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ON THE RETIREMENT OF LAURENCE M. JONES

John M. Brumbaugh

In June 1978, Laurence M. Jones brought an end to a thirty-six-year career as Professor of Law at the University of Maryland School of Law. Laurence Jones graduated from the University of Iowa School of Law in 1932, when employment prospects for young lawyers were more dismal than they have been at any time in recent years. Knowledge that for the time being he could not hope to get far in practice made it easier for him to choose to follow his interest in further study of the law; he went on to obtain LL.M. and S.J.D. degrees from Harvard. After a year and a half of practice in Iowa, he got his first law teaching job at Emory University in 1935. After visiting for a year at the University of Missouri, he came to the University of Maryland School of Law in 1942 as a wartime replacement for Russell R. Reno. Four years later he was permanently appointed to the faculty. From the beginning, he has specialized in property. He has taught first year property, estates and trusts, and future interests to many Maryland graduates. Most, but not all, of his legal writing has also been in the property area.

I would tremble at the thought of attempting a critical evaluation of the substance of scholarly writing in the sacred areas of contingent remainders, variable annuities, and the Rule against Perpetuities on which Larry Jones has expounded. One who knows nothing of cooking may venture a judgment on the preparation of a dish, however, and I can at least pass on the clarity, flavor, and balance of a property broth, even if I have only the dimmest notion of the ingredients and the problems of the cook. For this reader, Larry Jones' writings are notable for their careful planning, logical development, and lucidity of presentation. Although I have not had the pleasure of being his student, I gather that these virtues appear in the classroom as well.

But my primary concern here is not specifically with Larry's teaching or scholarship or with his contributions to law school administration or to the bar or to his church. It is with what it has meant to the law school to have Larry Jones with us for the past thirty-six years. His character and personality have formed an important part of the life of our institution, and the school has lost much in his retirement.

I have no firsthand knowledge of his activities before 1956, when I came to Maryland. I knew then that he and Russell Reno had,

* Professor of Law, University of Maryland School of Law.

between them, cornered the Property offerings and that Larry was helpful and friendly to a worried newcomer. I soon found out that he was concerned to do his best for his students, that he took his work, but not himself, seriously, and that he had a delightful sense of fun. When I was considering the job offer at Maryland, a knowledgeable observer of the law school job market told me that Maryland was a good place to be. It had only an average reputation, he said, but it was better than its reputation. (He then went on to name a few schools in contrast which were not as good as their reputations.) It was not flashy, but it was solid. Larry fit in well with this picture of substance without show, though he achieved a fine reputation without need of the tinsel.

Of his many special contributions to the life of the law school, I will single out two that illustrate his qualities. When our present law school building was in the planning stage, our architectural advisors were especially proud of the modern heating and air conditioning systems that were to be installed. There was no need, they said, for windows that would open. I can still hear Larry's outraged "Humph!" He had never known a system so perfect that it could suffer no faults or breakdowns, and he well knew what a summer day in Baltimore could be like. Over strong opposition from the optimists, he got his openable windows, and generations of law students and teachers should thank him for them. Here we see his healthy and practical skepticism and his determination carrying the day.

Larry was instrumental not only in bringing fresh air into the building; he also brought it to the curriculum. In the early sixties he chaired a committee (of which I was a member) to review the curriculum. This committee produced the greatest single group of changes I have seen in our curriculum in my years here. It introduced the legal method program to Maryland, gave the first and second years the shape that they largely retain today, and greatly expanded our seminar and other elective offerings. His thoroughness and patience were largely responsible for persuading the faculty that these changes were sound and workable.

Larry has been a friend as well as a colleague. Like other members of our faculty, I have long and happy recollections of visits to Larry and Edith's home, with Edith as the most gracious and delightful of hostesses, and Larry as a more than competent chef. Since I have known them, Edith has been pretty much confined to a wheelchair because of multiple sclerosis, but, while this has surely been burdensome for Larry in time and physical effort, her intelligence, charm, courage, and interest in life have brought to

their partnership a spirit that enriches their marriage and all who know them.

I will remember the journeys we have taken, the lunchtime reviews of the affairs of the world, the legal debates, the photographic forays, the talk about education, and all the other good things that more than twenty years of friendship and working together can bring. I am grateful that they are not coming to an end, and that Larry will continue as a neighbor and a frequenter of the law school. May he enjoy his retirement and be with us all for many years to come.

**SENATE RESOLUTION
NO. 279***

A SENATE RESOLUTION CONCERNING
LAURENCE M. JONES

Be it hereby known to all that
The Senate of Maryland offers its sincerest congratulations to
LAURENCE M. JONES

in recognition of
HIS THIRTY-SIX YEARS OF DEDICATED TEACHING AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF LAW
UPON HIS RETIREMENT IN
JUNE 1978,

and directs this resolution be presented on this 22nd day of February 1978.

**HOUSE RESOLUTION
NO. 249****

A HOUSE RESOLUTION CONCERNING
LAURENCE M. JONES

Be it hereby know to all that The House of
Delegates of Maryland offers its sincerest congratulations to
LAURENCE M. JONES

in recognition of
HIS THIRTY-SIX YEARS OF DEDICATED TEACHING AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF LAW
UPON HIS RETIREMENT IN JUNE 1978.

The entire membership extends best wishes on this memorable occasion and directs this resolution be presented on this 1st day of March 1978.

* SENATE, BY: SENATORS LAPIDES, MALKUS, BOYER, MILLER, BYRNES AND O'REILLY

** HOUSE OF DELEGATES, BY: ALPERSTEIN, BOOZER, BURNS, CARDIN HARCHEHORN, HYATT, KRYSIAK, LEE, LEVIN, MURPHY, SR., NEEDLE, REDDING, SKLAR, VIRTS, WAGAMAN, JR.