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Dean Robert William Piatt Dedication.

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ST. MARY'S LAW JOURNAL

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DEDICATION

This issue of the *St. Mary's Law Journal* is dedicated to Robert William "Bill" Piatt, the sixth dean of St. Mary's University School of Law. During his nine-year tenure as dean (1998–2007), Dean Piatt aided and inspired the work of the *Law Journal* in many ways. By providing excellent counsel, enthusiastic moral support, and much needed resources, Dean Piatt made major contributions to the success of the *Law Journal*.

Dean Piatt currently serves as the Katherine A. Ryan Professor of Law at St. Mary's University. A graduate of Eastern New Mexico University (B.A.) and the University of New Mexico (J.D.), Dean Piatt was recruited for the St. Mary's law school deanship from the Texas Tech University law faculty, where he was the first holder of the J. Hadley Edgar Professorship. Before coming to St. Mary's, Dean Piatt taught at the University of Oklahoma, Washburn University, and Southern Illinois University. An accomplished scholar in the fields of immigration law¹ and anti-discrimination law,² Dean Piatt understood and fostered the scholarly mission of the *Law Journal*.

The Piatt years provided the *Law Journal* with a strong foundation for continued success. During his three terms as dean, the *Law Journal* consistently ranked among those journals most

1. BILL PIATT, *IMMIGRATION LAW: CASES AND MATERIALS* (1994).

2. BILL PIATT, *BLACK AND BROWN IN AMERICA: THE CASE FOR COOPERATION* (1997); BILL PIATT, *LANGUAGE ON THE JOB: BALANCING BUSINESS NEEDS AND EMPLOYEE RIGHTS* (1993); BILL PIATT, *ONLY ENGLISH? LAW AND LANGUAGE POLICY IN THE UNITED STATES* (1990).

frequently cited by state and federal courts.³ Dean Piatt also affected the law school community in general. He presided over numerous major accomplishments such as: increased Texas Bar Examination pass rates by St. Mary's law graduates, several external advocacy program championships, the creation of the Center for Terrorism Law, the renovation of numerous classrooms and study areas at the law school's five-building campus, and the technological modernization of the law school. For the latter, classrooms were equipped with Internet access and a wide array of teaching technology. Most notably, a \$1.6 million investment in the law school's advocacy training facilities created an extraordinarily handsome, high-tech courtroom. There, students can conduct mock trials and moot courts using modern video presentation tools, and can watch oral arguments before the Texas Supreme Court via webcasts available on St. Mary's website.

In addition to these many accomplishments, and despite his full calendar, Dean Piatt also took great pleasure in being a part of *Law Journal* activities. The Dean could always be found welcoming attendees at the annual Symposium Conference hosted by the *Law Journal* or celebrating the accomplishments of the editors and staff writers at the *Law Journal's* banquet.

With heartfelt gratitude for the general successes enjoyed by the entire school of law under his devoted deanship—and for his unflagging encouragement of and support for the *Law Journal*—we dedicate this first issue of Volume 39 to Dean Bill Piatt. Please accept our small gesture of appreciation for all you have done and will undoubtedly continue to do for our law school and the *St. Mary's Law Journal*.

With appreciation and respect,

The Editors of the *St. Mary's Law Journal*

3. See Law Journals: Submissions and Rankings, <http://lawlib.wlu.edu/LJ/index.aspx> (last visited Nov. 13, 2007) (ranking the nation's law journals by various categories). Since 2002, a survey has been annually published by Washington & Lee University School of Law ranking the law journals most frequently cited by state and federal courts during the preceding seven-year period. The *St. Mary's Law Journal* has ranked in the top twenty every year: 2002, 11th; 2003, 4th; 2004, 3rd; 2005, 3rd; 2006, 20th. *Id.*