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IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR JOHN BRODERICK

*Thomas F. Broden**

John J. Broderick, professor emeritus of the Notre Dame Law School, died February 28, 1997. He was born in New York in 1910. He graduated summa cum laude from Washington and Lee University in 1932 and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. In 1936 he graduated summa cum laude from St. John's University Law School and practiced law in New York City and Yonkers, New York until joining the Navy in World War II. In 1947 he became a member of the Notre Dame Law School faculty.

I first knew Professor Broderick as a student in the Law School from 1946 to 1949. Later I joined him on the faculty and we worked as colleagues for twenty-six years. Professor Broderick was a kind, thoughtful, friendly, out-going, witty, and hard-working person.

Next to his family, the Notre Dame law students were his highest priority. He knew and cared about each student. If he heard of a student having a problem, he would seek out the student and try to help. He helped find part-time jobs and housing, gave counsel and advice, and was a friend of multitudes of students. He had many students to his home for family dinner—individually as personal friends rather than in groups as part of a class event.

Professor Broderick was constantly seeking better ways to help students learn. After I became a member of the faculty, he often sought my reaction to new pedagogical approaches he was considering for the presentation of his course materials. I believe the famous football pep rallies he first held in his classes the Friday before games were, in part, "a spoonful of sugar to make" the legal materials go down better. Later these rallies took on a life of their own.

Occasionally after graduation some faculty members would breathe a sigh of relief and say, "Now that the students are gone I can get some work done." Professor Broderick would wryly comment, "No students; no faculty."

Professor Broderick was the ideal choice to serve as assistant dean of the Law School in the hectic years following the end of World War

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II in 1945. During the War the Law School attendance dwindled—the 1945 graduating class numbered eight students. Clarence Manion, then the dean of the Law School, considered it one of his most important accomplishments to have successfully advocated against the University administration's plan to close the Law School because there were so few students.

The Law School's problems after World War II were just the opposite. Professor Broderick became assistant dean when the Law School population was exploding. Veterans whose Law School education had been interrupted by World War II returned, and other veterans with the financial assistance of the G.I. Bill entered the Law School for the first time. The administration of the Law School consisted of two persons, Dean Manion and Professor Broderick as assistant dean. So Professor Broderick, the "Chief," was the main resource for the 250-plus students with their ordinary and sometimes extraordinary needs, questions, and problems.

His affectionate nickname, the "Chief," was derived from his service in the U.S. Navy. During and at the end of World War II, he was a Chief Petty Officer with the Navy serving with the naval training programs then operating at Notre Dame.

Professor Broderick was as close as a person could get to being indispensable in the administration of the Law School. All schedules, notices, class lists, room assignments, special meetings, changes in rules, policies, or procedures—all administrative details emanated from his office. Every question and concern by the students and faculty was directed at him. Rightfully, he was always in a hurry.

About the time the administrative challenge of the post war student population increase had been brought under control, Professor Broderick faced a new administrative challenge. A new law school dean, Joseph O'Meara, Jr., was appointed in 1952. This brought with it important changes in policies and procedures. Again Professor Broderick was the key contact and resource person sought by students for answers. His cheerful, friendly, and unassuming manner provided valuable assistance to them.

On the campus in those days Professor Broderick was Mr. Law School. Everybody knew Jack. Invariably he was the Law School representative on University-wide committees on such things as Graduation Exercises or Special Convocations. He was a member of a small group of faculty members from across the University who succeeded in founding, and securing recognition for, a Phi Beta Kappa chapter at Notre Dame. He served as its president for a term. He co-chaired with Father Mark Fitzgerald of the Economics Department the Annual

Union-Management Conference at Notre Dame. He and his wife, Louise, loved their active life at Notre Dame.

When Professor Broderick turned sixty-five, the University had a policy of mandatory retirement. With strong Law School support, he sought unsuccessfully a special full-time reappointment to the faculty. Failing that, he helped found a new law school at Campbell University, a 100 year old Baptist school in North Carolina. He enjoyed his years at Campbell and in return was greatly appreciated. He finally retired in 1992 at which time the John J. Broderick Seminar Room was dedicated in his honor.

Professor Broderick and his wife, Louise, then returned to their first love, Notre Dame. Though retired, he continued his service to his colleagues and the University as an elected Retiree Representative on the Faculty Senate. He died while serving in that capacity.

Professor Broderick's long life at Notre Dame was one of joyful service—first to his beloved students, then to his fellow faculty members, multitudes of friends, and the University he revered.

