

Campbell Law Review

Volume 34
Issue 2 *Spring 2012*

Article 1

2012

Dedication to Professor Charles C. Lewis

Dr. J. Stanley McQuade

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarship.law.campbell.edu/clr>

Recommended Citation

Dr. J. Stanley McQuade, *Dedication to Professor Charles C. Lewis*, 34 CAMPBELL L. REV. 229 (2012).

This Dedication is brought to you for free and open access by Scholarly Repository @ Campbell University School of Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in Campbell Law Review by an authorized editor of Scholarly Repository @ Campbell University School of Law.

Campbell Law Review

Volume 34

Spring 2012

Number 2

Dedication to Professor Charles C. Lewis

It is my great honor and privilege to recognize Professor Charles C. Lewis on his retirement from the Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law at Campbell University after a long and rewarding career. Professor Lewis has dedicated himself to our law school and its students. For this, we thank him.

Professor Lewis graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Washington & Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. Following graduation, Professor Lewis took an associate position with the law firm Tiffany & Tiffany in Warrenton, Virginia. After serving as an associate for two years, he was elected partner and the firm became Tiffany, Tiffany & Lewis.

After seven years practicing law in Virginia, Professor Lewis joined the Campbell Law faculty in 1978, the year following my own arrival. The circumstances surrounding his arrival are quite remarkable. The offer was made by then Dean Leary Davis and accepted, in UCC fashion, on the porch of our house during a St. Patrick's Day party. It is not generally known, but he was also offered a professorship at Mississippi College School of Law—an offer that resulted from a mistaken interview. The search committee at Mississippi College School of Law had determined that no one in their pool of the applicants had sufficient teaching experience and they were looking for experienced teachers. Despite making this determination, they let him interview because he had already been invited. This whole story is related in a recently published history of Mississippi College Law School written by the then Dean. Her comments on Professor Lewis and the impression he made both as a person as well as a potential faculty member are remarkable. The faculty search committee was so impressed by him that, despite their need for experienced professors, they offered him a position. Fortunately for us he had already by then agreed to come join the new and untried law school in Buies Creek, North Carolina.

Professor Lewis arrived, as I did, very raw as to the teaching of law. But our founding Dean, Leary Davis, was very adept at teaching begin-

ners how to swim, and Professor Lewis' education began forthwith. He foolishly suggested to Dean Davis that legal research and writing should not, at Campbell, be a Cinderella subject taught by adjuncts or whoever was available, as it was in many places. Rather, Professor Lewis thought it should be a flagship course comparable to our Trial Advocacy program. This foolish suggestion to Dean Davis promptly landed him the responsibility of teaching this course his first four years at Campbell. Four years after his arrival in Buies Creek, he was sent to audit a summer course on the Uniform Commercial Code and designated to teach it in the fall. The rest is history.

Professor Lewis' teaching method, to memorize the material and instruct without the use of notes, requires very intensive preparation. Unlike most, I know the level of preparation employed in his teaching method because he has served as my chauffeur since the law school's move to Raleigh in the fall of 2009. He uses our commute every morning, not to solve the problems of the world, but to rehearse his lecture and presentation. I should be able to teach the course myself by now, but unfortunately I have forgotten the previous day's material by the next morning—I hope the countless students have done better over the past thirty-four years! Professor Lewis also developed and nurtured a rigorous contract planning course, which he conducts by running a law office with himself as the senior partner. This method has received numerous accolades from his colleagues, peers and most importantly, the students who act as his junior associates in contract planning.

Professor Lewis' career has also been highlighted with publications. He has authored countless law review articles and several books, including *Hawkland's Uniform Commercial Code Series (Article 9)*, which he co-authored with Professor Richard Lord, and *North Carolina Security Interests*. During his long tenure on the faculty, Professor Lewis has also been recognized and awarded for his research and scholarship: he was the recipient of the Dean's Award for Research in 1991 and in 2005. Professor Lewis has also served for over 20 years on the North Carolina General Statutes Commission, a non-standing committee charged with the responsibility of advising the General Assembly on suggested updates and revisions to the North Carolina General Statutes. He is presently serving as Chair of the Commission.

Finally, Professor Lewis is a most willing work horse. His willingness and diligence has earned him the nickname Mr. Reliable. These attributes also resulted in him contributing his time and expertise to numerous committees at Campbell Law—he served as the secretary of two dean search committees and chair of the student admissions committee. In fact, whenever there is an additional chore to be handed out,

his name appears high, if not first, on the list. His finest contribution to the law school is himself, with his quiet but very real faith. He bespeaks what he is, and thereby sets the tone for his colleagues and his students.

Professor Lewis will be sorely missed, not least by me. We wish him many years of enjoyment in a busy retirement. He is planning all sorts of visits to civil war—my title, not his—battlegrounds, and is also planning on doing all the reading that his intensive class preparation methods rendered impossible. It all sounds very boring to me, but everyone has his or her own way of going mad, and we wish him joy of his. His presence at Campbell Law was beloved for thirty-four years and his wife, Jean, will be glad to see a little more of him, especially as she hopes that his casebooks and codes will gather dust as he will not always have his nose stuck in them.

*Dr. J. Stanley McQuade**

* Dr. J. Stanley McQuade is the Lynch Professor of the Philosophy of Law at Campbell Law School. He and Professor Lewis have been friends and colleagues for over three decades.