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# TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR MORRIS SHANKER

## MORRIS SHANKER

*Robert H. Rawson, Jr.*<sup>†</sup>

How appropriate to honor Morris G. (Morry) Shanker by dedicating an issue of the Case Western Reserve Law Review to him! Morry has devoted the substantial part of his professional career (forty-nine years!) to our law school, and the school is much the better for his continued presence.

Morry has literally lived a life in the law. After receiving his M.B.A. and J.D. from The University of Michigan, he practiced for nearly a decade, specializing in bankruptcy and commercial law. With that experience, Morry joined our faculty, and he has devoted the nearly half century since to scholarship, to our students, and to his faculty colleagues. But to focus just on his longevity would understate the character and quality of his manifold contributions: his prestigious scholarship is still being cited by courts across the country, including the Ohio Supreme Court just last year<sup>1</sup>; as a teacher, he has been a demanding but highly respected and sought after mentor to generations of students; he has served as a Visiting Professor at a variety of prestigious schools in the U.S. and abroad; he has done enormous service to the University and our law school as a member of the Faculty Senate, as chair of many faculty and University Committees, and even as Acting Dean for a year in the early 1970's; he has served the profession as well, as a member of the Advisory Committee to the U.S. Supreme Court on bankruptcy rules, as a member of the National Bankruptcy Conference, as a member of the

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<sup>†</sup> Interim Dean, Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

<sup>1</sup> *Williams v. Spitzer Autoworld Canton, LLC*, 913 N.E.2d 410, 419 (Ohio 2009) (Cupp, J., concurring).

American Law Institute, and as an arbitrator—to name a few of his bar-related activities.

Though my own experience with Morry is recent, I know I speak for his faculty colleagues and students over the years in congratulating Morry and thanking him for his life of service to the school, to the profession and to the rule of law. Indeed, his faculty colleagues unanimously adopted a resolution in his honor upon his retirement that concluded with the following: “We, his colleagues on the Faculty of Law, congratulate Morry for his extraordinary career, wish him well in his future endeavors, look forward to retaining him as a peer and advisor, and enthusiastically recommend that he be appointed the John Homer Kapp Professor Emeritus of Law.” Thus do his colleagues honor Morry’s career and look forward to sharing his future.