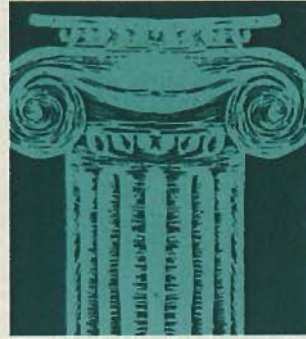
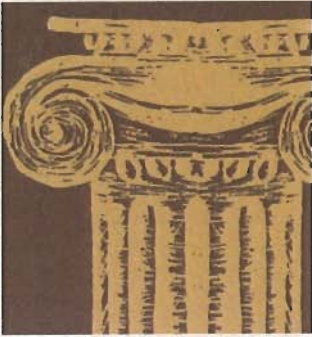


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GERALD GOLDSTEIN



A self-professed child of the 1960s, Gerald Goldstein got his start representing people who didn't want to fight in the Vietnam War and others accused of relatively minor drug offenses.

"I went into law primarily to avoid the draft," Goldstein says. He opposed the war and staying in school kept him out of it. "We were being asked to kill or be killed," he says. He also thought being a lawyer might put him in a position to help bring about social change and make the world a better place. Goldstein graduated from the University of Texas School of Law in 1968.

Maury Maverick Jr., the son of Legal Legend Maury Maverick, soon took Goldstein under his wing. Goldstein says Maverick was handling most of the conscientious-objector cases in San Antonio at the time. While Goldstein was drawn to that line of legal work by his own background and beliefs, he also says the cases were relatively easy to try, with few factual disputes to contend with. Goldstein says law school gave him very little practical courtroom ability and his knowledge of how to handle a trial was limited.

"Maury grabbed me by the scruff of the neck and took me into courtrooms," Goldstein says. His libertarian agenda and background made for what he describes as a "natural pro-

gression" to defending drug cases.

He became close friends with gonzo journalist Hunter S. Thompson and defended him against a drunken-driving charge in Aspen. Goldstein also represented the founder of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws and a theater pro-

jector operator who faced charges involving his showing of the X-rated movie "Deep Throat."

Over time, Goldstein's practice became less libertarian and idealistic and more involved with defending alleged drug kingpins and high-profile people wanting to get out of a jam. Goldstein pleads guilty to the changing profile of his practice, but he doesn't apologize for defending people who face criminal charges.

A name partner in the firm of Goldstein, Goldstein & Hilley, Goldstein was president of the National Association of Criminal Lawyers in 1994 and 1995. He was president of the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association in 1992 and 1993. Goldstein has served as chairman of the legal committee for the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws since 1979. He received the John Henry Faulk Civil Libertarian of the Year Award from the American Civil Liberties Union for 1999.