

## In Memoriam

DEAN EMERITUS OLIVER SAMUEL RUNDELL

Oliver Samuel Rundell, dean emeritus of the Law School, died on December 12, 1957, at Kansas City, Missouri, where, since his retirement at the University of Wisconsin, he was following at the School of Law of the University of Kansas City his loved profession of teaching. So in his vigorous 76th year this thoughtful, kindly, considerate, gracious and quietly humorous spirit has departed from us, his associates of many years, and is mourned by all the many who rejoice to have had him as a friend.

Scion of a pioneer Wisconsin family, Oliver Rundell was born on October 6, 1881, at Rewey in southwestern Wisconsin, where he obtained his early education in the common schools and the State Normal School at Platteville. After three years as a school principal, he entered the University, where he won a law degree with honors in 1910. During the next four years he taught part time in the Law School and practiced law in Monroe, where he was also city attorney. In 1914, he became a full member of the law faculty and continued as such for thirty-nine years, one year beyond the usual age of retirement. He was acting dean of the School in 1929-1933, and 1943-1945, dean in 1945-1953, and Jackson Professor of Law in 1952-1954.

In 1916 he married Abigail Parmley, whose parents lived on the farm adjoining the Rundell place. Mrs. Rundell survives him, as do their son, Hugh Augustus, professor at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington, and their three daughters, Ruth Eleanor Rowley of Park Ridge, Illinois, Barbara Jean Alvis of Morgantown, West Virginia, and Janet Evelyn Stutts of Park Ridge, Illinois. A son, John Philip, was killed in military action in Germany, November 29, 1944.

Two devotions shaped Oliver Rundell's professional life: first, service to the University as a teacher and administrator; second, study of the law of property, the focus of his teaching and research, in order to clarify whatever was obscure, and to make it a better servant of human needs.

His life was motivated less by rewards of money, or of prestige and position, than by the satisfaction he found in the performance of the work of his profession and in the carrying on of the manifold responsibilities he was chosen to shoulder. He enjoyed his customary work so much that, on approaching retirement, he forwent a year's earned absence on leave.

Kindly and thoughtful of others, calm and deliberate in his judgments, he was firm in the discharge of every duty, however painful.

His example was a pervasive influence in keeping the law faculty, despite all differences among its members, a friendly company in which competition never blocked cooperation. Respected and trusted by the whole University community, he served it well in many positions of responsibility and honor. In the classroom his quiet wit, his penetrating slowly phrased hypothetical questions, his clear step by step analysis of legal doctrine, and his personal sincerity will never be forgotten by those who took his courses. As students they came to love him because he loved them. And after their graduation he was ever ready to assist them by advice and encouragement in the early and difficult years of their practice. In those who achieved notable success he rejoiced and gloried. He won the highest reward of the teacher — the eager acknowledgment by those he has taught of the store of knowledge and understanding they have gained from him.

As a scholar in his chosen field of property law, Dean Rundell contributed noteworthy articles to leading law journals; compiled a casebook on Rights in Land; was an Advisor and Reporter for the American Law Institute in its Restatement of the Law of Real Property; and was author of Easements and Licenses, part eight of the monumental treatise, *The American Law of Property*. As a distinguished visiting professor, he taught at the law schools of other great universities — Chicago, Michigan, North Carolina, Columbia and Stanford. He was an honorary member of the scholastic fraternities of Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi, and in 1931 was president of the honorary legal society of the Order of the Coif.

But above all such achievements and Honors, it is his able and devoted service to the University as teacher and administrator, and the impact that his gentle and generous spirit had upon all who were associated with him as colleagues and students that constitute his most precious legacy to the State, the University, and to his fellow men.\*

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\* Memorial Resolutions of the Faculty of the University of Wisconsin on the death of Dean Emeritus Oliver Samuel Rundell — January 6, 1958