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TRIBUTE Professor Wayne LaSalle Townsend

Wayne L. Townsend, Distinguished Service Professor, will retire at the close of the present school year. On behalf of the alumni, faculty, and student body, the LAW QUARTERLY pays him tribute.

We shall make no effort here to tell the whole story of the many accomplishments of this versatile scholar and gentleman. Rather, here we seek to give an intimate glance of the man who has been aptly described as "a warm human being, large in heart as well as mind."

Professor Townsend is never one to be bound by mere convention; we were not startled to learn that he is a member of the 1936 class of a law school in which he was never enrolled as a student. After having taught law at Western Reserve University from 1933 to 1936, Professor Townsend decided that it was time for him to become a member of the Ohio Bar. Accordingly, without any review, he took the Ohio bar examination in 1936 and received the highest mark of the several hundred persons who took the examination that year. Thereupon, the much-impressed WRU Class of 1936 tendered their Professor membership which, with characteristic graciousness, he accepted *nunc pro tunc*.

Professor Townsend has an omnivorous interest in everything that bears on the development of the full man. The briefest stop at the Townsend farm home (appropriately named *Blackacre*) will reveal at a glance that here lives a lawyer who is a patron of the arts in the best tradition of our profession. Professor Townsend does not merely *enjoy* the arts; he *serves* them as well. He has been Chairman of the McBride Lecture Foundation, Cleveland, Ohio; Trustee and Vice-president of the Cleveland Public Library; Trustee of the Great Lakes Historical Society; Trustee and President of the St. Louis Artists' Guild.

Professor Townsend first came to Washington University in 1945 as Dean of the Law School and administered it during the difficult early post-

war years; but in 1951, he resigned his administrative post to resume full-time teaching and research. Among his many lasting achievements as Dean we here list but three: upon his arrival, Dean Townsend established the Honor System by *fiat*; he reactivated the LAW QUARTERLY, which had been a World War II casualty; and he established Washington University Law School as this Region's permanent seat in the National Moot Court Competition.

Our retiring Distinguished Service Professor brings to his classroom a remarkable variety and wealth of business and professional experience to enrich and enliven his instruction. Merely to catalogue some of this experience is to tell a large part of the tale. Always a farmer, in practice as well as at heart, Townsend was, in succession, a newspaperman, a World War I field artillery officer, and a banker before he attended Yale Law School. He has been a practicing lawyer as well as a law teacher and has served in *quasi*-judicial capacities as a Referee of the Ohio Court of Common Pleas, as a WPB Compliance Commissioner during World War II, and, for many years, as an arbitrator of numerous labor-management disputes. For the past several years, he has been the Judge of the Magistrate Court of Jefferson County. From such a law professor students learn of law-in-action as well as of law-in-books.

Speaking of Professor Townsend, a law school Dean under whom he served early in his teaching career, said, "if you need to get something done, ask this already busy man to do it." And, indeed, despite a seeming diffusion of his efforts, Professor Townsend has, through his tremendous energy, also contributed mightily to American legal research and scholarship. Because he is a perfectionist, Professor Townsend's writings are to be evaluated qualitatively rather than merely measured quantitatively. Of a dozen law review articles listed by an editor of Brannan's *Negotiable Instruments Law* as "must" reading in this field, almost half were written by Professor Townsend; Townsend's *Ohio Corporation Law*, first published shortly before he moved from Cleveland to St. Louis, is now in its fourth edition and still graces the desks of most Ohio lawyers. Of equal merit in their own spheres, are Townsend's *Cases and Other Select Materials on the Law of Banks and Banking* and his other writings.

But it is as a teacher, counsellor, and friend of his students that the Judge truly excels. His classroom effectiveness has been widely acclaimed at each of the five law schools at which he has taught over a thirty-five year period. He is an exceedingly patient teacher and an extremely thorough one as well. He exacts a high level of performance of his students to enable them barely to pass his courses. Typical student awe and respect for him were well ex-

pressed on the cuff links presented him this year by January Inn, engraved with the fateful, fearful figure "55." Typical enduring student affection for him was also well expressed on the bronze plaque inscribed by the WRU Class of 1934 to its "Beloved Teacher" of thirty years before, presented to him at a reunion of the class last year.

Always indelibly engraved in the memories of all of his students, over the many years, will be the vivid image of this man.*

* *Editor's Note:* As this issue of the LAW QUARTERLY goes to press, we are pleased to learn of Professor Townsend's appointment as Commissioner of the St. Louis Court of Appeals, effective October, 1965.