

Fraternity Friendship for Life

I have been a Deke for 53 years including 25 running the National Fraternity. My experience as an undergraduate member of DKE at Michigan was similar to W's or Kavanaugh's as Dekes at Yale, and I'm not apologizing for it now. Our Fraternity, thanks to the Kavanaugh hearings has become a public spectacle and a stereotype for all that is wrong with the Greek System.

I guess that the basic problem with stereotypes, which is never admitted, is that they are down deep based upon fact!

My eyes have been opened -- for the past couple of years I have been working as an expert witness in Fraternity hazing and risk management cases, and to date, I have worked on 26 cases. **All of them involved horrible deaths or massive injuries.** And as such, **I have reviewed thousands of pages of transcripts, autopsy records, photos, GroupMe transcripts, cell phone records and the like from several chapters of several fraternities, none of which allegedly tolerate the type of behavior that results in a lawsuit.**

I now have a Facebook page dedicated to articles in the press about this stuff. Anything I post on Facebook or LinkedIn comes from a daily Google update, and there's plenty of that to post. **I am also the Chair of [Common Sense Foundation](#), a 501(c)(3) public charity, whose current function is to raise funds to distribute Hank Nuwer's new book, *HAZING: Destroying Young Lives*.**

Unfortunately, thanks to the "help" of the primary Fraternity Insurance broker, who was my friend in the old DKE days, **I am viewed as the enemy by my former colleagues in the Fraternity World, rather than as one working toward a common goal of eliminating this ridiculous criminality.**

As the Executive Director of DKE, I sold fraternity life as a meaningful transgenerational and lifelong friendship. **The whole concept of Fraternity is that you are supposed to build friends for life.** After working on the tragic fatal cases of Tucker Hipps, Nolan Burch, Robert Tipton, and Andrew Coffey as well as several others which have not hit the national press, **I am afraid that I no longer believe in that.**

Hazing Makes No Sense! Why try to kill somebody that you want to be your friend! Tell these parents whose sons died looking for that fraternal friendship and Tim Piazza's or Max Gruver's parents about Fraternity Friendship For Life!

Watercolor is "Mount Dekemore" autographed by Brother Jerry Ford with the 5 US Presidents who are Dekes. FDR was one too, but the chapter at Harvard had just gone local after he pledged!

David K. Easlick is an Expert Witness in Fraternity Hazing Cases. He is a lawyer and past Executive Director of Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity. He may be contacted at davideaslick@gmail.com.

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