

A Lawyer Who Is a Credit to His Profession



Everybody's Port

HOWARD BLANKMAN

PORTWASHINGTON@ANTONNEWS.COM

Alan Jay Lerner was the writer/lyricist, who — with composer Frederick Loewe — created hit Broadway musicals *My Fair Lady*, *Brigadoon*, *Camelot* and the Academy Award-winning movie musical, *Gigi*. Sadly, Lerner's first three marriages were not hits. All ended in divorce. Number three cost him big bucks. She was French and a lawyer. While bleeding green, Lerner said he couldn't think of any other profession in which people study the law so assiduously to find ways around it.

Of course, as the brothers Gershwin wrote, "It ain't necessarily so." Some of my best friends are lawyers. Albert D'Agostino, our counsel during my years with the Nassau County Planning Commission, is the best in his field. He is also a genuinely nice guy. John Kiernan, former North Hempstead supervisor, is one of the sharpest lawyers around, especially about local and state governments. He, too, is a very decent fellow. Then there's an attorney from Port Washington, an ace litigator and an all-around nice man. Daniel Millman.

The first time I saw Millman in action was a few months ago at a Manorhaven Board of Trustees'

meeting. He was speaking on a client's behalf. It was a typical Manorhaven Board of Trustees meeting: raucous. He was trying to address the board. The 30 or so residents in attendance weren't much different from fans at any Yankees or Mets game. Millman was something to watch. I mean, he was quick, tenaciously stayed on message, ignored the disruptive bait, and never lost his cool.

On a previous evening, I was enjoying a pint of Smithwick's at Sullivan's; Millman was finishing a plate of bangers and mash. Pubs can be a hub of congeniality. Heck, I'm congenial, so I get to talking with Millman. He is a fit, good-looking, fortyish fellow who could be a poster child for Aer Lingus. But, his last name isn't Irish. "That's because my mother was Irish, but my father wasn't," Millman explained. "His background was Austrian and Russian."

He reveres both parents. "My father was as a psychologist. We were close; I looked up to him. He helped me to understand everything." His Irish mother, on the other hand, "Had the personality and was caring," Millman said. When it comes to food, he eats like an Irishman. "I'm strictly a meat and potatoes guy," he said.

Millman moved his practice to Port Washington about a year ago. His resume also includes five years as a Nassau County Assistant District Attorney under one of the best, D.A. Dennis Dillon. "Not much money, but it was the best job I ever had," said Millman.

While discussing his family, Millman casually mentioned that his



Daniel Millman

Uncle Walton is in the bomb shelter business. "Yikes! Bomb shelters," I ask? "No Blarney," says Millman. "He designs, manufactures and installs bomb shelters — except they're now marketed as 'disaster shelters' by my uncle's company, Radius Engineering International Inc." Who buys them? "Rich people," Millman said. "A modest one starts at \$400,000; a fancy one easily runs into the millions — depending on size and amenities like an elevator and tunnel from your house to the shelter." Now you know what to buy the person who has everything.

Most of Millman's litigation work is criminal defense, commercial litigation, partnership disputes or the defense of personal injury actions. "I've handled the most serious type of criminal case, a murder-rape charge," he said. "But I've also handled similarly serious civil cases, including wrongful death actions." Additionally, Millman serves as trial counsel for several

attorneys on cases that are moving toward trial. "Although the majority of my work is on Long Island, some are in Westchester and Rockland Counties," he said. Millman recently bought new wheels. He had to. His previous jalopy had more than 285,000 miles on it.

Millman's not currently married, but he's seriously smitten. His daughter is about to turn sweet 16. "She lives in Syracuse with her mother, but I see her and speak with her regularly," he said. For fun? "I enjoy sports, movies, a good restaurant and going into Manhattan to hear jazz."

"...let's kill all the lawyers," says Dick the butcher in Shakespeare's King Henry VI. He never would have said that if he had known Dan Millman.

Howard Blankman has lived 55 years in Port and is the recipient of three lifetime achievement awards. Blankman has successfully pursued a multifaceted career encompassing business, government, television and the theater.