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## Dedication to Professor Ray Forrester

Leo P. Martinez

UC Hastings College of the Law, [martinezleo@uchastings.edu](mailto:martinezleo@uchastings.edu)

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Ray Forrester was a star. The New York Times' March 25, 2001 announcement of Ray Forrester's death captured his stellar legal and academic career. It did not, however, capture his essence. I am sure my perspective on him is unique, if for no other reason than I knew him in a variety of different contexts. He was my teacher, he was my colleague, and finally he was a member of the Hastings faculty for which I am responsible.

I first encountered him as a student in the spring of 1977 in his Constitutional Law class. What I remember most about Ray Forrester is his unwavering intellectual integrity. That he was a superb teacher is a given; but what I recall was his ability to cover controversial material without letting the controversy impede the substance of his teaching. Don't get me wrong, I always was left with the impression of his views; views that he did not force on his students. We were effectively told, in a subtle way, that it was our task to develop our own thoughts. His task was to allow us to reach that point. In retrospect I marvel at his patience. It is an approach that I can only imperfectly emulate.

As Ray Forrester's colleague on the Hastings faculty, I will be forever grateful for his gentle mentoring. Despite his stature, he was always available to me for even the smallest bit of advice. Two aspects of his value deserve mention. One is that he taught me by example. Despite his accomplishments as a constitutional law scholar and his considerable experience teaching, he still prepared intensely for each class. He could be observed, in the hours before he would meet with his students, poring over his class materials and a stack of advance sheets with the latest developments.

The second aspect of his mentoring was his devotion to the eradication of footnotes. An example of this devotion can be found in volume 47 of the Hastings Law Journal at page 167. There, in an article entitled *Supreme Court Opinions: An Appeal for Reform* which he wrote in 1995, can be found his advice to the justices of the United States Supreme Court regarding clarity of expression. From anyone else this essay this would be an arrogant undertaking. From Ray Forrester, it was a mere reminder from an equal. True to form, the article contained not a single footnote. I will always remain painfully conscious that my own writing will never meet his lofty ideals.

In 1994 I became Academic Dean at Hastings succeeding Mary Kay Kane who became Dean. As such, Ray Forrester became one of the fifty plus faculty members for which I was responsible. In his illustrious career he had had three long stints as the dean of three different

law schools: Tulane, Vanderbilt, and Cornell. Though I am sure I gave him many reasons to second-guess my stewardship, I never heard him as much as hint at any criticism. He was patient enough and experienced enough to keep his own counsel.

Ray Forrester was one-of-a-kind and he will be missed by all of us. He was a gentleman in the old-fashioned sense of the word. He was not awed, as we were, by his stature in the profession and I will forever be his student.

*Leo Martinez  
Academic Dean and Former Student, Class of '78  
Hastings College of the Law*