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Dedication

Ronald F. Phillips

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DEDICATION

It is with great pleasure that I assist the Pepperdine Law Review in dedicating this issue to the Honorable Raymond H. Thompson. Judge Thompson joined the faculty of Pepperdine University School of Law in 1974. He brought with him a wealth of legal knowledge cultivated in over forty-seven years of practice and scholarship. His love of the law proved infectious to those students under his tutelage. Students and faculty alike were enriched by his insights and expertise.

Judge Thompson received his LL.B. from the University of Southern California Law School in 1927. After distinguishing himself in private practice for eleven years, he was asked to serve as City Attorney in 1938. His part-time duties as City Attorney included advising the City Counsel and drafting the first zoning ordinances. Throughout this period he was active in his local bar association, serving as President, and representing the local bar at conferences of the California Bar Association.

Governor Earl Warren appointed him to the Superior Court of Orange County in 1944 where he served until his retirement in 1974. During his years on the bench he acted as presiding judge several years, and was extremely active in the Conference of California Judges. He devoted a great deal of time to the Judicial Ethics Committee, serving alternatively as Chairman and as a member, and assisted in authoring publications concerning courtroom etiquette and decorum.

Judge Thompson worked continuously during his years on the bench to combat the increasingly congested court calendar caused by the rise in litigation. As presiding judge from 1964 to 1966 he successfully reduced the waiting period for pending law suits by refusing to allow continuances and overloading the master calendar. His strongest attribute while serving as judge was his promptness in handing down decisions. He emphasized that it is unrealistic for a judge to attempt to attain perfection in making decisions. While one always strives to accomplish justice, one cannot always be absolutely sure. Judge Thompson, therefore, believed that one should make a decision promptly for the sake of those litigants who have for so long struggled with the controversy.

Judge Thompson's ability to quickly grasp the important issues and apply the law judiciously and expediently also distinguished him as a teacher. He encouraged students to dispense with the extraneous and grapple with the merits of the case. His classroom was a challenge and his students emerged with new confidence and determination. We can only begin to express our gratitude for his contributions to Pepperdine. The Law School continues to benefit from his strong influence and guiding hand. Judge Thompson exemplifies the highest degree of legal excellence and character. Even in his absence, we continue to be challenged to exceed our best, and we miss his learned advice and words of encouragement.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald F. Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive style with large, sweeping loops.

Ronald F. Phillips
Dean, School of Law

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