

HON. KATE BROWN*

An Old Testament Guy

I first became acquainted with David Schuman in the mid-1990s when I was serving in the legislature and Attorney General Hardy Myers appointed him Deputy Attorney General for the state. His reputation as a deep thinker and brilliant legal scholar at the University of Oregon School of Law preceded him; he seemed like the perfect copilot for the ever-statesmanlike Hardy Myers.

Although some state attorneys generally aspire to more of a “top cop” law enforcement brand, Hardy and David immediately got to work on the unglamorous yet critical work of stewardship of Oregon law: protecting the public good through the provision of mindful legal advice to public agencies and continuous, rigorous statutory review, improvement, and clarification.

David’s quiet-seeming and scholarly demeanor belied a vast capacity and desire for human connection—as well as a bone-dry wit.

I remember him testifying before House Rules at the invitation of the House Speaker on a bill to permit the Ten Commandments to be posted in the State Capitol. The chair asked David, who was Jewish, if Jews believe in Jesus Christ and if he had accepted Jesus as his savior. David replied, in his usual kind and soft-spoken manner, “Madam Chair, members of the committee, I am more of an Old Testament guy.”

He will be missed.

* Governor of Oregon, 2015–Current; J.D., Lewis & Clark College Law School, 1985.

