2-1-1980

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In Memoriam

Judge Harold Leventhal

United States Court of Appeals
for the
District of Columbia Circuit

1915 - 1979
JUDGE HAROLD LEVENTHAL

The death of Judge Harold Leventhal not only deprived the legal community of one of its most distinguished jurists but deprived Notre Dame Law School of a very special friend.

Although his relationship with the Law School was for only a short period, it was marked by mutual warmth and respect. Judge Leventhal first came to Notre Dame in the spring of 1978 as the first Distinguished Judicial Visitor of the Thomas J. and Alberta White Center for Law, Government and Human Rights and as the Chief Judge for the finals of the Moot Court Competition. No one better exemplified the values which the White Center was designed to foster than Judge Leventhal, who combined the keenest of intellects with a profound sensitivity to human rights and values. The students who appeared in the Moot Court Competition learned the delights of oral argument before a judge who regarded the process not merely as a forum for lively debate but also as a vehicle for the mutual search for truth.

Judge Leventhal resumed his relationship with Notre Dame last summer when he accepted an invitation to teach Administrative Law in our Summer Law Program conducted at the London School of Economics. He brought to his class not only his encyclopedic knowledge of the administrative process but, through the liveliness of his teaching, caused the classroom to crackle with intellectual excitement.

He was the most knowledgeable of men. He fulfilled his role as judge with a combination of scholarship and sensitivity. He was an outstanding lawyer, distinguished scholar, stimulating teacher, dedicated public servant and a man of warmth, wit and a very special grace.

His death creates a void in the community of scholars and jurists. Fortunately, his written words remain as a heritage for all of us who love the law.

We here at Notre Dame who knew him greatly mourn his passing.

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