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## Tribute to Chief Justice Donald R. Wright

Marvin J. Anderson

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*Marvin J. Anderson\**

Since the founding of Hastings College of the Law in 1878 by Serranus Clinton Hastings, each Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, as President of the College's Board of Directors, has played a significant role in shaping the institution and its attainment of national eminence. Chief Justice Donald R. Wright was no exception. During his tenure as Chief Justice, he maintained a lively and keen interest in the affairs of the law school. He gave his wisdom, counsel, and understanding in many ways and at many times.

Emerson stated that "at one time we had wooden challenges and golden priests. Today we have golden challenges and wooden priests."<sup>1</sup> This was not the case with Chief Justice Donald R. Wright. He possessed the precious qualities of compassion and deep respect for the integrity of the individual, as well as a thorough knowledge of the law and of human nature that enabled him to be a truly "independent" man. He had a firm and abiding hold on justice and his grasp never wavered.

Chief Justice Wright's monumental effort to guide the California Supreme Court, his courageous decisions, his industry, and his honesty were guiding lights to a better and more humane society. His contribution on the court and his keen interest in legal education will beneficially affect the people of this state for all time. Certainly a place of honor among the select company of the great Chief Justices of California must be accorded Donald R. Wright—a great jurist, a skilled lawyer, a compassionate and warm human being, and a good friend and counselor of legal education in general, and in particular, of Hastings College of the Law.

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\* Dean, Hastings College of the Law, University of California.

1. R. EMERSON, *The Preacher*, in 10 THE COMPLETE WORKS OF RALPH WALDO EMERSON 229 (1911).

