

## CLYDE SUMMERS

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Labor law has an enviable number of innovative teachers, quite a few first-rate scholars, several original thinkers, and one prophet—Clyde Summers. Like the prophets of biblical times, he has spoken most passionately against evil committed by those who claim to be doing the Lord's work. And like the prophets of old, he stood at first almost alone. He pointed to the dangers of injustice, dishonesty, and misuse of power by unions at a time when other scholars and writers considered the lack of democracy a minor problem to be addressed after unions became secure, the work force organized and collective bargaining well established.

Like Isaiah, Micah, and Ezekiel, he has been moved by a prophetic vision of the Kingdom of God established on earth. His vision is of unions that nourish the spirit, respond to needs, and reflect the diversity of their members: unions that are open to new ideas and people. Failure by organized labor to heed the warning of this prophet has had disastrous consequences. The evils against which he inveighed—the insulation of union leaders from their members, discriminatory, denial of membership and unfair discipline, and non-democratic selection of officers—have come back to haunt organized labor, to cripple its organizing efforts, limit its economic power, and destroy its public support. It should not be surprising that during this troubled period for organized labor, Clyde Summers' vision of what unions should be like corresponds closely with that of the few successful union organizers: their tactics increasingly require active involvement of the membership during organizing, bargaining, and grievance processing.

I have in the past disagreed with Clyde, about how active a role the law should play in bringing about union democracy. Nevertheless, I have always honored and admired him for his steadfast commitment to the interests of workers and the cause of free labor.

Clyde Summers is a great model for young law professors. He is, in addition to being a prophet, a scholar, a thinker, and a mentor to many young professors. Clyde Summers' concern has never been

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with his place in the hierarchy of law professors, but with establishing a labor relations system that benefits workers. His scholarship has been important to the courts. He has helped organize the union democracy movement, has served as a court-appointed guardian for local unions, and has been an expert witness in many cases. In all of these matters he speaks for the underdog, the disenfranchised, and those without formal voice.

I also honor him for what he is not. He has never been trendy, impressed by status, or more concerned with theory than with reality. He does not choose elegance over humanity or demonstrate his own brilliance at the expense of justice. He is in many ways a counterweight to all the trends in legal education that seem to me most harmful. It is a privilege to take part in honoring him.