, but as a verb, an active state—then we’ll care about the future. Then we’ll care about the next generation. Then we will care about whether or not catastrophic climate change will happen. And then we will care about human beings in Palestine. In Israel. In Jordan. We will care because we will be united and we will not be separated in our hearts.

The building block of peace, to Noel, and he was so right and *is* so right, is loving each other. It’s pretty damn simple. And he



always came from that perspective. Mary and I were trying to change the damn policies, you know? Not that we didn't know in our hearts that what we were doing was kind of a case and point of caring.

If you saw us when we were performing, were we all three looking out at everybody? No! We were looking at each other more than we were looking at the audience, because what we were doing was setting our masts and, for that moment, being totally real and honest with each other. We were in mediation. And you know who was running the mediation? We were. It was a constant exercise in appreciating each other, validating each other, encouraging each other. And therein we lived the model that we were hoping could be created in an audience, in just the three of us. And it was extraordinary. When we were together, something came from us and was allowed to exist that absolutely brought us to our best selves, or better angels, as they say.

So, from Mary, and Noel, and from me, these are the words that I want to speak in thanks. You are giving us the opportunity to carry on by being with you—to validate our souls and say we are not alone. The efforts continue. They continue in the hearts of these young, idealistic, and wonderful people. I say, from the three of us, that we are extraordinarily fortunate to have been the purveyors of this perspective, and to be recognized. Let it be known that this continues, and it continues with the wonderful heart of you people at Cardozo who are living it in ways that makes us very, very proud.

[After Peter Yarrow's remarks, the audience viewed a five-minute video prepared by Noel Paul Stookey, where he shared his own words of acceptance along with the song "One and Many". The narrative portions of Noel Paul Stookey's remarks appear below.]

NOEL PAUL: "The doors are small." That's a metaphor for not wanting to be vulnerable to each other. As Elizabeth Bader, one of your prolific contributors once said, "from a neurobiological perspective, a distinctive feature of mediation is that all parties in mediation experience threat and safety at the same time". Well from Pete Seeger, Woody Guthrie, Josh White, and countless other socially conscious folk musicians, Peter, Mary and I have inherited, along with you, a rich, ethical legacy and a working knowledge that music helps to overcome the fear of being vulnerable. And as most of you here tonight know, the Cardozo Journal of Conflict Resolu-

tion is one of the few nationally valued organizations to embrace that legacy and to understand the connection between the practical and our spiritual nature.

As a member of Peter, Paul, and Mary it is an honor and a pleasure to receive the International Advocate for Peace award. In my absence, I ask you to please welcome back, on behalf of Mary Travers and myself, our partner in peace, Peter Yarrow.

[The evening concluded with a musical presentation by Peter Yarrow, featuring songs including “Don’t Laugh at Me”, “This Little Light of Mine”, and “This Land is Your Land”. Two hundred fifty guests, including attorneys, law professors, and law students, joined Peter Yarrow in song.]