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A Salute To Glen W. Shellhaas

James R. Adams†

The retirement of Glen W. Shellhaas (“Shell” to his friends) is of great significance to the McGeorge community. Those who had him as an instructor and role model are forever indebted to him.

I first heard of Professor Shellhaas when I entered legal education in 1968; he was an admired professor at Texas Tech. He had a reputation as an expert in civil procedure and was great in commercial law, torts, and contracts. Quite an individual.

When I signed on at McGeorge in 1975, Shell was in charge of the trial advocacy courses. Professor Groh (now a federal magistrate in Wisconsin) and I taught in his day division classes. Judge Grossfeld (now a practicing lawyer) and Captain Nancy Hunter (U.S. Army) were his assistants in the evening division. Professor Shellhaas’ trial advocacy program was outstanding; it earned the first American College of Trial Lawyers’ “Emil Gumperts Award” for excellence. The plaque, dated August 6, 1976, is on display in the lobby of the Courtroom of the Future. It is a well earned tribute to Shell’s effectiveness as a teacher and administrator.

Glen W. Shellhaas graduated from Ohio State’s Law School in 1943. He went immediately into the Navy, serving as Captain of P.T. Boat No. 116 in the South Pacific. It was a most interesting tour of duty. After his discharge in 1946, he went into the general practice of law in Bellefontaine, Ohio. One of his first assignments was to argue a case before the Ohio Supreme Court. He was elected District Attorney in 1947, serving one term. It was in this capacity that he argued (successfully) before the United States Supreme Court. He returned to private practice with a firm that eventually became Smith, Shellhaas & Kerns. While a partner, he became an Adjunct Professor of law at Ohio State. It was in 1963 that Glen went into teaching full time, starting at the University of Wyoming. Before coming here in 1973, he taught as a visiting

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professor at the University of North Carolina and was a tenured professor on the faculty of Texas Tech's School of Law.

It is apparent that Shell had an outstanding background to become a law professor. These are top credentials.

Professor Shellhaas never lost his love for torts and civil procedure, but his special training and extensive experience qualified him above all others to teach the demanding course we call Remedies. What a deal; teaching a required, all-encompassing course to senior law students is tough. But Shell did it in a very thorough way. Whether the student got an "A" or his first "D" was of course important to the student, but all must have sensed that Remedies is law in action. All who had him are better for the experience.

Professor Shellhaas and his charming wife Elizabeth ("Bet") have four children and four grandchildren. Their oldest daughter (now Betsy Fallin) is married to a dentist. Their only son, Scott, is a lawyer who first practiced in Reno, but now represents Amoco Oil. Both Betsy and Scott live in the Denver area. The next daughter (Sue Brent) and her husband (a golf instructor) teach in the public schools of Austin, Texas. Lisa, the youngest daughter, was married last summer to Dr. Detweiler, a dentist. They live in Lafayette, California. Its a great family and a source of real pride to both Bet and Shell.

Professor Shellhaas holds a significant place in the history of the McGeorge School of Law. Without his years of dedicated service, this would be a lesser place. He will always be regarded as one of the great persons who have taught here. Thank's for everything, Glen. Have a happy retirement!