

Catching Up
Chip Babcock

25 years ago I heard that a newspaper had been put out of business because of a restraining order based on a draconian non competition agreement. The owner didn't have the funds to pay for a lawyer but I didn't think newspapers should be run out of business on the basis of such agreements.

So I took the case and after losing in the trial court we appealed and achieved a meaningful victory. Below is an email from that client telling me what came next for him over the next quarter century.

From: Willis Webb
Date: January 26, 2016
To: Chip Babcock
Subject: Catching up

Chip,

I'm a face and voice from out of the past who is eternally grateful to you for enabling me to continue my career.

To refresh your memory, you took my case in 1990 when I was terminated by Hartman Newspapers and then started a business news and legal notice newspaper, I was sued under a non-compete covenant. They sued me, put me out of business and you took my case (after a friend of mine notified you) because you "were outraged at what they were doing to me."

Our victory in appellate court brought about re-writing the law governing such non-compete covenants as being "too restrictive."

You've obviously done extremely well and deservedly so. Not only are you a great attorney, you're an outstanding human being.

My wife Julie, also a newspaper journalist, are retired and live in Lake Charles LA where our son also lives.

I've been inducted into the Texas Newspaper Foundation Hall of Fame, The Texas Gulf Coast Press Association Hall of Honor and have received the Sam Houston State University Lifetime Achievement Award for Print Journalism.

I'm copying my newspaper resume' here to show you what you made possible by winning the case.

With great admiration and gratitude,

Willis