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DEDICATION TO PROFESSOR LAURENCE B. WOHL

*Kelvin H. Dickinson**

*Jonathan M. Hiltz***

In May 2006, Professor Laurence B. Wohl retired from the faculty of the University of Dayton School of Law. His well-deserved retirement ends an era of service that began in 1983, when he came to Dayton after several years of practicing law in California, and occasionally teaching at law schools there.

Professor Wohl taught in the areas of his practice, Federal taxation and business organizations. He will be remembered by his students as a passionate and challenging teacher who could confound and enlighten at the same time. He gave his time to his students unstintingly, sometimes teaching a small class in addition to his normal complement of large classes, so that students had the opportunity of taking enrichment courses in his area that were not offered on a regular basis.

The mid-1980s, when Professor Wohl was appointed, were turbulent times in legal education, and especially so at the School of Law. From the beginning, his experience, good judgment, and wisdom were sought out and valued by his friends and colleagues on the faculty. When asked, Professor Wohl unselfishly agreed to undertake the duties of Associate Dean during that period, serving two deans, one permanent and one acting. At the same time, he chaired the Dean Search Committee that was responsible for hiring Fran Conte, whose deanship lasted fourteen years.

Professor Wohl's scholarly interest is Federal income tax, with an emphasis on employee benefits. He has been a significant contributor to that field. In 1991, he served as a Professor in Residence at the Internal Revenue Service in Washington, D.C. Later, he was the reporter on a project of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws to standardize the reporting requirements for payroll taxes.

For the past several years, Professor Wohl has served as the faculty advisor to the editors of the *University of Dayton Law Review*. Professor Wohl was able to connect with and assist the editors of the Law Review in ways few professors could. Professor Wohl always insisted that his role as

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faculty advisor was not to supervise the editors, but instead he was there to aid and encourage them in their efforts. The relationship between Professor Wohl and the editors he counseled was characterized by friendship and collegiality. He was never condescending or patronizing. With genuine sincerity, he would inquire into the personal well-being of his students as well as the institutional condition of the Law Review. It was Professor Wohl's ability and willingness to engage his students on an interpersonal level that made his sage advice all the more trusted and valued.

Professor Wohl related to his students with an uncommon candor. While having a conversation with a student over a cup of coffee, his demeanor and tone were devoid of any sense of superiority or pretentiousness. Instead, Professor Wohl made students feel that not only were they fully worthy to speak with him, but that he was genuinely concerned with what they had to say and how he could help them. Professor Wohl's exceptional combination of intelligence and interpersonal skills made an editor's experience on Law Review both enlightening and enjoyable.

Professor Wohl's contributions to the character and quality of the School of Law are immense. At every significant crossroad over the past twenty-three years, his was a voice of quiet reason that helped guide the school in its quest for identity and greatness. His energy and devotion to the School and its students have been unwavering. We are all grateful for the experience of knowing him, and calling him a colleague, a teacher, and a friend.