*One-Liners….*That Changed My Life!

22 *"We've got the facts!"*

My boss made it clear when I started the practice of law in his one man office in 1951 that I was to handle any litigation. The problem was, I wasn't fully equipped. In those days Law School gave us some theory, a chance to watch lawyers try a case, and participate in one moot course case. Then we were on our own!

I knew I needed more training, so I began to watch and listen to the good, older lawyers when they were trying cases. Lawsuits were tried in the old court house where the only place to eat was a standup bar. Segregation was still the law, but fortunately for me, not at that standup bar. That is where I came to know a legendary, older African American attorney known throughout the area for his wit, his wisdom and his trial ability.

One case made an indelible impression. I can still see him and hear his slow drawl as he said something like this to the jury: "Mr. (the opposing lawyer) is a smart man. He is really a smart man. He really knows the law. In fact he has the law." But then he added triumphantly, with his wry grin, *"We've got the facts!"*

That one line statement has served me well over my lifetime. No matter how much we know, it doesn't help much if we don't apply the facts. A friend of mine often quotes a Bible verse that says in essence, "Above all, get the facts". Today, we are deluged with information from innumerable sources. Many of our so-called "facts" come from unknown people on social media and blogs.

I am still grateful for that early lesson to a young lawyer. I still want to be sure, *"We've got the facts!"*

From Grandpa With Love

A Note From the Writer