

Hastings International and Comparative Law Review

Volume 20
Number 3 *Spring 1997*

Article 1

1-1-1997

In Tribute

Mary Kay Kane

Follow this and additional works at: https://repository.uchastings.edu/hastings_international_comparative_law_review

 Part of the [Comparative and Foreign Law Commons](#), and the [International Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Mary Kay Kane, *In Tribute*, 20 HASTINGS INT'L & COMP. L. Rev. 525 (1997).

Available at: https://repository.uchastings.edu/hastings_international_comparative_law_review/vol20/iss3/1

This Tribute is brought to you for free and open access by the Law Journals at UC Hastings Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Hastings International and Comparative Law Review by an authorized editor of UC Hastings Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact wangangela@uchastings.edu.

In Tribute

By MARY KAY KANE*

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of Professor Stefan Riesenfeld's membership on the Hastings 65 Club faculty. It thus is a particularly appropriate time to honor and recognize the incredible contributions and career of this most remarkable man. As a colleague of Stefan's for the last twenty years and now as his Dean, I can say that he has been a continuing source of new ideas, energy, and commitment to the College and the profession. His efforts and example as a teacher, scholar, and doer have made a lasting mark on his students and colleagues and appropriately place him in legal education's Hall of Fame.

To review Stefan's resumé of accomplishments over even just the last twenty years would fill this volume. What is particularly remarkable is that his Hastings career followed thirty-eight years of full-time, active teaching, first at the University of Minnesota, where he served on the law school faculty from 1938 until 1952, and then at the University of California at Berkeley (Boalt Hall), where he served as the Emanuel S. Heller Professor of Law until his "retirement" there in 1976. Yet his record of achievements during his Hastings years, standing alone, is one any academic would be proud to claim.

I place the word "retirement" in quotations for a reason. One of the most incredible things about Stefan Riesenfeld is his ability to carry on multiple jobs, fulfilling all of his obligations seemingly effortlessly and with style and flair. As an example, let me describe just his first five years at Hastings. During those years he managed to teach a full course load here—Property, Public International Law, Creditors' Rights and Debtors' Remedies, and various seminars in the International Law field—while continuing to teach a full course package at Boalt, dashing back and forth across the Bay via public transportation to meet his classes. Add to that, from 1977 to 1982, Stefan served as a Counselor on International Law with the United States Department of State, arranging his double class schedule so that he could fly to Washington, D.C., every week to spend the weekend working on vari-

* Dean & Professor of Law, University of California, Hastings College of the Law.

ous problems for the Government. During this same five-year time frame, somehow he also managed to complete the third edition of his casebook on Creditors' Remedies and Debtors' Protection (1979), some thirteen articles in various journals on topics ranging from creditors' remedies to international law, and some twelve book reviews. Not bad, especially for someone in retirement! And the list of his activities has continued to grow in the succeeding fifteen years.

What Stefan Riesenfeld has brought to Hastings is irreplaceable. The breadth and depth of his knowledge and understanding of not only legal principles on a world-wide scale, but also the real practice of law in his areas of study has imbued his classes with a sense of life and currency that have inspired generations of students. His influence and work extends outside the classroom as well. His door is always open and, as you pass by, it is not uncommon to see a student (or colleague) inside asking questions and talking about ideas. He has been a continuing source of energy and inspiration over the years to the students working on the *Hastings International and Comparative Law Review*, spending many hours helping them on their student notes or advising them on various symposia that they decided to undertake. His generosity with his time and talent extends to his colleagues as well. Imagine my good fortune and excitement when, as a junior faculty member, I decided to write an article on some developing issues that involved the then newly enacted 1976 Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act and I learned that my colleague, Stefan Riesenfeld, was one of the authors of that statute and more than willing to sit down and help me understand what was really behind the legislation and the implications it carried. My experience has been replicated countless times with other colleagues, I know.

So, Stefan, your colleagues and students at Hastings wish you a very happy twentieth anniversary. We are most grateful to have had the benefit of your boundless wisdom and generous spirit over the years. You are truly a national treasure, and we look forward to the next twenty years!