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TRIBUTE

TO A PROFESSOR: DOUGLAS HADDOCK RETIRES

CHARLES EPPS IPOCK*

As Professor Haddock retires from over thirty years in legal education, one thing is clear: Professor Douglas Haddock, in a room filled with law students, was a man who unquestionably loved the teaching of law.

To understand Professor Haddock, one must be familiar with his educational background. Professor Haddock was one of the first students to take an experimental path through the educational system; his primary education was split into four intermediate levels instead of the customary three. He and his classmates were part of the first group of local students educated in this manner, and he constantly found himself in new school environments. Further, between Professor Haddock's third and fourth year of undergraduate work at the University of Utah, he had the unique experience of spending two and a half years in Finland teaching others about his Mormon faith. His distinctive educational experience ignited his passion for education and his desire to learn how to best educate those students in each class he taught. Professor Haddock's love of education also spread like wildfire to his students. Professor Haddock's thirst for knowledge resonated throughout the classroom and inspired each and every one of his students.

Growing up in Idaho Falls, Idaho, Professor Haddock did not seem destined to teach law; in fact, none of his family members were lawyers or

*As a student of Professor Douglas Haddock, and as Editor in Chief, I have the fortuitous, yet uncommon opportunity to undertake the near impossible task of putting to words a career that always went far beyond mere pen and paper. I dearly hope this Tribute represents Professor Haddock's indelible legacy.

were in any way involved with the law. But once Professor Haddock began grade school, he quickly learned that he “just loved school.”² When kindergarten turned into first grade, first to second, and all the way through law school, Professor Haddock wholeheartedly believed “each experience was better than the last.”³ After graduating from the University of Utah School of Law, the consummate soon-to-be professor clerked for Minnesota Supreme Court Justice W.F. Rogosheske and subsequently practiced for the esteemed law firm Briggs & Morgan in St. Paul, Minnesota. While employed at Briggs & Morgan, Professor Haddock had the unique opportunity to draft statutes for the Minnesota state legislature. Appropriately, it was not long into practice when Professor Haddock realized he retained that thirst for education and wanted to return to teaching. Soon thereafter, Professor Haddock received his first Professorship at Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Once Professor Haddock swapped the law firm life at Briggs & Morgan for teaching at Hamline, it wasn't long thereafter that Sharon, his wife now of more than forty years, said it was time to move south—Minnesota was simply far too cold.

Just like that, St. Mary's University School of Law, in the always-temperate San Antonio, Texas, gained a professor who would remain at the institution for over thirty years. During his time at St. Mary's University, Professor Haddock championed many causes, played equally as many roles, and saw the law school rise to its current stature. One role Professor Haddock has always taken great pride in was his position as Chairman of the Faculty Advisory Committee for the *St. Mary's Law Journal* in the mid-1990s. Through his chairmanship and counsel as a committee member, the *Journal* saw exponential growth, and it is no coincidence the *Journal's* success is much in line with Professor Haddock's collaboration. But he did much more than simply chair committees. He bolstered causes in which he believed; specifically, much of Professor Haddock's scholarship while at St. Mary's University pertained to ways in which law professors could better teach their students.

When asked, Professor Haddock provides one of the most enduring memories in his career came from his visiting professorships. He completed visiting professorships at Washington & Lee, the University of Utah (where he graduated undergraduate and law school), Hastings

2. Interview with Professor Douglas Haddock, St. Mary's University School of Law, in San Antonio, Tex. (Dec. 5, 2012).

3. *Id.*

College of Law, Stetson University, the University of Innsbruck in Austria, and Pepperdine University School of Law. No doubt he has a knack for picking beautiful locations; unquestionably, as he puts it, doing the visiting professorships was the “single best decision [he] made”⁴ as a law professor. However, many take issue with this statement. The best decision he made as a law professor, was becoming a law professor.

Since 1980, St. Mary’s University School of Law has had one constant—Professor Haddock. Though he takes no pleasure in doing so, he is stepping away from teaching. I was present for the last class he ever taught; many of the students present for that final lecture may not have understood the gravity of the moment. As it drew to a close, one wonders what was going through his mind. It is my hope that he realized what a true inspiration he has been to the hundreds, if not thousands, of students he had taught over the years. Professor Haddock, forever humble in his demeanor, will not echo this same sentiment. Nevertheless, it is clear to me and to all those fortunate enough to have learned from him that his passion for education, and for the law, will never fade. Although he is stepping out from behind the podium, his attributes will endure for decades through the students fortunate enough to call him Professor.

4. *Id.*