

Joshua Dressler

Lloyd L. Weinreb*

Joshua Dressler and I met more than forty years ago, when he was starting out as a law teacher and legal scholar and I was just a few years further along. It was at a conference—I do not remember where—for people who were in their first years as teachers of criminal law. We liked one another and, although the links have inevitably grown fewer and fainter in time, have remained in touch. All these years, I have had the pleasure of watching his professional trajectory from new kid on the block to distinguished professor, scholar, and preeminent member of the legal academy. Throughout, he has remained the same diligent, energetic, unassuming, intellectually engaged, and generous person whom I liked so much at our first meeting.

One might trace Professor Dressler's career by reciting the long list of honors and awards that have punctuated it like exclamation points. Before he became professor of law at The Ohio State University's Moritz College of Law, he had taught at other law schools, where he was regularly named outstanding teacher and scholar by faculty and students alike. As a professor on the Moritz faculty, he was named Distinguished University Professor, the highest honor that The Ohio State University bestows on its faculty.

Professor Dressler's writings compose a library of criminal law. He is the author of more than a dozen books which cover the whole range of topics in substantive criminal law and criminal procedure. Used at more than a hundred law schools, most of the books are in multiple editions, frequently revised, and always in print. It is a reflection of Professor Dressler's commitment to legal education that many of the books are not only comprehensive treatises used by lawyers and judges, but are also designed specifically for students encountering the subject for the first time.

Throughout his career, Professor Dressler has been first and foremost a great teacher, for whom engagement with his subject goes hand in hand with devotion to his *métier*. At the same time, as a contributor and editor of encyclopedias and author of a multitude of articles in law journals on the widest variety of subjects, he has added greatly to our understanding of law. Eager to rationalize the law, seeking agreement but unafraid of controversy, Professor Dressler has provided

whom he has shared his professional life, along with countless students whose legal education he enriched, have reason to be grateful.

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