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Tribute to Professor William B. Lockhart

By MARY KAY KANE*

The retirement of Professor William B. Lockhart from Hastings and from active law teaching marks the end of an era. It is a particularly sad time for his colleagues as we confront a future without his sage advice and wisdom, although his example will always be there for us to follow. And for future Hastings students, his retirement represents the loss of an opportunity to study with a man whose experiences and breadth of knowledge in the field of constitutional law make him unique and irreplaceable. It would be impossible for me to capture in a short frame why Bill Lockhart is regarded as one of the giants in legal education—there simply is too much to say. But, as part of the dedication of this issue of the *Hastings Constitutional Law Quarterly* to his many accomplishments, I would like to share some reasons why Bill will always be an important role model for me and for others who enter the legal teaching profession.

My identification of the special character and stature of Bill Lockhart preceded by some seven years my first meeting with him in 1976. Our association as colleagues for the last seventeen years has confirmed all of my earlier expectations. When I was a student at the University of Michigan Law School in the late 1960s, several of my best professors came from the University of Minnesota. To name two: Arthur R. Miller and Yale Kamisar had started their teaching careers at Minnesota, having been enticed there by Dean Lockhart. They talked about this incredible man who had a unique talent with inspiring and coaching his junior faculty to perform at their best. He was a paragon as dean. His word was always to be trusted and you could be sure that you would receive an insightful and forthright opinion—even if it was hard to hear—delivered both sensitively and constructively, nonetheless. To earn Bill Lockhart's respect was to know that you had succeeded. It is no surprise that his tenure as dean, from 1956

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to 1972, was such a long and fruitful one, and that many credit him for building the Minnesota faculty into one of national stature.

Bill Lockhart has lived his life as an example of what he expected of others. A noted scholar, he joined with two of his then Minnesota colleagues, Jesse Choper and Yale Kamisar to produce in 1964 what was to become one of the leading casebooks in constitutional law. That book is now in its seventh edition and Bill has participated actively in every edition since its inception. His devotion to scholarship was never selfish; he willingly read others' manuscripts and offered comments and suggestions to help junior colleagues along the way. He also served for many years on the Council of the American Law Institute, contributing his comments and insights to the cause of national law reform through the restatement process.

His ability to pierce through rhetoric and to capture the issues at stake in an argument is well-known to his colleagues. In a heated faculty debate, there is nothing comparable to Bill's sudden eruption—"That's just plain silly!"—to bring everyone back to earth. And at the same time, we all know and have benefited from his willingness to follow through on difficult and delicate issues with a thorough, clear understanding of what genuinely needs to be done. Undoubtedly, those same traits, which have earned him countless faculty committee assignments, made him an ideal candidate to chair the United States Commission on Obscenity and Pornography from 1968 to 1970 (a task he accomplished while serving as Dean, which further attests to his incredible ability to get the job done—even when it is more than one job).

While Bill Lockhart's "official" retirement is still hard to accept, we know it does not really mean he will stop caring about or being involved in some way with the law. He may be taking a brief break from the classroom in this, his eighty-eighth year. However, after he finishes building his new retirement home in Salt Lake City next year, I fully expect that he may wander into the University of Utah College of Law to "see what's up."

I only regret that his new home is not just down the street so we could continue to benefit from all he has to offer.