

People, Books, Quiet Action: The Emblems of a Friend

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The statistics are the easy part. When Roger arrived at the Law School in 1985, the library's statistics were little more than a haze among ABA reports; when he departs in 2006, by any measure, the library belongs distinctly among the elite of law schools. The numbers alone entitle him to special recognition and acclaim. Though he would seek neither, we will give him both. Yet, in doing so, we will inevitably miss the important elements. And therein lies the difficult part. For all of his accomplishments, for all of his presidencies and service, for all of the plaques for library endowments, for all that is tangible that he leaves with us, what we will miss most is the rest. Capturing that is the difficult part.

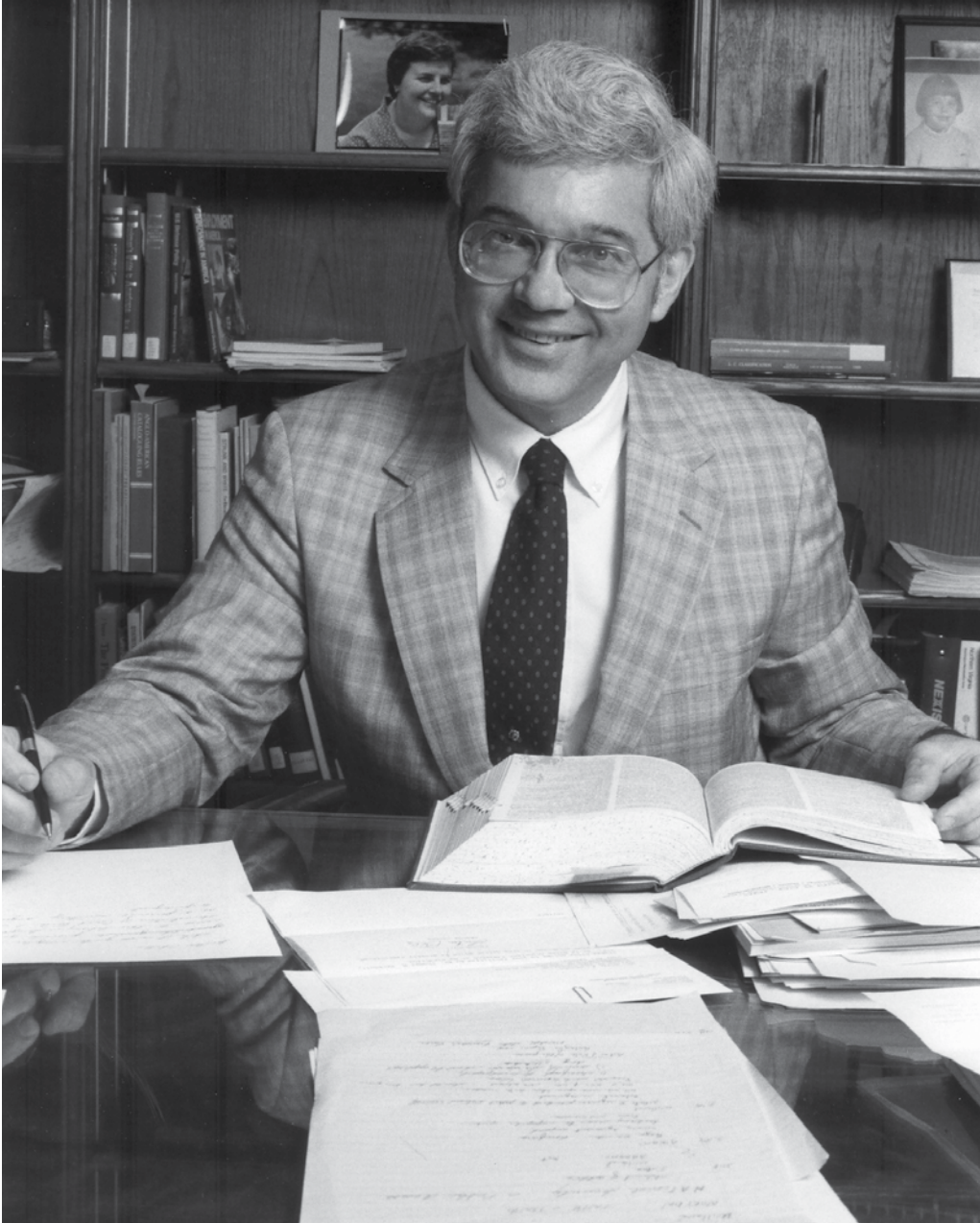
Words are inadequate in part because even though Roger was a man of books, he has rarely been a man of words, and never a man of many words. (His account of his odyssey written for this issue may well be the longest public composition he has written at Notre Dame, though it is typical in the grace with which he credits others for the library's achievements.) Instead of tarrying over words, Roger has acted. And acted foremost as a man of faith. He wears his faith gently, recalling the admonition of the prophet Micah that we "do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God." Roger has. Through him we have seen God working in our lives at the Law School and in our community. His work with the St. Vincent de Paul Society is but the most public of his service; his uncounted trips to the homes of those in dire need are recorded not on the pages of any ledgers but in the lives of those he reached.

