

DEDICATION TO PROFESSOR JOSIAH H. BLACKMORE II

JIM BEATTIE



This issue of the Capital University Law Review is dedicated to the memory of Josiah H. Blackmore II, who died on September 26, 2007. During the course of his 37 year association with Capital University, Josiah Blackmore held the positions of Professor of Law, Dean of the Law School and Graduate Center, President of the University, and Professor Emeritus of Capital University Law School. Joe's impressive litany of academic titles, even if you did not know the man, speaks for itself. And once you met the man, you knew you were dealing with someone special.

Joe never met a person or a topic that was wholly foreign to him. His mind was too open and his heart too deep to be cut off from greeting a new acquaintance or engaging in a new discussion. Simply put, it is difficult to envisage another single individual who has so significantly influenced and guided the ongoing life force at Capital University Law School.

Joe's affiliation with the Law School began in 1969 as an adjunct professor of law. The following year, he left private practice and joined the faculty as a full-time professor. For the next ten years Joe would earn his reputation as an excellent teacher, teaching courses in Evidence, Civil Procedure, Legal Systems, Professional Responsibility, Seminar in Justice, and Conflicts of Laws. Although engaging students in discussion was always the central focus of his academic career, Joe was called to serve as acting Dean of the Law School in 1979. He began his distinguished tenure as Dean of Law and Graduate Center a year later, and held this position until 1988. Joe's impact on the Law School's growth, both in its intellectual rigor and in its physical size, was tremendous. After his successful deanship at the Law School, Joe was called again to service at Capital. This time he would serve as interim President and then as the 12th President of Capital University. He retired as President in 1998 after overseeing ten successful years as the driving force of the University. It was our great fortune that Joe returned to the Law School after his presidency and served on the law faculty as Professor Emeritus until his retirement in 2006.

It was my great fortune to work with Joe when he returned teaching. The topics of our discussions ranged from parsing the concept of justice to analyzing the “reiterative” genetic engineering of crops and farmland, which to this city boy was quite a stretch indeed. Joe would be the first to state that titles are not the measure of the man. Of course, in this, as in most things, Joe was correct. Daniel Kobil’s moving eulogy to Joe, which follows this dedication, eloquently speaks to the true measure of Joe. Perhaps Joe will forgive me for indulging in his long list of accomplishments just this once—that too, after all, was one of Joe’s greatest assets. He will be sorely missed.

Professor Jim Beattie
January 12, 2008