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# A Sprig of Laurel for Chief Judge Redmann

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From the standpoint of a civil-law scholar, Professor A.N. Yiannopoulos, W.R. Irby Professor of Law at Tulane University, offered the following:

As a law professor, Judge Redmann has taught a generation of Louisiana lawyers to respect and cherish the Louisiana civilian heritage and has contributed important monographs that have enriched the Louisiana legal literature. His pioneering work on the Public Records Doctrine has streamlined the jurisprudence and doctrine and has inspired those charged with the revision of the Louisiana Civil Code. His expertise has also guided the Obligations Committee of the Louisiana State Law Institute of which he served as a member. From the Bench, Judge Redmann contributed solid and sound decisions in all fields of law. In fields of the civil law, his opinions display a profound sensitivity to the goal of achieving a fair and just solution in the framework of civilian judicial technique and methodology. If, as Professor Rene David has said, the differences between the Civil Law and Common Law are essentially reduced to *style*, Judge Redmann leaves a legacy as a great civilian stylist. His opinions are brief, and his laconism exemplary. His sentences are sculptured, and the conclusion is the convincing end of the syllogistic process expressed in epigrams.

Finally, Paul E. Baier, a professor of constitutional law at Louisiana State University and a dear friend of Bill's, expresses "A Sprig of Laurel for Chief Judge Redmann":

The other day I heard a plodding lawyer say that a certain opinion of the Chief's was cryptic. What this uninspired mind failed to grasp was the hand of a master at his art. An opinion should be quasi-oral utterance, not an encyclopedia of regurgitation. If I may avouch Holmes as witness: "the bench and the Bar have the right to expect of each other that they should assume their discourse to be directed to master's of the business."<sup>1</sup>

Bill Redmann's tall figure, his lean style, and his boyish wit have always reminded me of Holmes. The Old Man himself was once accused of judicial obfuscation by a complaining law clerk. "There is not a man in a thousand who will understand your opinion," carped the clerk. Holmes shot back: "Sonny, I write for that man."

The judge we crown with laurel this Spring day always directed

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1. O.W. HOLMES, *Remarks to the Essex Bar* (ca. 1880), in *THE OCCASIONAL SPEECHES OF JUSTICE OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES* 48, 50 (M.D. Howe ed. 1962).

himself to masters of the business, a rare trait—if I may say so—for which he deserves high praise.

Judge Redmann, we thank you for all that you have done for the judiciary and for our profession, in its education and practice, and we extend our best wishes for happiness and good health in your retirement.