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TRIBUTES

REFLECTIONS ON JAMES N. CASTLEBERRY, JR., DEAN (1978–1989), ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

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James N. Castleberry, Jr. (1921–2008) passed away in Stowe, Vermont on Monday, June 24, 2008. Poetically, he died while doing one of the things he enjoyed most—fishing. For many years, Jim belonged to a private club in that part of the country and always looked forward to not only his yearly fishing excursion, but also escaping for a few days from the summer heat of San Antonio. The *St. Mary's Law Journal* asked that we write tributes to the three members of our current and former faculty whom we lost recently, and I specifically asked to write about Jim Castleberry.

Reflecting upon an individual who is recently deceased usually brings forth memories of how that person affected not only you, but your immediate surroundings. This is certainly the case with this tribute. Jim Castleberry was a powerful force in my life. Not only was he one of my professors in law school, he subsequently served as Dean of St. Mary's University School of Law from 1978

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until he retired from the office with emeritus status in 1989. Most of all, he was instrumental in helping me obtain a scholarship to the SMU Dedman School of Law, which allowed me to obtain my Masters in Comparative Law, and was extremely helpful in assisting me with my Fulbright Scholarship the following year. As I recall, there was a very short deadline for the Fulbright program, and I was in urgent need of transcripts and letters of recommendation. When I called Jim, his response was: "They will go out in tomorrow morning's mail." I have no idea how influential he was with Dean Raba's decision to bring me onto the faculty, but knowing of their unusually close relationship, he must have been consulted, and I doubt Dean Raba would have made such an offer if Jim Castleberry had been opposed to the idea. Finally, he was the one who encouraged me to publish, and whatever success I have achieved in this area is attributable to his prodding.

With regard to the law school, most individuals know that he is the one responsible for building our Sarita Kenedy East Law Library. This one structure nearly doubled the size of our floor space and brought us into the twenty-first century even though it was built in the early 1980s. It was also under his tenure as dean that our Innsbruck program was inaugurated. This study abroad program has evolved into one of the most successful in the United States today, largely because of the many United States Supreme Court Justices who serve as regular visiting professors. What may have been forgotten, however, is that Jim Castleberry brought technology to our campus. He was instrumental in ensuring that every member of the law faculty had his own computer, even at an early stage of the personal computer phenomenon. There is no question that the man made his mark, and it is one that will be visible for a long time.

When interviewed by the local newspaper, I was asked: "How would you characterize him?" My response was brief: "He was an avid hunter, enthusiastic traveler, great storyteller and a connoisseur of fine bourbon." This short description probably best encapsulates the essence of Jim Castleberry.

At each Christmas, Jim's friends received a card with a picture from one of his most recent travels. The pictures were always from some interesting and exotic part of the globe. Last year, it was Jim hiking in the Alps. This Christmas, his card will be missed.