



ST. MARY'S
UNIVERSITY

St. Mary's Law Journal

Volume 54 | Number 2

Article 2

3-23-2023

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Recommended Citation

Victoria Mather, *Professor Reamey: A Mentor and a Friend*, 54 ST. MARY'S L.J. 315 (2023).

Available at: <https://commons.stmarytx.edu/thestmaryslawjournal/vol54/iss2/2>

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TRIBUTE

PROFESSOR REAMEY: A MENTOR AND A FRIEND

VICTORIA M. MATHER*

I met Professor Gerald S. Reamey when I was a brand-new law professor in 1985. We quickly became fast friends and that friendship continues to this day. Whether I was learning how to improve my teaching, working through my scholarship, or finding my way through the morass of academic political pitfalls, Professor Reamey has always been one of my mentors. Over countless lunches, dinners, and more tacos than is reasonable, we have discussed all aspects of our lives, personal and professional.

During his time at St. Mary's, Professor Reamey published more than five books and forty articles, taught more than fifteen different subjects (nine criminal law courses and several in other areas) and served in countless administrative and service positions, including Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs, Co-Founder and Director of the Innsbruck program, and Director of International Legal Programs at the law school.¹ Having served as Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs myself, it is not a job for those who cannot multitask, lead with kindness, or serve with humility! Professor Reamey has been a mentor to many of my colleagues, past and present, and was always willing to listen and help a new professor become a better one.

Professor Reamey has always been one of our top professors in terms of student evaluations, yet he still holds the students to high standards in the

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1. *Gerald S. Reamey*, ST. MARY'S UNIV. SCH. OF LAW, <https://law.stmarytx.edu/academics/faculty/gerald-reamey/> [https://perma.cc/27SM-68LE].

classroom. He truly cares about good teaching, is a voice for the priority of teaching in our faculty positions, and is one of the faculty leaders in improving teaching methodology. He taught remotely in Dallas during the 1980s, before remote teaching was cool, and he was successful at it.² While his heart was in teaching Criminal Law, Professor Reamey did not hesitate to teach other subjects unrelated to Criminal Law, such as Law Practice Management, Introduction to the American Legal System, and Jurisprudence.³

Professor Reamey is a professor who successfully blends a practical and theoretical approach. He has been an active member of the State Bar of Texas and engaged in educating law students, lawyers, and judges in our state.⁴ He received the honor of the Texas Bar Foundation Outstanding Law Review Article Award in 2017.⁵ He is an expert in his field, authoring five books in the criminal law area, including textbooks in Criminal Law and Procedure.⁶

I had very limited travel experience when I joined the St. Mary's faculty. Professors Reamey and Johnson founded our Innsbruck Institute on World Legal Problems during my first year on the faculty.⁷ It is now one of the longest-running and most successful law school study abroad programs in the country. A couple of years after it was established, I was able to teach in the program and had one of the most memorable experiences of my life. In the following years, I taught in the program more than fifteen times and have had the privilege of traveling all over Europe and made friends with some of our Austrian colleagues at the University of Innsbruck and a few other notable European professors. We also had the opportunity to meet many members of the United States Supreme Court as they guest lectured for us in Innsbruck, and I personally had the good fortune to spend time with Justices Roberts, Rehnquist, O'Connor, Ginsberg, Scalia, and Stevens. This circumstance was due to the hard work of Professors Johnson and Reamey, who were constantly expanding and improving the program. Professor Reamey had even more friendships abroad and more intensive

2. *Id.*

3. *Id.*

4. Resume, Gerald S. Reamey, Professor of Law at St. Mary's University School of Law and Presiding Judge of the Municipal Court of Shavano Park (2022) (on file with author).

5. *Gerald S. Reamey*, ST. MARY'S UNIV. SCH. OF LAW, <https://law.stmarytx.edu/academics/faculty/gerald-reamey/> [https://perma.cc/27SM-68LE].

6. *Id.*

7. *Id.*

interactions with the Justices and our Austrian colleagues. He visited the University of Vienna and the University of Innsbruck as a visiting professor of law. I will never forget hearing him give a speech, in German no less, as he was presented with the Culture Medal of Honor by the City of Innsbruck, Austria, several years ago.⁸

On a more personal level, Professor Reamey and I, sometimes with his wife Kay, sometimes with our colleagues, and even sometimes with a Supreme Court Justice, had many delightful trips around Austria. We visited the beautiful village of Hallstadt, the city of Graz, Vienna, and many of the towns surrounding Innsbruck. We ate more than our fair share of schnitzel, Sacher torte, and gelato. We went up mountains, visited palaces, and shopped for souvenirs. Those times are some of my favorite memories of my travels in Europe.

Professor Reamey has a remarkable gift for service and has always pushed me to do more. He got me involved in United Way program review, where I learned a great deal about local social service organizations in our community, all of which were directly related to at least one of my teaching assignments. I visited the Battered Women's Shelter and other family violence prevention and support institutions, went to Haven for Hope and other homeless shelters and service institutions, and learned not only how they worked on the ground but also explored root causes of problems. Professor Reamey got me involved in a local Veteran's Clinic, meeting monthly with veterans and discussing various legal issues in my area of expertise. Professor Reamey nominated me for the Texas Bar Foundation, and now I am a Life Member. For any service activity that I did, Professor Reamey did twice as much. He works tirelessly for his alma maters, Trinity University and Southern Methodist University School of Law.⁹ He has been an active consultant in legal issues for the City of San Antonio, the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center, and the Texas Institute for Criminal Justice Studies.¹⁰ He now serves as the Presiding Judge for the Municipal Court of Shavano Park.¹¹

Professor Reamey is a person who is not afraid to speak his mind. Sometimes, it has gotten him into trouble. A couple of years after I arrived at St. Mary's, the faculty had a sea change in terms of direction and

8. *Id.*

9. *Id.*

10. Resume, Gerald S. Reamey, Professor of Law at St. Mary's University School of Law and Presiding Judge of the Municipal Court of Shavano Park (2022) (on file with author).

11. *Id.*

leadership. Professor Reamey was a key figure in that change, advocating for modern clinical programs, diversifying the faculty and the student body, building a foreign LL.M. program, and improving our curricular offerings. All of this change was difficult for some members of the law school community, and Professor Reamey was not afraid to take criticism and stand up for what he knew to be the future of legal education. Nothing has changed in that sense in the forty years that Professor Reamey has served at St. Mary's University School of Law. He still speaks out, and even if his opinion is not the popular one, he is well-spoken and reasonable, willing to agree to disagree with colleagues about important issues. He is still an outspoken advocate of good teaching in terms of hiring, tenure, promotion, and of listening to student input into what "being a good teacher" means. He has a new book coming out soon and is still a prime example of a servant leader. He has been the right person, at the right time, for the right job, done in the right way for forty years. We will be the lesser for his departure from our faculty ranks.

Professor Reamey's wife, Kay, was in my first Property class in 1985 as a first-year law student. As a result, we have been family friends for thirty-seven years now. Professor Reamey and Kay were always there for significant times in my life—they visited me when my first child was born, Professor Reamey taught my class when I was out of state adopting my second child. They helped me through a difficult divorce from my first husband, and later attended my wedding to my husband, Hal. They were at my first husband's funeral and my daughter's wedding. And I like to think I was there for them—weddings, funerals, anniversaries, and other landmark days, as well as the ordinary ones. We have had a lot of fun over the years through food, fellowship, travel, and talk.

While I will very much miss Professor Reamey as a colleague, I will continue to value him as a friend.