## DEDICATION TO PROFESSOR EMERITUS JOHN E. SULLIVAN AND HIS DEVOTION TO OTHERS

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This issue of the Capital University Law Review is dedicated to the memory of John E. Sullivan, who died on August 31, 2011 at age eightynine. Professor John Sullivan, a beloved teacher and scholar, joined the Capital University Law School faculty in 1953 when it was still known as Franklin University Law School. By 1988, when he retired from active teaching and received emeritus status, he had taught nearly 90% of all living graduates of the Law School. In addition to his extraordinary devotion to the Law School's students and alumni through his gifted and brilliant classroom teaching, Professor Sullivan served as Acting Dean from 1959 to 1960 and as Academic Dean from 1965 to 1966.

After his formal retirement in 1988, Professor Sullivan continued to be a very important figure in the life of the Law School. Each year, until the very end of his life, Professor Sullivan and his wife Mary Jane enthusiastically attended the annual Sullivan Lecture Series, which was endowed in his honor to feature presentations by some of the nation's leading legal scholars and practitioners. Moreover, in 2007, Professor Sullivan was honored when the Law School created the John E. Sullivan Professorship, named on his behalf to continue the finest traditions of law school teaching and scholarship that his life in the law so clearly represented.

John Sullivan was a brilliant and extremely masterful classroom teacher. John hardly ever answered a question without citing at least one case from his vast reservoir of scholarship and knowledge of the law. Groups of students would mingle after a class somewhat in awe of the learning experience his class had been, often expressing how much they were coming to love the law as a result of this master.

Although John was best known as a teacher of torts, he also delighted in teaching criminal law and consumer law. Some fortunate students had the opportunity to take him for torts in their first year and then return for more "Sullivan" later in their law school careers. Those students, who are now alumni, regularly report that John Sullivan was a magnificent classroom teacher in all of the classes that he taught.

Those students also report that John required them to earn the right to be a lawyer. The right would not be theirs without diligence and demonstrated competence on their part. John realized that to preserve the Law School as a viable professional school, true to its heritage of producing fine lawyers, its graduates must be able to perform at a high professional level. To the benefit of both the students and the Law School, under John's watch, his students were well-prepared to succeed in their profession upon graduation.

If John Sullivan was among the very finest legal educators, however, there is even more to be said of John Sullivan as a person. John was a man of character and integrity. John's character can best be summarized in the word "devotion." He was devoted to service, the rule of law, the legal system, legal education, his school, every person who came through his school, his family, and his church. He was a devout Christian and a loving husband and father. John possessed a deep and abiding Christian faith as evidenced by all of his service to his church community as well as his law school community.

John was a loyal friend who could always be trusted to provide friendship and counsel, even if he did not always approve of one's actions. John was a man who was devoted to people and to making their lives better through service and hospitality. John was the professor who would regularly have his entire class to his home for food, drink, and learned discussions. Many in attendance did not realize that their host was also quite an amateur historian until they heard the insights of not only a scholar of the law but also an accomplished student of history as well.

John enhanced the lives of those who knew him for all that he gave them through his stores of knowledge, professionalism, care, and compassion. He was the kind of man who brought a smile to your face and a sense of contentment to your heart in knowing that even in his advanced years, he was still devoted to serving others. And, he was the kind of man whom you missed ever so much when you realized that he had moved on and was no longer just around the corner with a helping hand extended.

John Sullivan was the kind of person who every lawyer should strive to be. Although if told this to his face, he would have only most humbly and reluctantly acknowledged the compliment. For thirty-five years as a member of the Law School faculty and for the many additional years after his retirement, his devotion to the success and well-being of the Law School, its students, and its alumni never weakened or waivered. There will likely be no other figure in the future of this Law School so single-mindedly devoted to its service. Indeed, it is fair to say that at one time, the very survival of the Law School was substantially due to his efforts.

We have had the privilege of knowing Professor Emeritus John E. Sullivan during many of those years of service. We had the honor to know John as a person, as well as a colleague. We have had the firsthand opportunity to understand why he was dearly loved by so many of Law

School graduates. We have had the opportunity to learn why there are no Law School stories (and perhaps never will be any law school stories) equal to the "John Sullivan stories" recounted so regularly and lovingly at every occasion where Law School alumni come together.

John's devotion to service did not bring him great wealth or power. His legacy lies in all those students whose lives he blessed and whose successes are in no small part the result of his devoted service. God Bless him for the generosity of a life so very well-lived.