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## A Tribute to Jack Hyman

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## A TRIBUTE TO JACK HYMAN

LOUIS A. DEL COTTO\*

When I was asked to write a dedication to Jack Hyman for this commemorative issue of the *Buffalo Law Review*, my initial reaction was to be struck by the awesomeness of the task. How does one pay tribute to one of Buffalo Law School's preeminent scholars, teachers and leaders without sounding platitudinal, and perhaps embarrassing both himself and his subject? So I decided to personalize it. What does Jack Hyman mean to me? I have been fortunate to know Jack as a teacher, dean, scholar and colleague.\*\* Always, always, he has been an example of the true professional—a person of intelligence, tolerance, dedication and vision.

As a teacher, I saw Jack as the *noble exemplar*. No one commanded more respect from the students, not only for his knowledge and wisdom, but for the gentle, probing manner in which he challenged his students to share his learning. I shall never forget being called on in a constitutional law class for which I was not as prepared as I should have been; I felt I had let Jack down and never again did that.

Since graduating from this school, I have continued my professional and personal association with Jack. When I was a practitioner he, as dean, gave me my first opportunity to teach. Having left law practice to join the regular faculty, Jack helped me immensely with his counsel, patience, and most of all his friendship, through some rather trying years. This is Jack's way. Without being intrusive, domineering, or even very directive, Jack is able to inspire people to do their best work. He does this as much by his own example as with his counsel and guidance. The shape and quality of the law school also very much reflects Jack's efforts and guidance over the years. As dean, he brought the school through

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\*\* I will not dwell on Jack's excellent and continuing scholarship since it has been well chronicled by Professor Wade Newhouse. See Newhouse, *A Dedication to J.D. Hyman*, 21 *BUFFALO L. REV.* 311, 312 (1972). See also Hyman, *Constitutional Jurisprudence and the Teaching of Constitutional Law*, 28 *STANFORD L. REV.* 1271 (1976).

some very lean years prior to the merger with SUNY while striving always to maintain Buffalo's reputation for quality legal education.

After helping to facilitate the merger, Jack left the deanship to return to the classroom full-time, where he continued his efforts to improve and serve his school, his students and his colleagues. And one could not ask more, or even as much, from a colleague than Jack has given. He is selfless with his time and energy, willing to step in and teach a needed course, whether it be procedure or torts, even when it takes him away from his primary interests and requires a staggering investment of time and effort. And Jack continues to do more than his fair share of committee work, to participate in faculty seminars and discussions, and to counsel and help students.

Always serving the law school and its constituency with scholarship, leadership, good humor, immense energy, and full understanding and tolerance of differing viewpoints, Jack has earned the respect of colleagues, students and staff. I am fortunate to count myself among them and like them I hope Jack does not leave us soon. When he does, he will take with him a significant part of the Buffalo Law School, together with the gratitude and thanks of all who remain or were fortunate enough to pass his way. The accomplishments he has left behind will remain as a testament to his abilities and his dedication to his profession.