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WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW QUARTERLY

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TYRRELL WILLIAMS

At its annual Christmas Dinner, on December 22, the Washington University Law Alumni Association honored Professor Tyrrell Williams upon the twenty-fifth anniversary of his association with the School of Law. Over three hundred alumni, students, and friends of the School were present at this tribute to the great services of the honor guest to the School and to the community. On behalf of the Association, Mr. Daniel N. Kirby of the University Board of Trustees presented Professor Williams with a handsome and suitably engraved gold watch. Other speakers, including Judge James M. Douglas of the Supreme Court of Missouri, Mr. Jacob M. Lashly of the St. Louis Bar and of the Faculty of the Law School, Mr. Clark M. Clifford, President of the Association, and Dean Joseph A. McClain, Jr., expressed their appreciation of the contributions of Professor Williams to the development of the School of Law.

Tyrrell Williams received his A.B. degree from Princeton University in 1898. Upon the advice of Woodrow Wilson, he returned to St. Louis for his professional education and received the LL.B. degree from Washington University in 1900. For the following thirteen years he practiced law in St. Louis, enjoying an active and varied practice which has enriched his equipment for law teaching. His scholarly bent was early evidenced by his authorship, with Judge G. A. Finkelnberg, of a widely-used text on Missouri Appellate Practice, published in 1904.

In 1913, Professor Williams became a full-time professor at the School of Law, in which position he has continued to the present time. During the twenty-five years of his tenure, he has witnessed great and progressive changes in the School of Law, many of which have been brought about through his advocacy. Although not primarily interested in administrative work, he has on two occasions, in 1925-6 and in 1935-6 served as Acting Dean.

The courses he has taught include a good proportion of the subjects in the approved law curriculum.

Professor Williams' contributions to legal scholarship are many and varied. Mention has been made of the book on Missouri Appellate Practice. He is a charter member of the American Law Institute and an Adviser in restating the law of Criminal Procedure. With Dean Alphonse G. Eberle of the St. Louis University School of Law, he prepared the Missouri annotations to the Restatement of Contracts. He has written numerous articles in law reviews. As evidence that twenty-five years in law teaching have not dulled the keen quality of his mind, it should be mentioned that his most recent article, *The Source of Authority for Rules of Court Affecting Procedure*, published in the June, 1937, issue of this QUARTERLY, has been read throughout the country and is accepted as an authoritative exposition of this significant problem. In addition to his strictly legal writings, Professor Williams has contributed biographical articles on Missouri lawyers to the Dictionary of American Biography. It is characteristic that the vigor of his literary style has been evident, even in the dry atmosphere of the Dictionary.

In St. Louis, and throughout the State of Missouri, Professor Williams is even better known for his public interests and activities. During the Great War he performed important legal services for the United States Food Administration. He is an active member of the National Crime Commission and of the Missouri and American Bar Associations. As a member of the Cost of Government Committee of the St. Louis County Chamber of Commerce he made a notable contribution to efficient county government. His work as president of the St. Louis Dairy Commission and in connection with the adoption by the City of St. Louis of the Standard Milk Ordinance is too well known to require elaboration. His dynamic influence in movements for legal reform, in such fields as criminal procedure, has been consistently felt. In still another sphere, that of industrial relations, Professor Williams' services as arbitrator in several labor disputes have been a strong factor in the promotion of industrial accord.

Professor Williams is unquestionably the first liberal of St. Louis. In the witch-burning days of Attorney-General A. Mitchell Palmer he was one of the few courageous enough to denounce the G. P. U. tactics of the Justice Department, and the great

Robert Brookings recognized the essential justice of his position. For years he has been a member of the American Civil Liberties Union and an outstanding defender of constitutional freedom. His liberalism is of the broadly tolerant tradition of that of the late Mr. Justice Holmes, a quality which has made him respected by those who differ with him upon particular political issues.

In the last analysis, however, no contribution of Professor Williams could be greater than that of his relationship to the twenty-five classes of law students who have come under his influence. In his classes he is stimulating, thorough, and at once scholarly and practical. His great store of inside information, bearing upon the personal backgrounds of the reported cases enables him to make the real cases live again in the classroom. His wit and tolerant good humor are never failing. The pungent phrase, the homely illustration, and the pointed anecdote have all contributed to his classroom success.

His "off the record" relationships with students have, perhaps, furthered even more the esteem in which he is held. The number of students whom he has helped, financially or by wise counsel, will never be known. His aid in placing graduates in legal positions has been invaluable and has given many now-prominent attorneys their initial opportunities. The consequence is that the returning alumnus inevitably makes his first call on "Ty". He is unquestionably most deeply respected and warmly regarded by the present student body.

It has been difficult to write an appreciation of Tyrrell Williams with any degree of objectivity. The staff of the WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW QUARTERLY wishes to add its warmest congratulations to those expressions of regard which have already been extended to Professor Williams upon his anniversary. We know that his contributions already made will at least be equaled by those which he will make in the future. An old verse describes the relationship of Tyrrell Williams to his students as well as any words could do.

His ready smiles a parent's warmth express
Their welfare pleases, and their cares distress.
He tries each art, reproves each dull delay,
Allures to brighter worlds, and leads the way.