PROFESSOR JOHN J. REGAN

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Our deep sadness over Professor John Regan’s sudden illness and unexpected passing is only sharpened by the recognition of his many contributions to our profession and to our law school community. Of course, it is clear that Professor Regan chose a form of very active professional citizenship. His distinctive professional history spans more than thirty-five years. He earned three degrees from the Columbia University Law School, receiving his J.D. degree in 1960, an LL.M in 1971, and, finally, a J.S.D. in 1977.

After taking his first law degree, Professor Regan became a university administrator at St. John’s University, eventually serving as the Dean of the St. John’s Colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences from 1962 to 1968. In 1968, he joined the St. John’s law faculty on a full-time basis where he remained until 1970 when he was appointed a Ford Urban Law Fellow at Columbia. From 1971 to 1978 he was a member of the law faculty of the University of Maryland, and in 1978, he became the Dean of the Hofstra University Law School. In 1982, Professor Regan resigned as Dean and returned to full-time teaching and scholarship. Shortly thereafter, he was appointed the Jack and Freda Dicker Distinguished Professor of Health Care Law at our law school.

During his productive and diverse career, Professor Regan was a highly respected teacher of various subjects that reflected both a

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continuing interest in certain traditional or "core" courses like Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure and a strong commitment to newer offerings with special contemporary importance like Bioethics and the Law, Health Law, and, of course, Law and Aging. Moreover, Professor Regan was a creative scholar who published four books during the last very productive ten years of his career. In addition to *Your Legal Rights in Later Life* (1989), *The Aged Client and the Law* (1990), and *Tax, Estate and Financial Planning for the Elderly: Forms and Practice* (1991, with Michael Gilfix), Professor Regan wrote his pioneering and very successful *Tax, Estate and Financial Planning for the Elderly* in 1985, followed by twenty up-dating supplements, the most recent to be published posthumously.

Professor Regan's numerous articles, book chapters, and reviews, in addition to his books, also reflected a variety of interests in such subjects as the government regulation of nursing homes, pension rights, elder abuse, the withholding of life support from the elderly, and, ironically, the legal concerns of cancer patients. He was also increasingly in demand as a speaker, workshop participant, and committee member and leader. At various times, Professor Regan served with distinction, to name only a few positions, as the Chair of the Coordinating Group on Bioethics and the Law of the American Bar Association, the Chair of the Committee on Bioethical Issues of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, a member of the New York State Task Force on Life and the Law and the Chair of its Committee on Health Care Decisions, the Vice-Chair of the American Bar Association Commission on Legal Problems of the Elderly and, not least, as the Chair of the Section on Aging and the Law of the Association of American Law Schools.

Finally, it is especially appropriate to note Professor Regan's continuing leadership role in the Hofstra Law School community. At the time of his death, he was actively planning a new Health Law Institute at the law school that had already attracted significant support and widespread professional interest. Professor Regan's unmistakable civility and his equally unmistakable professional energy combined to generate the deep respect of his peers and frequent demands for his leadership. While he must have tired of my regular requests that he chair important law school committees, I never tired of asking him. In short, he was a man to rely upon not only for his ability to get things done but for his regularly wise perspectives on important problems.

He also knew how to keep his colleagues and students alert to the challenges of the future. In a message from then Dean Regan, included in our 1979 yearbook, he asked yearbook readers to engage in a
necessary process of future self-examination:

How have your ideals of serving others survived over the years? How conscientious are you in promoting your client's interests, and not just your own? How often do you represent poor clients? Have you undertaken any public service activity because the project was good and necessary, and not just because it brought you publicity?

Have the intellectual ideals formed in law school been maintained? Are you still able to see the other side of a question? Can you disagree without taking personal affront? Are you open to new ideas? Do you still think through a problem, or do you resort to old solutions developed years ago?

Does the law still command your respect? Has familiarity with the persons who administer it jaded your enthusiasm for our legal system?*

Of course, Professor Regan knew that this list of unsettling questions was merely suggestive, not exhaustive. He also knew the importance of inspiring others to keep the professional faith. Small wonder, then, that the Hofstra Law School community now mourns his loss while celebrating his life and many contributions.
