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1975–1999: David T. Link

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### Dean Marcus Cole's Message

G. Marcus Cole

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## Fr. David T. Link

1 message

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**Marcus Cole** <gcole2@nd.edu>

Fri, Oct 29, 2021 at 3:00 AM

To: law-allfacstaff-list@nd.edu, law-allstudents-list@nd.edu

Cc: "Julie A. Shook" <shook.1@nd.edu>

Dear Notre Dame Law School Community,

It is with a very heavy heart that I must inform you of the passing of my dear friend, Fr. David T. Link '58, JD'61.

David Link began teaching at Notre Dame in 1970, and in 1975, he was appointed by Father Theodore Hesburgh as the eighth Dean and Professor of Law at Notre Dame Law School. He served as Dean from 1975 until 1999. He also served as the founding president and chancellor of the University of Notre Dame - Perth, Australia, as the founding dean of the law school at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and as the Deputy Vice Chancellor and Provost of the University of St. Augustine in South Africa. Dave Link was also the co-founder of the Center for the Homeless in South Bend.

As Dean, Dave Link coined the phrase, "A Different Kind of Lawyer."

After Barbara, his wife of 45 years, passed away in 2003, then Dean Emeritus Link followed the suggestion of President Emeritus Theodore Hesburgh and the call of the Holy Spirit when he entered the Sacred Heart School of Theology in Hales Corners, Wisconsin. He was ordained to priesthood in the Diocese of Gary, Indiana, on June 7, 2011, at the age of 71. As a priest, he dedicated himself to prison ministry, serving those incarcerated in the seven prisons of Northern Indiana.

I once asked him how often he went into the prisons. He responded that "they don't get a day off, so why should I?"

Fr. Dave's life has been documented in a book entitled "Camerado, I Give You My Hand: How a Powerful Lawyer-Turned-Priest Is Changing the Lives of Men Behind Bars."

Fr. Dave was a leader, a teacher, and a visionary. To me he was a mentor, a dear friend, and "A Different Kind of Lawyer."

May God grant him his reward as a "good and faithful servant." Please pray for his family, those whom he served, and those of us who loved him.

Yours in Notre Dame,

Marcus

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G. Marcus Cole

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