Richard Posner
By Paul Sandberg, ’82

I was fortunate enough while a student at the Law School to have had (then Mr.) Posner for a number of courses. The first was Torts, during which he eventually introduced the class to the concept of “due care.” One morning upon entering the classroom he found each student wearing a big grin and a custom-made t-shirt emblazoned with Learned Hand’s “B<PL” formula. Somewhat taken aback, he seemed nevertheless pleased. And pleased all the more when we then presented him with a t-shirt of his own. Which he donned immediately, and wore during the remainder of that day’s session.

The guy has a sense of humor.

Cut to 30 years later: rummaging through some little-used drawers, I come across my old B<PL shirt. So I mail it to (by then Judge) Posner … and am happy to say receive back from him in short order a very nice personal note.

The guy has manners, too.

I hope, for him, the shirt brought back fond memories of his teaching days at the Law School. It sure did for me.