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## This issue is dedicated to the memory of the late Professor GROVER CLEVELAND GRISMORE

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GROVER CLEVELAND GRISMORE

GROVER CLEVELAND GRISMORE, Professor of Law in the Law School of the University of Michigan, died at his home in Ann Arbor on March 10, 1951 at the age of sixty-two. He met his last class on November 25, 1950.

He was the son of Henry and Frances Grismore, and the youngest of their ten children. In 1907 he enrolled in Oberlin College, where he completed two years of undergraduate work. He then transferred to the University of Michigan as a student in the combined Literary-Law curriculum, taking his A. B. degree in 1912 and his degree of Juris Doctor from the Law School in 1914.

He was a brilliant student, both in his academic work and in his professional studies. In recognition of his scholarly attainments he was elected to the Board of Editors of the *Michigan Law Review* in his senior year, and to the national legal honor society, the Order of the Coif; and immediately after graduation he was invited to join the faculty of the Law School as an instructor.

After three years he was advanced to the rank of assistant professor in 1917, but his teaching career was interrupted by his induction into the United States army upon the outbreak of the First World War. He became Battalion Sergeant Major at Camp Custer, Michigan, where he remained until discharged at the end of the war.

Returning to the Law School in 1919, he was advanced the next year to a full professorship, with a preliminary year's leave of absence for graduate work at the Harvard Law School. He was in residence

there during the year 1920-1921 as Ezra Ripley Thayer Teaching Fellow, and at the end of the year Harvard University conferred upon him its degree of Doctor of Juridical Science.

Professor Grismore married May Aileen White of Detroit, Michigan, on September 1, 1917. She and their only child, Roger, who is now a graduate student in physics at the University of Michigan, survive him.

After his return from Harvard, in 1921, Professor Grismore taught at Ann Arbor continuously for thirty years. His health was unusually good, he enjoyed teaching, and he never took a sabbatical or other leave. He accepted three summer appointments as visiting professor of law, one at Stanford University in 1928, another at Cornell University in 1929, and the third at the University of Southern California in 1940.

Although in his earlier years of teaching he was called upon to deal with a variety of subjects, as is commonly the case with the younger members of a faculty, it soon became clear that his great contribution to legal scholarship was to be in the basic subject of contracts. His logical mind was fascinated by the opportunities offered in that vast segment of the law to develop a true historical orientation, a fundamental philosophy, and a sound analytical approach to its intricate problems. Mastery of his special field was to him an endless quest, in which he never relaxed his efforts. In 1931, after almost a decade of experience in teaching that subject, he published his *Cases on Contracts*, a carefully selected collection of materials for classroom use. Other law schools adopted it for use in their classes. In 1946 it appeared in a second and fully revised edition.

Largely as a means of checking the accuracy of his own knowledge of contract law, he spent ten years writing a treatise on *The Principles of the Law of Contracts*, which was published in 1947. He had planned to do the same thing for the law of insurance, a subject closely affiliated with his special field of contracts, and one which he had taught for many years. But only a beginning had been made at the time of his death.

Numerous articles written by him on problems in the law of contracts, insurance and unfair trade have been published in various law reviews.

Although primarily a teacher, Professor Grismore was equally successful as an administrator. For two different periods, from 1921 to 1926 and from 1942 to 1945, he served as Secretary of the Law School. At one time or another he sat upon all the important committees of the Law School, and for twelve years, from 1938 to 1950, he served as a member, and usually as chairman, of the general University Discipline Committee. This was a difficult assignment, involving, as it did, cases of strained relations between the students and the University, and Professor Grismore's profound sense of fairness and justice enabled him to render a service of the highest order.

It was in his management of the Lawyers Club, however, that his ability as an administrator was most fully shown. From the time of its establishment in 1924 until the present year, Professor Grismore, as Secretary-Treasurer of the Board of Governors, exercised general supervision over its activities, its physical plant and its personnel. His sound judgment in matters of policy and his practical sense in matters of detail made him an ideal executive.

He was a member of the American Bar Association, the Michigan State Bar, and the American Association of University Professors, and served as president of the local chapter of the latter organization. He also served as national vice-president of the Order of the Coif. His strong interest in civic affairs led him to serve as a member of the Board of Public Works of the City of Ann Arbor from 1940 to 1945.

Professor Grismore was an exacting teacher who insisted upon the highest possible level of performance on the part of his students. He could not tolerate careless preparation or superficial thinking. His exposition of the law was clear and comprehensive and reflected an extraordinary capacity to organize legal material and a tireless diligence in keeping himself informed regarding the current developments in his field.

Not long ago, in a memorial of the passing of another member of this faculty, Professor Grismore had occasion to say: "Those of us who worked with him and knew him intimately have lost a tried and true friend, one who set for himself and lived up to an absolute standard of integrity and performance. He was intolerant only of slothfulness, dishonesty, and sharp practice. The loss is irreparable, but we may take

comfort in the fact that the standards of integrity and accomplishment which he set will always stand as a beacon in a world in which these qualities are all too rare." These words might justly be spoken of Professor Grismore himself. The members of the faculty of this Law School, some as his former teachers, some as his former students, and all as his colleagues, bear witness to the fact that he possessed in the fullest measure those same cardinal qualities of loyalty, sincerity and absolute integrity.

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