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In Tribute to William L. Lamey

*Charles R. Purcell**

In June, 1979, Loyola University conferred upon William L. Lamey the title "Professor Emeritus," thus formally recognizing his distinguished career of more than thirty years of service to Loyola University.

Professor Lamey's association with Loyola began when he attended Loyola Academy, then located on the Lake Shore Campus of the University. He continued on to the College of Arts and Sciences (Ph.B. '36) and the School of Law (J.D. '39). After beginning his legal career as an attorney with the Standard Accident Insurance Co., he served in the U.S. Army Tank Corps in the European theatre. After World War II he joined the legal department of Montgomery Ward & Co. In 1946 Dean John C. Fitzgerald recruited him for the law faculty.

It required an act of faith to join the law faculty at that time. The School had closed during the War, and for a time there had been doubt whether it would reopen. Dean Fitzgerald persuaded the President of the University, however, to allocate one floor of the recently acquired Lewis Towers building to the School. With a handful of full-time faculty and a modest library, the School reopened to admit a horde of returning G.I.'s. These students were impatient to complete their education, and the school responded by offering an accelerated program which operated year 'round, enabling students to earn a law degree in about two years.

Despite these unusual conditions, the faculty dedicated themselves to excellence in legal education. Emphasizing strong classroom teaching and a close personal relationship with students, they imposed rigorous standards on themselves and on their students. Professor Lamey proved to be an ideal person for that environment. He brought to the classroom a sharp and precise intellect, thorough knowledge of the law, and an exceptionally orderly style of presentation. He also brought qualities of patience,

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humility, and good humor that earned him the highest respect of his students.

Professor Lamey taught Torts, Criminal Law, and Corporations, but he is best known for his classes in commercial law. Having been active in the drafting of the Uniform Commercial Code, he offered at Loyola one of the first law school courses to integrate Sales, Negotiable Instruments, and Secured Transactions into a single course structured around the Code. While it would be an exaggeration to say that he made these complex subjects "easy," his expertise and his clear manner of presentation made it possible for Loyola students to solve the myriad of Code mysteries and to practice successfully in the commercial law field.

In 1967, Professor Lamey succeeded John Cornelius Hayes as Dean of the School of Law. At that time legal education was beginning to experience the rapid growth that characterized the 1970's, and Dean Lamey directed the first stages of expansion of the faculty and the facilities necessary to cope with this growth. Also during his administration the School began publication of the *Loyola Law Journal*. In 1970 he relinquished the deanship and returned to full-time teaching.

The Loyola School of Law community is deeply indebted to Professor Lamey for his immeasurable contribution to the School during a critical period in its history. To his students he has been an outstanding professor, an exemplar of professional competence and demeanor, and a caring human being. To his faculty colleagues he has been a valued friend, confidant, and leader. To many among the University community he has been an advisor and counsellor. Among his many contributions to that community were eighteen years of service as General Counsel of the University and even longer as a member of the committee which oversees the University Retirement Plan.

On behalf of the faculty, students, and staff of the School of Law, we dedicate this issue of the *Journal* to Professor William L. Lamey as a token of our heartfelt thanks to him for having served so long and so well, and as an expression of our good wishes for good health and a long and enjoyable retirement.