The Clintons need friends like Chubbuck's merry men

In classes on wills and trusts law, my students and I inevitably stumble across Clark v. Campbell, a case involving a man who left the bulk of his estate in trust for the benefit of his friends. He directed his trustees to distribute his worldly goods to "my friends, as they, my trustees, shall select." When his next of kin attacked the will, the court voided the bequest, finding a gift to friends too uncertain to implement.

Unlike Bill and Hillary Clinton, two recent local newsmakers --- Albuquerque bank robber Byron Shane Chubbuck and Los Alamos

Scientist Wen Ho Lee --would have fewer problems identifying their friends. Chubbuck had three buddies -- James, Thompson, Robert Jeannoutot and James Armijo -who police said harbored him during his recent seven-week freedom tour and alleged: bank robbery spree.



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After Chubbuck was seized, U.S. marshals transferred him to a California facility, because they believed that he had too many friends in New Mexico, both in and out of jail, who were willing to help

Wen Ho Lee's next door neighbors, Jean and Don Marshall, offered their home as a property bond to free him from jail. Throughout his ordeal, they spoke warmly about him and their belief in his innocence. When your friends speak about you with such conviction, it is hard not to wonder if the government got it wrong. When Lee was released, they held a victory party for him.

When you possess friends like Chubbuck's and Lee's, others begin to wonder if your detractors got it wrong. In the New Testament, Jesus says, "Greater love hath no man than ... a man who would lay down his life for his friends." In our times, it appears that a person can have no greater friends than those who would risk jail time to keep you safe from the law or risk their home to free you from the law. If this is the test of ultimate friendship, Chubbuck and Lee definitely have friends.

Bill and Hillary Cinton are another story. When Bill Clinton was first elected to the presidency in 1992, people were bending over sideways to proclaim themselves "FOB," or Friends of Bill. Another core group in Arkansas denominated themselves the Friends of Bill and Hill, or "FOBAHs." As the pardon and gift controversy heated up, these FOBs and FOBAHs rushed to the media gates, tripping over themselves to at-

What happened between 1992 and 2001 to cause such a massive abandonment of the former first couple? To begin, they have suffered a downgrade in power. Individuals will line up to claim you when you occupy the most powerful office in the world. But when all you possess is the New York junior Senate seat, that's another story. Some of their acquaintances were there for the power ride.

Notwithstanding their power loss, the former first couple may have made their own bed on this matter. The Clintons were the first to abandon colleagues who came under intense media scrutiny. Zoe Baird, Kimba Wood and Lani Guinier were just the beginning. Guinier wrote in a New York Times piece that, when she was under attack, the White House never mounted a defense. When she ran into Hillary in the White House at the height of the controversy, all Hillary said was, "How you doing, kiddo?"

For Guinier, who had been a classmate of theirs at Yale Law School and had received them at their wedding, this meager support felt like a hetrayal.

Other friends, such as Georgetown Law Description Potent Edwinder, over your Children signing the welfare bill was a denigration of his long-term commitment to the poor.

Finally, some of their intimate associates may have abandoned them because they became scandal-weary. They were overwhelmed when the Clintons didn't exit the White House with dignity. Instead, their actions served to remind the American people of all the other salacious events that had congested the airwaves at the expense of selling and implementing sound public policy.

Perhaps the Clintons should take a page from Chubbuck's and Lee's handbooks. Better to have a few confidantes whom you trust and who commit to you than a slew of fair-weather friends.

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