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TRIBUTE

DINNER WITH ANDRÉ: A PERSONAL TRIBUTE TO ANDRÉ HAMPTON

DAVID A. DITTFURTH*

Approximately thirty years ago, André Hampton began teaching law students at St. Mary's Law School.¹ He had been practicing with the law firm of Graves Dougherty in Austin before he came to St. Mary's as a visiting professor in 1992.² Two years later, he moved into a tenure-track role and became a tenured professor in 2000.³

During his time at St. Mary's, André served also as an associate dean at the Law School and as the University's Provost from 2008 until 2016.⁴ After his time as Provost, he returned to teaching at the Law School. With the close of the Fall 2022 semester, he will have completed his last semester of full-time teaching. The University, the Law School, and I will miss him. Most important of all, our law students will miss him as a teacher who brought a humane and supportive presence to the classroom.

André is, in my opinion, a model of what a law professor should be. To begin with, he is extraordinarily intelligent. He was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate from the University of Texas, he earned a master's degree from the

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1. *André Hampton*, ST. MARY'S UNIV. SCH. OF LAW, <https://law.stmarytx.edu/academics/faculty/andre-hampton/> [https://perma.cc/YN8B-Z9LK].

2. *Id.*

3. *Id.*

4. *Id.*

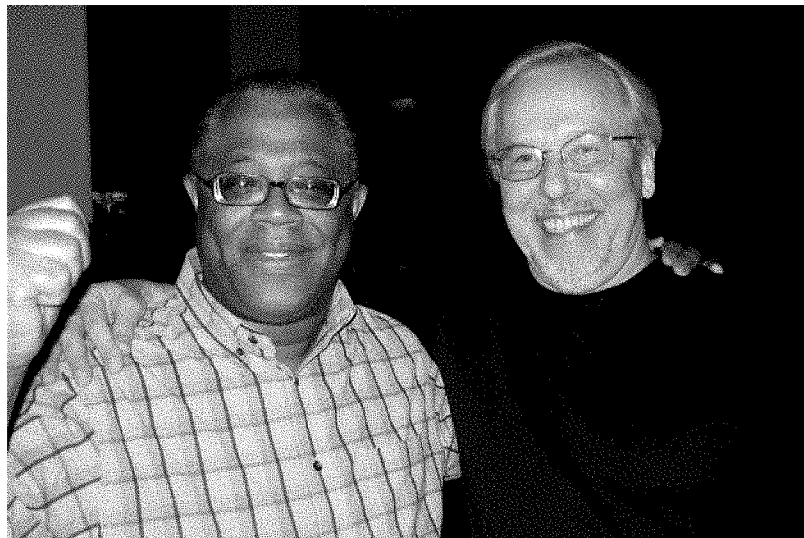
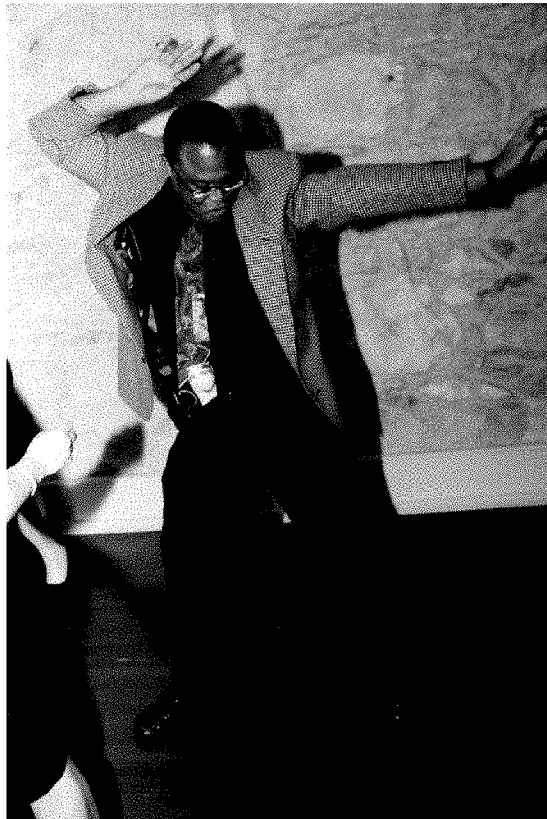
Lyndon Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs, and he graduated from the University of Texas Law School with honors after serving on the *Texas Law Review*.⁵

In the classroom, André used movies, humorous hypotheticals, and conversation to assist his students with the arduous task of learning the law. He also showed an unusual professorial interest in his first-year students by asking them each fall to tell him about themselves in a short note. That, to me, explains why his students thought so highly of him and how he made them comfortable with their difficult introduction to the mysteries of the law.

We became friends shortly after he arrived at St. Mary's and began our long tradition of enjoying lunch together, which revolved around our appreciation of Thai food. Our families have celebrated holidays together, and he and his wife, Santa, attended my wedding to Amirra. With his permission, I have included a few photographs of him enjoying that and other events.



5. *Id.*



My tribute to André is most assuredly enhanced by our friendship, but it is more than justified as a reflection of his value as a member of the St. Mary's faculty and administration. There is little doubt that he will flourish in whatever future awaits him after retirement. There is even less doubt that his presence at St. Mary's has made an indelible mark on this institution and on those of us who have had the benefit of his presence. He is one of our best and brightest, and we will all miss him.