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On the occasion of his retirement from full-time teaching, the editors respectfully dedicate this issue to John D. Lyons.

DEAN JOHN D. LYONS

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John Lyons may be leaving the University of Arizona College of Law, but he leaves behind a record that will be indelibly etched in the annals of Arizona jurisprudence. In the 41 years that he has been a member of the Arizona Bar, John Lyons has been a respected and successful practitioner, a distinguished jurist, and a leading educator. This strikes me as a rather complete career for any one lawyer.

For almost twenty of those years, Dean John—as he is affectionately known to so many of his former students—administered and shaped a law school that all Arizonans can be proud of. Along the way he found time to teach a couple of generations of us the fundamentals of contracts and remedies.

John Lyons is a valued friend whose influence on my life has been substantial and constructive. While watching the Watergate hearings, I thought of my old Dean and Professor. Perhaps I should explain the connection. As the hearings progressed, a long line of lawyers paraded before the cameras. For the most part, they were young, attractive and extremely intelligent members of the profession—all from good backgrounds. Yet, in case after case, testimony indicated that they had

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condoned or participated in burglaries, perjury, the destruction of evidence and various other illegalities. Speaker Sam Rayburn used to say that very often the three most important words in the English language were ". . . just a minute." In my mind I wondered, where in all this sordid development was a lawyer who would utter those words? Where were they in law school when the course in the legal profession was taught?

I took what used to be called "legal ethics" at the University of Arizona College of Law and my teacher was John Lyons. Like all who left his classroom, I developed a deep and fundamental feeling that the law was a solemn profession, that lawyers are officers of the court, and, more importantly, that society relies on its lawyers for civic and moral leadership.

John Lyons has always been a man of great character and many strengths, but it seems to me that perhaps his greatest contribution has been to instill in students this sense of respect and reverence for the law. He brought great dignity to the classroom and to the profession, setting an example of fairness and personal integrity for all who knew him. These recent events point up the almost desperate need for moral and ethical leadership in the legal profession. John Lyons imparted that kind of leadership and for this he will be sorely missed.

For my part, Dean Lyons represents the very best in traditional legal education. There are, I believe, some aspects of a sound legal education for which there are no shortcuts if society is not to be short-changed. In his classroom, he demonstrated great patience and understanding while leading students through the legal wilderness. Above all, it was always obvious that he respected and cared for students. One might have to stand in line, but Dean Lyons always had time to listen to a student's problems and would assist in any way possible. I am told that he continued to win the respect and admiration of his students until the day he retired.

Roscoe Pound once observed that the law must be stable, but it must not stand still. John Lyons certainly believed this for he recognized the need for change in the law. He was an innovator, a forward thinker. He saw, for example, the need for emphasis in conservation law to protect our precious natural heritage. Long before environmental protection became a popular cause, he taught a course in conservation law which, I am convinced, sensitized future Arizona lawyers to the necessity of protecting our state's unique environment.

Dean Lyons' illustrious career has paralleled the growth of American law in the twentieth century. It is a tribute to this gentleman that

he played such an important role in preparing so many lawyers to seek solutions to the problems of our modern society. If one measures John Lyons' career in legal education in terms of the impact he had directly on his students and indirectly on the lives of those whom his students as lawyers, judges and legislators influenced, he has surely been a historic force for good in our state and profession. This good and gentle man has earned the thanks of a grateful institution and his thousands of friends.

