Thomas R. Julin

While editor in chief of *The Independent Florida Alligator* in 1977, Tom received a telephone call from UF Public Information Officer Hugh Cunningham warning him that if he did not order one of his young reporters to leave a meeting of the UF Council of Academic Deans, the president would publicly castigate Tom for disrupting UF business. Relying on his conviction that the Florida Sunshine Law required university meetings to be open to the public and press, Tom directed the reporter to stay. The next day’s *University Digest* was headlined “President Marston Calls Editor Julin ‘Irresponsible, Unreasonable’.”

The Sunshine Law issue resurfaced soon after Tom had entered the UF College of Law in 1979 and the editor of law school’s student newspaper, Terri Wood, sought access to meetings of a UF committee charged with finding a new law school dean. After the committee refused Wood’s request, Tom and Terri filed suit. Their student project worked its way to the Florida Supreme Court and resulted in the landmark decision, *Wood v. Marston*, 442 So. 2d 934 (Fla. 1983), holding state university meetings must be open.

From that beginning, Tom built a legal career in Miami representing journalists in all types of First Amendment cases. His early mentors, Talbot D’Alemberte and Donald M. Middlebrooks, championed opening Florida state courts to television cameras. With them, Tom successfully defended WPLG Channel 10 against a libel claim by an airline that reportedly traded guns for drugs; ABC News and Geraldo Rivera against a libel claim by the owner of a jai alai fronton who appeared to have burned his business for insurance; and *US* magazine against a libel claim by a woman who had been called an accomplice in the murder of her mother.

Today, Tom is a partner in the Miami office of the international law firm Hunton & Williams LLP. There, Tom has represented media clients as diverse as the creator of the investigative news website BrowardBulldog.com. In 2011, he won a milestone US Supreme Court victory for the country’s leading health information companies in *Sorrell v. IMS Health Inc.*, 131 S. Ct. 2653 (2011), striking down a state law that banned the sale of data for targeted marketing. Tom’s article, *The Dog that Did Bark: First Amendment Protection of Data Mining*, 36 Vt. L. Rev. 881 (2012), tells the tale of how the case came about and the significance it may play in future data mining controversies.

Tom’s father, Joseph R. Julin, served as dean of the University of Florida College of Law for the decade from 1971 through 1980 and then retired to the law faculty until his death in 1993. Dean Julin is remembered often for his relentless pursuit of excellence in legal education and for helping bring the UF College of Law into the nation’s top ranks. Tom’s sister, Linda Julin McNamara, is also a UF Law grad and is now chief deputy assistant U.S. attorney for the appellate division in the Middle District of Florida.