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Festschrift: Lee Loevinger

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LEE LOEVINGER

Layman E. Allen*

Lee Loevinger is well-known and recognized for his outstanding achievements as a Minnesota Supreme Court Justice, as Assistant United States Attorney General for Antitrust, and as a superb practicing attorney. Perhaps less appreciated are his extraordinary contributions to the intersection of law and science generally and more particularly to the nurturing of the application of computer technology to law in its infancy.

Loevinger was vigorously involved with the earliest legal mavericks who gathered twice yearly under the tent of the Special Committee on Electronic Data Retrieval of the Bar Activities Section of the American Bar Association in the late 1950s and early 1960s while legal scholars throughout the world slumbered peacefully, oblivious to the coming revolution that the developing communications technology would wreak in law and elsewhere. Those of us engaged in that earliest effort to bring computer technology to bear on the task of retrieving legal documents appreciated fully the intellectual leadership and sound practical judgment that Loevinger brought to the committee's undertakings. We were proud to have the author of the pioneering article on Jurimetrics as one of our colleagues while we struggled, as one of the committee's early chairman, John Horty, put it, "to open Pandora's box."

One of the committee's pioneering efforts was sponsoring the first publication ever devoted to the overlap between law, logic, and computers; it was first called *MULL*, and then *M.U.L.L.* to indicate clearly that it was an acronym for "Modern Uses of Logic in Law." In the precarious days of its beginning, *MULL*'s staunchest defender and strongest advocate in the committee's deliberations was Lee Loevinger; it would not have survived without his support. As the initial focus of *MULL* upon logic broadened to include computers and communications technology more generally, the name again changed to become "The Jurimetrics Journal." It was not by accident that the name chosen was the term coined by Loevinger in his pioneering 1948 article. The imprint of Loevinger upon the field of computers and law has been enormous. Those who know him well only expect this to continue in retirement along with his many other contributions.

*Layman E. Allen is Professor of Law, University of Michigan, and the founding editor of *MULL* and *Jurimetrics, The Journal of Law, Science, and Technology*.