In our shared life within the Law School, Roger has acted as director of the library, combining his genuine fondness for people with superb administrative skills. Again, another's imagery comes readily to mind—for Roger belongs among a triumvirate of giants on whose shoulders we now stand to see a future of potential. (The others are Dave Link and Bill McLean, who with Roger led the school for a generation.) To the administrative core of the Law School, Roger brought innate skills, though he never let anyone doubt that he was of the library. He also brought his considerable experience with law schools across the country, alerting us to innovations elsewhere, allowing us to measure our efforts against those of others. Always, though, it was the library that was at the heart of Roger's efforts. And closest to the heart were "his people," for Roger knew that a library began not with books, but with

people. He supported them unhesitatingly, encouraging them to develop themselves professionally, counseling them to enhance their skills; and, yes, chastizing them for the rare shortcoming. It mattered not whether the person was a part-time, student worker or someone with a formal title. Roger was equally concerned about them all. He beamed with the pride of a parent when the dean presented a student worker with an award for outstanding performance, a picture that is all the more apt because the large number of "his people" who joined him for the presentation made the event more a family reunion than a burden. He took great joy in the success of his staff, joining them at lunch when they were acknowledged for distinguished service to the University, applauding them when they rose to the highest ranks of the profession. As was true at the Supreme Court and elsewhere, Roger's contributions live on through a staff whose way of life is service.

Throughout our shared life, Roger's presence is illustrated not in self-proclaiming banners, but in quiet actions. When the Chicago Bar Association offered its library for sale, Roger acted, enriching our collection in one breathtaking initiative. He posted his collection of autographed photographs of justices of the Supreme Court not in his office, but in the recess leading from the library's circulation desk to the offices of the staff charged with processing acquisitions. As though bridging the library's public and private faces, Roger allowed all of us to take pride in the judicial accolades—again the words of others are telling—"high esteem," "inestimable assistance," "deep personal appreciation," and, of course, "admiration."

Roger earned those laurels, and many others as well, through the breadth of his embrace. He genuinely welcomed people, whether it was the towel guy in the locker room at the Joyce Center or the most treasured of alumni. For alumni, Roger genuinely relished hearing them reminisce about the Law School. He liked hearing of their families. Above all, he liked them as people. He never missed an opportunity to allow them to donate to the library; but he always saw them as people, not as checkbooks. For everyone, Roger effortlessly learned a first name; at receptions, he inconspicuously moved to join anyone left alone.



I suspect, though, that the people he really liked most (other than his family) were those who used his library. He relished the occasions when he could report that our library had a book needed for research. He especially savored those times when his own bibliographic work showed that we had a book or a series that another eminent library lacked.

People, books, service, actions. Words. Words that describe, words that portray vignettes. Words, some of them mine; some of them belonging to others; none of them adequate to depict the privilege of working with Roger for 20 years. His library; his people. All a delight to know and to share the enterprise of educating a different kind of lawyer; but none sufficient. Trying to capture the essence of Roger for the past 20 years has been the hard part.

In the end, being his friend, THAT was the easy part.

ed: Jack, too, will depart NDLS on June 30, 2006, to become dean of the University of South Carolina Law School.

Historic Text Acquisition

The Guarnieri Endowment for Rare Legal Materials has provided the Kresge Law Library with the privilege of purchasing some of the greatest and hardest to obtain classics of law. Part of our mission is to preserve these great works from the past in order to make them available to today's and tomorrow's students and researchers. Through the generosity of the Guarnieri family our most recent acquisition is a copy of *The Lawes and Resolutions of Womens Rights: or, The Lawes Provision for Women. A Methodical Collection of Such Statutes and Customes, with the Cases, Opinions, Arguments and Points of Learning in the Law, as do Properly Concerne Women. Together with a Compendious Table, Whereby the Chiefe Matters in This Booke Contained, May Be the More Readily Found.* London: printed by the assigns of John More, 1632.

This is the earliest book in English on the legal status and rights of women; it is, in fact, the first work devoted exclusively to women's law. It was commonly called "The Women's Lawyer." The book assembles English statutes affecting women, maids, widows, and children, and cites cases from English reports concerning marriage, divorce, polygamy (forbidden), wooing, and elopement. It also treats such diverse topics as age of consent, dower, hermaphrodites, partition, chattels, divorce, descent, seisin, treason, felonies, and rape. At over 400 pages, the text represents a massive effort of consolidation and organization of the disparate and hitherto uncompiled aspects of the common law applicable to women

into a logical framework. It is unusual among early modern legal treatises in its stated goal of providing a 'popular kind of instruction' to its readers.

