

Have you ever been fired by an employer?

This is a question often asked in depositions in employment cases. I was thinking, what if some unprepared lawyer asked that question to Bernie Marcus? Would Mr. Marcus simply answer, "yes?" If Marcus was following the advice of his attorney, that is probably what he would do. Anyone know the rest of the story?

In 1979, Bernie Marcus was fired from Handy Dan Home Improvement Centers. Marcus and Arthur Blank, started Home Depot. Handy Dan failed in 1989.

What's the point? Several, I guess. 1. Failure is part of life for everyone. What matters is what you do next. 2. If, like me, you are a litigator, you better pay attention and ask follow up questions, or you might miss the whole point. 3. If you find yourself being cross examined, answer the question accurately and completely, and then stop talking.