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In Memoriam: Wilson Gesner Stapleton 1901-1979

Frank D. Celebrezze

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DEDICATION

IN MEMORIAM:
WILSON GESNER STAPLETON
1901-1979

FRANK D. CELEBREZZE*

Dean Wilson G. Stapleton made a permanent contribution to the Cleveland-Marshall Law School. To those of us who attended the school when it was referred to as a “factory” he was both a friend as well as a mentor. I remember his personal kindness to me when on a few occasions I was unable to complete payment of a course before examination time, and he benevolently granted me a stay.

I recall after graduation his restraint on consultation in a vexing legal matter.

After I had been elected to Common Pleas Court and had the opportunity to serve as the Presiding Judge in Criminal Court, I asked him to serve as Foreman of the Grand Jury. He did an outstanding job—busy though he was with the administrative problems at the school. He wrote the best report ever recorded on completion of his tenure.

Dean Stapleton was truly one of the most outstanding men I have ever met. He was active as a civic leader, an educational leader, a community leader and a legal professional leader. Cleveland-Marshall Law School, under his tutelage, provided many young persons with an opportunity to obtain a legal education that otherwise would have been out of reach.

I recall with fondness and inspiration his tenacious spirit. He was exemplary.

* Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Ohio.