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Professor Kevin Sheard

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J. PATRICK BROWNE*

To say anything at all about Kevin Cox Sheard is to say either too little or too much, for Kevin is an extreme that brooks no middle course. The virtue that is his hallmark is his strong sense of duty to his country, to his profession and to his students. That sense of duty to his country saw him joining the New York National Guard when the dark cloud that became World War II began to darken the skies of Europe, and it led him through the hell of Guadalcanal. His duty to his profession—not only the profession of law but also the profession of learning and teaching—took him first to Williams College and a Bachelor of Arts Degree, and led him thereafter to a Master of Science Degree from the University of Wisconsin, a Master of Business Administration from Xavier University and, finally, a Juris Doctor Degree from Loyola University in Chicago. His sense of duty to his students began when he became an Assistant Professor of Business Administration at Baldwin-Wallace College, and continued when he became Associate Professor of Business Administration at Northern Michigan University. It now ends with his retirement as Professor of Law at Cleveland State University.

Kevin brought to his teaching career a unique perspective, that of the small town lawyer from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. It was in this schoolroom of frontier practice that his knowledge of the humanities was tempered by the realities of the average person in need of legal help. It was here that Kevin learned to combine the subtlety of Mr. Tutt with the homely skill of the hero of *Anatomy of a Murder*. It is just this subtlety and skill that is so much wanting in the profession today, and it is sad to say that these virtues often went unrecognized by the city-bred students who have passed through Kevin's classroom.

At first blush it may seem somewhat incongruous that a small town lawyer from the nethermost northern frontier should become an expert in Constitutional Law, but that is the case, for Kevin is acknowledged to be one of Ohio's foremost experts on both the history of the United States Constitution and its interpretation. For those students who had the inclination to listen and learn, Kevin's courses in Constitutional Law were experiences that will be treasured the more as the years go by. One of the truly sad things about Kevin Sheard's retirement is that his voice here will be stilled and his classroom empty. Elsewhere, some fortunate student may yet have the benefit of Kevin's teaching, but we will have lost his wisdom and his experience.

But with Kevin Sheard's retirement we will not only lose a great Constitutional scholar but also one of those questing intellects that can only be described by the adjective "renaissance"—Kevin Sheard is truly one

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of the last Renaissance men, one who recognizes no boundaries to knowledge, and whose curiosity spans the spectrum of things to be known. With his going we shall lose the stimulus that drove us beyond our own parochial beliefs and the structure that disciplined our thinking about that which we continue to hold as true. Kevin's comments on what we said and did were always both daring and damning—daring us to abandon our ideological prejudices and face the grim truth, and damning us because we did not wish to accept the facts as they were. But for all that, Kevin is also one of the most warm human beings that we have ever known. If his intellect is that of the Renaissance man, if his knowledge of the Constitution is meticulous, then the way he gives himself to others can only be described as the way of the Good Samaritan. One wonders if Kevin has ever had a selfish moment, since he is constantly doing something for someone in need or in trouble.

