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Robert Broughton

*Ronald R. Davenport**

Eight years ago, when I became Dean of the Law School, my fundamental goal was to give to the Law School a sense of confidence in itself. We had historically been known as a good teaching institution, but some people questioned our academic credentials—were we truly competitive in an academic sense? Did we have on our faculty men of intellectual and professional stature? One of the cornerstones of my goal to move the Law School to the forefront in legal education was Professor Robert Broughton. Professor Broughton brought to Duquesne a unique intellectual background. Not only was he an early admission to Haverford College and an exceptionally competitive student at Harvard Law School, but also, while at Duquesne, he obtained a Masters Degree in Economics. He brought to his Property and Environmental Law courses many different disciplines—math and science from his early days as a pre-med major and law and economics from his graduate training.

His publications run from articles on economic problems to a property text entitled *Measures of Property Rights* (Text and Problems on Estates in Land and Future Interests). It was always my thought, and I think that the facts bear me out, that Professor Broughton was one of the truly distinguished Environmental/Property Law professors in the country. The combination of his chairing on the local level the Air Pollution Variance Board and his serving as state chairman of the Pennsylvania Environmental Hearing Board gave him a unique perspective unmatched by anyone in the country. As a Dean, I had many occasions to talk to Bob about the various opportunities available to him. The telephone would often ring from Washington, from the Department of the Interior and other governmental agencies concerning his availability. There can be no question but that as the Carter Administration moved to replace Ford people with Carter people, Bob as a scholar and as a man of national reputation would have sooner or later joined the Carter team.

* Dean of the School of Law, Duquesne University.

I mention all this to illustrate a different side of the Professor Bob Broughton we all knew. Students knew him as a sensitive, warm, and dedicated teacher. Our colleagues, my fellow faculty members, knew him as a concerned, industrious, bright colleague, teacher, and friend. His life as a scholar, as a writer, and as a member of the national environmental scene went largely unnoticed here.

I have a friend, a successful chairman of the board of a major corporation, who says that when you're recruiting someone from outside you look at their strengths. When you are considering someone from the inside, you look at their weaknesses. I think this observation is particularly appropriate when we are talking about how we at Duquesne Law School view ourselves. With all immodesty, I think we have one of the better law schools in this country and one of the better faculties. I think this is true, not simply because my colleagues are good teachers and turn out a good product in terms of quality of the students, but I think this is also true because of the scholarly activities of the faculty and the quality of the publications that various members of our faculty have published over the past several years. It is difficult for students to understand or to appreciate the impact that writing has on one's life. As you write, you think; as you think, you can teach. The honing process of new ideas and new thoughts is critical to what goes on in the classroom. Thus, the work that Bob did—his publications, his studies, his speeches, and his activities—made him a better teacher and, more particularly, brought to Duquesne national recognition. Those people who measure greatness in a law school look not only to the quality of the students and the quality of its faculty, but also to the quality of that faculty's work. In Bob Broughton, we had the best.