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Sidney B. Jacoby

*Lindsey Cowen**

It is commonly accepted wisdom that no organization has an indispensable person, and over the years I have been a firm believer in this idea. But I must confess that I have rethought the issue since my friend and colleague Sidney Jacoby announced to me that he would be leaving Case Western Reserve.

How can one replace a nationally renowned scholar, a practitioner with vast national and international experience, a senior faculty member with the interest of his institution uppermost at heart, a wise, concerned and sympathetic counselor dedicated to assist those in need, and a superb teacher held in the highest esteem by his students and colleagues?

His students at Case Western are of course aware that outside the University, Professor Jacoby is respected as an outstanding figure in the law. But they also know him as a rare teacher with a unique capacity to stimulate students and cultivate in them the spirit of independent analysis and investigation. His colleagues know him as a man who not only has achieved excellence in his field, but who also possesses a broad intellectual outlook. A tireless worker, precise and thorough, a man with absolute intellectual integrity and never-failing kindness and courtesy, he is above all things devoted to the law, to teaching, and to the making of good lawyers.

How can one replace such a person? The answer does not come easily to mind. The vacuum he leaves cannot be filled—even by several people. Others may assume his teaching responsibilities at Case Western Reserve Law School, but no one can ever take his place.

* Dean, Case Western Reserve University School of Law.