

Richard V. Campbell Emeritus Professor of Law

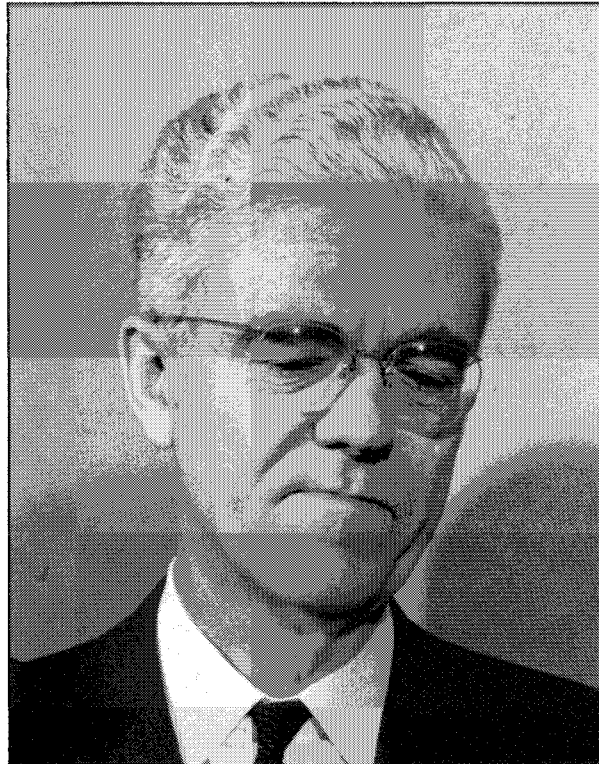
On June 10, 1991, Richard V. Campbell, Emeritus Professor of Law, died in his Madison home at the age of 88. Frail health had forced his early retirement in the spring of 1971 and thereafter he was not involved in our campus life. But in the four decades before his retirement, Dick Campbell had earned his place as a valued, highly thought-of mainstay of the Law School.

Prof. Campbell was a native of Minnesota and received his LL.B. at the University of Minnesota. He, and his wife Mildred, who survives him, were lifelong members of the Congregational Church. They endured the loss of two children. Their social life was quiet, though they had many friends both in town and gown. (Any good lawyer, Dick said, ought to learn to play a good game of bridge.)

Twice, for long periods, Prof. Campbell had shouldered huge teaching burdens that helped save the Law School.

The war years of 1941-45 were the first of these. Enrollments plummeted and large factions of the University's faculty and staff went off to other tasks. Dick was among the few who stayed on to keep the Law School afloat and functioning. The nature of the academic job, however, had changed radically. Instead of preparing three or four separate—and usually related—courses in a particular academic year, he found himself preparing six or seven separate courses yearly, often outside his own field of tort law. Law school grades then—as is still largely true—were grounded on one final, essay-type exam of three or four hours and were graded by the law professor alone, without help from teaching assistants. Lowered wartime enrollments, however, relieved the grading burdens: Dick graded an average of 139 sets of bluebooks annually in those four years.

The end of hostilities in 1945 swiftly ushered in a new period that changed teaching burdens radically. Most of the pre-war faculty



PROFESSOR RICHARD CAMPBELL

was back but class sizes now were huge. Prof. Campbell was again preparing for three or four separate courses a year, sometimes teaching the same course twice in the year. His bluebook load, moreover, became staggering: for the next seven years, Dick graded an average of 614 sets of bluebooks yearly, with the total peaking at 775 sets in 1946-47.

Despite the continuation of such heavy teaching loads into the 1950s, Prof. Campbell produced a significant block of scholarly work. Dick's articles published in the *Wisconsin Law Review* in the 1950s were widely cited by personal injury lawyers and were used by the Wisconsin Supreme Court as the conceptual basis for the development particularly of the law dealing with auto accident litigation.

Prof. Campbell was a demanding classroom instructor. He set the highest kind of standards for his own classroom preparation and he

insisted on nothing less for those who sought to obtain an education in law. His students were expected to come to class and to come prepared to respond carefully and precisely to the tightly-framed questions which Campbell fired at them as his way of teaching them to identify, assess and resolve problems after the manner of lawyers.

Across four decades of association with the Law School, Dick Campbell touched the lives of thousands who came here for training in the law. The fashion in which he sought to educate them surely made all but the most impervious a better lot for their experience.

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