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## **DEDICATION: DAVID L. DICKSON**

It is more than fitting that the Board of Editors has decided to dedicate this issue of *Campbell Law Review* to David L. Dickson. This is the year of his retirement from the faculty of Campbell University School of Law. Not only was Professor Dickson the first faculty advisor to the *Review* and a contributor to it, he has been a pivotal figure in the history of the School of Law.

He bears substantial responsibility for the rapid rise of the School to a strategic position in American legal education. To appreciate the importance of Professor Dickson's appointment, one need only place it in the context of the first three years of the School's existence. He joined the faculty of the School of Law in the second of those three years, but his decision to do so had been made the previous fall, and that decision significantly accelerated the already substantial momentum of the School of Law.

A year earlier Jack Broderick had come to Campbell from Notre Dame. His decision, coupled with the willingness of President Wiggins to teach a course in the first semester of the School's existence, gave Campbell two experienced law professors. The School was then successful in luring Allen Watts and Bill Martin from practice and a federal clerkship, respectively.

Before admission of the charter class in the fall of 1976, Allen Watts learned that David Dickson was retiring from the Stetson faculty. He had been a student of Professor Dickson, whom he considered the best teacher he had ever encountered. Second-year faculty choices were crucial. Sensing a providential aspect to Professor Dickson's retirement, the School immediately contacted him.

In September of 1976, when Professor Dickson agreed to join the Campbell faculty the following fall, his decision provided a major impetus to student and faculty recruitment. For a school that aspired to the coalescence of the practical and the theoretical, the appointment of an award-winning professor who had performed outstandingly throughout 28 years of practice and 15 years of full-time law teaching was a significant achievement. It also provided a base of experience that allowed the School safely to recruit two practitioners who had received their law degrees in the early and mid-1950s: Bob Jenkins, a 20-year litigator from Detroit, and Stanley McQuade, a lawyer-doctor-philosopher-theologian from Belfast

via Bryson City, North Carolina. Since then Professor Jenkins has structured one of the most outstanding trial advocacy programs in all of legal education, and Dr. McQuade has become nationally renowned in the field of law and medicine and a leading innovator in the teaching of jurisprudence.

Quality attracts quality. Faculty development in 1977-78 was the key to further faculty recruiting success. The following year the existing faculty attracted four more experienced legal educators, I. Beverly Lake from the North Carolina Supreme Court, Robert E. Lee from Wake Forest, Charlie Friend from Houston, and Pat Hertrick from Marquette, as well as Charlie Lewis and Bob Loftis, two *Coif* members new to teaching but with seven years practice experience each. All have played important roles in the School's development.

That a different outcome would have been likely but for Professor Dickson's early commitment to the School of Law and his subsequent performance and leadership on the faculty, there is little doubt.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, the first thirteen years of his legal career were spent in significant general practice in Chicago. That practice was interrupted by World War II, during which he served as a naval officer and attended the Naval School of Military Government at Columbia University. Following the war he returned to Chicago as Assistant General Counsel and Assistant Secretary of Montgomery Ward & Co., where he organized and supervised company law offices and outside counsel and personally handled major litigation throughout the United States.

In 1956 he began teaching a labor law course at Loyola-Chicago. It was the good fortune of Stetson University College of Law that six years later, at the age of 55, he decided to become a full-time law professor.

At Stetson, he was awarded that University's Distinguished Service Award, in addition to outstanding faculty awards presented by student bar associations. He taught administrative law, contracts, and corporations, the same courses he would later teach in his initial years at Campbell. Three years ago, he initiated a series of spring semester leaves, which he and his wife Dorothy have utilized for travel and sailing, and during which he resumed his administrative law course at Stetson. It was a sad day for Campbell when he announced his decision to resign as a full-time member of the faculty.

As he related to the audience at a faculty dinner at the end of the fall semester, one of his motivations was to leave law teaching "under his own power". Those powers, physical and intellectual, remain as imposing as ever, and we suspect Professor Dickson's expressed concern was less real than a pretext for the humorous anecdote which followed its expression.

He has always been the entertaining speaker, the classical teacher. It has been said that had Professor Kingsfield been no less demanding, but more of a gentleman, he would have been a Professor Dickson. Many students profess fear of a Dickson class; they say their fear is not of harsh treatment, ridicule, or scorn, but of the improbability of meeting the professor's high standards of intellect and preparation. That students complete his courses knowledgeable of the highest professional standards and confident of their abilities to meet them is the great measure of his worth to any law school program of instruction.

His value to Campbell's educational program goes far beyond his classroom performance. As the curriculum has moved progressively to close the intellectual and skills training gaps that exist between law school and practice, Professor Dickson has played a leading role. He developed and taught the School's first contract planning and drafting course, now one of the five courses which fulfills the School's planning requirement.

He has also been a strong influence in maintaining the philosophical concepts underlying the basic structure of the School. In his parting address he urged his colleagues to strive to maintain the School's limited enrollment, reiterating their shared opinion that the size of a school affects what happens in it, and that Campbell would meet its goals if it remained true to the principles that motivated its establishment.

As one would expect in the case of a member of Scribes, the Chicago Literary Club, The Cliff Dwellers, and the St. Petersburg Yacht Club, the interests of David Dickson are broader than the law. His articles are on both legal and literary subjects, and he heads his colleagues not only in discussions of the legal order, but also on forays to the theatre and opera. In contributing to the continuing education of colleagues and students, he might draw on events that took place on a recent trip he and Dorothy took to Egypt, or during a retracing of Darwin's voyages to Pacific islands in earlier years, or on adventures in Alaska or Haiti. In Kivett Hall, at church, at the pool and on the track, and throughout the Campbell University and Buies Creek communities, we will miss

the Dicksons.

Each of Campbell's 543 graduates has been taught by David Dickson, as have the 179 members of the classes of 1985 and 1986. They, his colleagues, Campbell, and the legal profession are the better for it. For all that he has meant to all of us we proudly and gratefully dedicate this issue of *Campbell Law Review* to Professor David L. Dickson.

*F. Leary Davis*  
Dean  
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