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IN MEMORIAM—WILLIAM E. BRITTON

PROFESSOR WILLIAM E. BRITTON died in Los Angeles, California on November 6, 1965. He had a long and distinguished career in law teaching, legal research and writing, and was highly respected throughout the land by the Bench and Bar and by legal scholars and law teachers.

Professor Britton was born in Bible Grove, Illinois in 1887. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from McKendree College in 1909. McKendree College in a later year, 1955, awarded him an honorary LL.D. degree. Following his graduation from McKendree College, Professor Britton entered the University of Illinois as a candidate for a Master's degree in political science, which degree was awarded to him in 1910. He then turned to an area of study which was to claim his attention for the rest of his life. He entered the College of Law of the University of Illinois and was granted the J.D. degree by Illinois in 1914. During the course of his training he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and the Order of the Coif.

Professor Britton was admitted to the Illinois Bar, and practiced law in Chicago from 1914 to 1916, and again, this time with Wilson and McIlvaine, from 1942 to 1945. He was instructor in law, 1916 to 1919, and assistant professor of law, 1919 to 1921, in the University of Illinois. In 1921 he accepted a professorship in law in the Indiana University, School of Law, where he remained until 1924. That year he was called back to a professorship in law in the College of Law in the University of Illinois. The writer remembers with pleasure that he had a voice in recalling Mr. Britton to the University of Illinois. There followed a long period of close association between him and the writer, a period in which Professor Britton earned distinction as a teacher of law, and as the author of legal treatises, casebooks in the law and numerous legal articles. He was Legal Counsel for the University of Illinois from 1945 to 1950. He remained at the University of Illinois until his retirement from that University in 1954. After his retirement from Illinois he forthwith accepted a call to a professorship in law in the Hastings College of Law, San Francisco, California. He remained at Hastings until 1964, when because of ill health, he retired from Hastings.

Professor Britton's teaching and writings touched various areas of the law, but, in the main, were devoted to the commercial law field. He published, jointly with others, *Cases on Business Law*. In 1924 he published a supplement to Gilmore's *Cases on Partnership*; in 1928,

Cases on the Law of Bankruptcy; in 1936, *Cases on the Law of Sales*; in 1947, with Professor George G. Bogert, a second edition of the *Casebook on the Law of Sales*; in 1952, jointly with others, he published a 4th edition of the *Casebook on Business Law*. This is only a partial list of the books authored by Mr. Britton that brought recognition to him, but it was his work and productive scholarship in the field of Bills and Notes that won for him the highest distinction as a legal authority. The 4th edition of his *Casebook on Bills and Notes* was published in 1951; his treatise on *Bills and Notes* was published in 1943. This work is now in its 5th edition.

Surviving Professor Britton are: two sons, John and Kent, and four grandchildren, all of whom reside in California; three sisters, Mrs. Harry I. Hannah, Mrs. Timothy I. McKnight, and Mrs. V. C. Crawley, all of whom reside in Illinois; and a brother, Floyd E. Britton, who resides in Wisconsin. And surviving also are the memories he has left: the memories of his students of the legal structures he has created for them; the memories of the Bench and Bar of the legal guidance he afforded them, and which now constitute concrete and substantive guidance through his treatises and legal writings that survive him; and the memories of his colleagues and associates of abiding friendships.

ALBERT J. HARNO