

A View from Higher Ground

Well over 100 years ago, a Scottish judge and a neighboring landowner quarreled.

To spite the judge, the landowner cut down a stand of trees on his property that he knew the judge loved to look at.

Soon after, a legal case involving the landowner came before the judge. Someone had a will that appeared to strip the landowner of all his property. The landowner feared he would never get a fair hearing from a judge who despised him.

The judge, however, tried the case without bias – and even proved the will to be false, saving the landowner’s fortune.



When the landowner shamefacedly thanked the judge for his integrity, the judge simply said, “This was a duty I owed to myself, and I should have been unworthy of the place I occupy, if I suffered any injury done to myself, to influence me in the administration of justice.”

In this case, “knowing your place” does tell who you are.

That story is instructive for all of us.

When we accepted a position within Life Care or Century Park, we didn’t swear an oath – as this judge did – to fairly perform a duty. But in truth, we accepted a duty – which is defined as a moral or legal obligation – to act in the best interests of our residents, our associates, the company and, ultimately, to God, since we are caring for His children.

It is an awesome, often demanding, and yet fulfilling assignment. In the pursuit of duty, we must not allow personal interests or distractions to interfere.

He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter