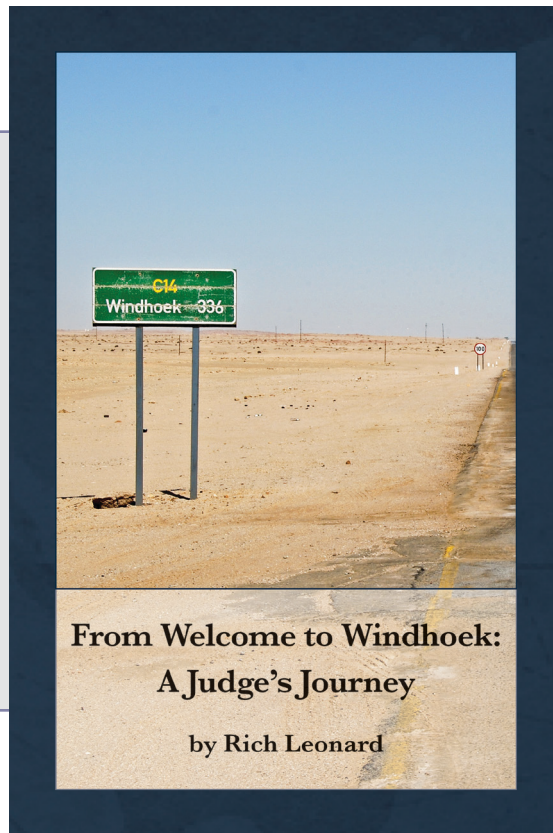


**MEDIA KIT**

**Thank you for your interest in our book!**



***From Welcome to Windhoek: A Judge's Journey***

By Rich Leonard

Former U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina

Dean, Campbell Law School, Raleigh, North Carolina

## About *From Welcome to Windhoek*

---

LM Press is pleased to announce the publication of *From Welcome to Windhoek: A Judge's Journey* by Rich Leonard.

This is the remarkable story of how a boy from rural Welcome, North Carolina grew up to become an innovative judge, global citizen, and go-to guy for court-building in emerging African nations.

Along the way, he organizes the first-ever judicial conference in Zambia, jogs with children in Lusaka, dances with a python, and has adventures ranging from the harrowing to the hilarious.

In the end, he discovers the distance between Welcome and Windhoek is not as great as he imagined, and that both places now occupy adjoining spaces in his heart.



## About Rich Leonard

---

Over the course of his long career, Rich Leonard has been a pioneering judge, a groundbreaking court administrator, a restorer of historic courthouses, and at age 29 the youngest U.S. District Court Clerk in the country, which gave him a front-row seat to some of the most sensational trials in North Carolina history.

He has also run marathons, climbed mountains, forged cross-continental friendships, and embraced life in all its majesty and messiness.

He worked as a special consultant to the U.S. Department of State, where for 20 years he helped developing countries in sub-Saharan Africa create workable court systems.

This is his second published volume. The first a children's book, *The House By the Creek*, based on his family history, is set in North Carolina during the Revolutionary War.

He is now the Dean of Campbell Law School in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he resides with his family.



## What Others Are Saying

---

“During my thirty-five years of working on policy issues for the Federal Judiciary, I’ve had the privilege of knowing many of the Nation’s most preeminent judges and court officers. Among this group, Rich Leonard is legendary. This entertaining memoir shows why. The combination of great legal ability, administrative and technical know-how, and a larger-than-life personality made Rich one of the fathers of modern judicial case administration. The stories and insights he describes, whether in North Carolina, Washington, or Africa, convey the story of a man deeply committed to the delivery of justice. The world is a better place because of that commitment.”

— *Mark Miskovsky, Chief, Court Policy Staff, Administrative Office of the United States Courts*

Rich Leonard tells a story, his story, of a life’s journey from Sunday family dinners on the farm in Davie County to groundbreaking international legal cooperative endeavors in Africa in a laid back and comfortable style. A life so full it is hard to imagine that one person could have experienced such varied and significant life events. But having been his colleague on the federal bankruptcy bench, I know firsthand that Rich is one of the very few who could and did! This memoir highlights a life devoted to public service, and in particular, to ensuring the efficient and fair administration of justice in this country and around the world.

— *Stephani Humrickhouse, Judge (Retired), NC Eastern District Bankruptcy Court*

I absolutely loved the book – I binged it in one sitting. Fantastic storytelling that had me laughing out loud at least a dozen different times. It was truly a joy to read.

— *Alexandra Davis, Davis Legal Media*

Rich Leonard is a man of many talents, including master storyteller. Here he chronicles his efforts to establish a workable judiciary in many new democracies of Africa while recounting his life story. I had the good fortune being a judge—and from 1983 to 1990 Chief Judge of his court—and vividly remember many of them, though not in the fascinating detail this narrative provides. A good read.

— *W. Earl Britt, Judge, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of North Carolina*

An engaging romp through courts and down legal alleys on several continents.

— *Kiki Skagen Munshi, Senior Foreign Service Officer (Retired)*

# Book Detail Sheet

---

**Title:** *From Welcome to Windhoek: A Judge's Journey*

**Author:** Rich Leonard

**Genre:** Memoir

**Price:** \$24.99

**# of pages:** 141

**ISBN:** 978-1-7341086-4-4

**Publication date:** July 2022

**Publisher:** LM Press, Cary, North Carolina

**Synopsis:** This is a remarkable story of how a boy from rural Welcome, North Carolina grew up to become an innovative judge, global citizen, and go-to guy for court-building in emerging African nations.

**Formats available:** Hard copy

**Available:** Quail Ridge Books in Raleigh, NC; Amazon, Barnes & Noble

# Contact Information

---

## **ABOUT LM PRESS**

LM Press is part of Lawyers Mutual Consulting & Services and was created to help lawyers and legal professionals share their experiences and personal stories through published books. We are honored to be a part of putting Rich Leonard's magical stories into print. For speaking appearances, media inquiries, or information about your own publishing experience, contact Camille Stell.

## **MEDIA OR BOOK READING INQUIRIES**

Camille Stell, President

919.447.3354

[camille@lawyersmutualconsulting.com](mailto:camille@lawyersmutualconsulting.com)

## **COMPLETE PRESS KIT**

- High-Resolution photos
- Interview questions
- Brief and Extended Biographies

Dropbox Link: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/cltdhj4k6i62kiw/AABGARhUs7jDDwm2A4cTshXZa?dl=0>

## **BOOK WEBSITE**

[www.fromwelcometowindhoek.com](http://www.fromwelcometowindhoek.com)

## **MORE ABOUT RICH LEONARD**

<https://law.campbell.edu/about/our-school/our-dean/s>

## Podcast Links

---

### **Campbell Law School**

*Campbell Law Reporter Podcast*

September 2022

Link: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1thCg41HAF\\_jMPtKuEMNlcMpyVz56cpYK/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1thCg41HAF_jMPtKuEMNlcMpyVz56cpYK/view)

### **North Carolina State Bar**

*Bar Talk Podcast* – Episode 14 – Dean Rich Leonard

March 2023

Link: <https://on.soundcloud.com/4aHuw>

### **North Carolina Judicial Branch**

*All Things Judicial* – Episode 60 - Embracing Life's Majesty and Messiness – Campbell Law School Dean Rich Leonard

Link: <https://www.nccourts.gov/learn/all-things-judicial-podcast#episodes-9364>

## Interview Questions

---

*From Welcome to Windhoek: A Judge's Journey* is a story of a young man who grew up in rural North Carolina, stepped outside of his home county for undergraduate school and his home state for law school. Along the way, Rich Leonard had a series of experiences that not every lawyer gets to have.

His distinguished law career includes being the youngest U.S. District Court clerk in the country, a federal bankruptcy judge, a nominee for a U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit which became hopelessly locked in a political morass, a special consultant for the State Department which forms much of the story of this memoir, and, presently, the dean of Campbell Law School.

**Question:** did the book you started turn out to be the book you ultimately wrote? Describe the journey along with way?

**Question:** what made you decide to tell this story now?

**Question:** Many lawyers love the written word. How about you? What books made an impression on you throughout your life?

**Question:** Is writing a passion? When and where do you find time to write? What is your process?

**Question:** You were fortunate to work with some legal legends over the years such as Bill Friday and Franklin Dupree. What lessons did you take from them that impacted your career choices?

**Question:** your book doesn't hide the disappointments you had over the years. It's easy for outsiders to look at you and think your career was one mighty ride to the top. Can you talk about the reality of a lifetime in a law and the disappointments and setbacks along the way? What caused you to be so open about the challenges you faced along with the way.

**Question:** As a law school dean, you have a front row on interacting with the next generation of lawyers. What can you share about your impressions and experiences with your students, and those you meet across the country?

For More Information Contact:

Camille Stell, President  
Lawyers Mutual Consulting & Services  
LM Press  
919.447.3354 direct dial  
camille@lawyersmtualconsulting.com

### Chapter 1

## A Summons to Lusaka

*“It always seems impossible until it’s done.”*

Nelson Mandela

I was sitting in my chambers in my small courthouse in Wilson, North Carolina, one spring afternoon in 1994 when my phone rang. The caller said he was from the U.S. State Department and asked if I would consider going to Zambia as a consultant.

I didn’t hesitate.

“Sure. Where is Zambia?”

He explained the where, what, and why behind the request. The Zambian people had recently adopted a new constitution modeled in many ways after ours. They wanted some American judges to help set up their new structure.

We agreed to talk again the next day. I thought he might be a quack, or at least that nothing more would come of it. But just in case, I did some preliminary research that evening.

When he called back, I said, “You’ve got the wrong guy. I am a tall, blond, white Southerner with a considerable accent. Zam-



### **From Welcome to Windhoek: A Judge's Journey**

bia is a 100 percent black African nation. I don't think I will be effective."

He disagreed. He said they had been looking for recommendations from a number of sources and that my name had come up repeatedly. The Zambians wanted a judge with administrative experience, and early in my career I was the Clerk of the local federal district court. He asked if I would participate in a transatlantic call the next day to discuss the project further.

This call did not go well. Or so I thought.

On the line from Zambia was the senior civil servant tasked with setting up the new court structure. She later came to be a great friend. She spoke beautiful British English with an African accent, but the quality of the call was poor. I understood about every third word. Even so, I responded as best I could to what I thought she was saying.

Afterward, I called my State Department handler.

"The call was a disaster. I'm sorry I embarrassed you."

"Quite the contrary," he responded. "You've got the job."

### **STARTING OFF WITH A BANG**

A few days before I was to depart, my handler asked about my travel plans. I was surprised he didn't know. But one thing I would later learn through years of traveling abroad was that not every branch of the State Department is always in sync. I told him his travel office had me flying to London and then taking Air Zambia to the capital of Lusaka.

He exploded.

## Chapter 1. A Summons to Lusaka

“Those idiots. You can’t fly Air Zambia. The airline is in debt to creditors all over the world. Every time one of their two jets touches down, creditors try to seize it, and they just take off again.”

As a federal bankruptcy judge, I appreciated the finer points of debt, attachment, and property seizure. So I asked to be re-booked. My new ticket took me through South Africa, safe from the grasping clutches of creditors, and I went to bed feeling relieved.

But on the morning of my departure, while listening to NPR in the shower, I received an even bigger jolt. I heard that the international arrival terminal at Jan Smut Airport in Johannesburg – the very airport where I was landing the next day – had just been bombed. I called my handler and asked if this might put a kink in my plans. He assured me everything would be fine.

And though I had to transit through an open-air tent hastily constructed as a makeshift terminal beside the still-smoking ruins of the bombed building, he turned out to be right, and I passed through Johannesburg without incident.

When I arrived in Lusaka, I was surprised to find a formal delegation had been assembled to greet me. As a youthful looking 45-year-old, I quickly realized I did not match their image of an American judge. I watched in amusement as they approached every older white male in the immigration line and asked optimistically, “Judge Leonard?”

Soon I was the only one left.

“I think you might be looking for me,” I said.

Surprised but gracious, they escorted me to my hotel.

**From Welcome to Windhoek: A Judge's Journey**

And there I was – 7,700 miles from my North Carolina home and light years from all that was familiar – at the threshold of what would become three decades of African adventures. My journey had begun with an unexpected summons to an unfamiliar place. And like all good journeys, this one would shape the course of my life in ways I had never imagined.