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Citation of Chief Justice John B. Fournet for the Degree of Doctor of Laws

(By Professor Harriet S. Daggett on behalf of the Louisiana State University Law School)

John B. Fournet was born and reared in Louisiana. His fine heritage is easily traced to Alsace Lorraine. His courage, determination, and indefatigable purpose in the face of great and, to those of lesser spirit, insurmountable obstacles were demonstrated when he was a very young man. These qualities are particularly well known to the citizens of the community which he has lived to honor. They gave their loyalty and support to him before his wide recognition, during his long and difficult climbing of the ladder of his choice from which to serve his people, and since his arrival, not at the peak, for he will go further, but at a very high point of eminence. It is rare indeed, and a distinct tribute when a man is recognized by those who have known him longest and best. Thus, John B. Fournet is cited for his office as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Louisiana. This high place is not awarded by appointment. It is attained by having been elected and re-elected by the people. That Justice who has served the greatest number of years becomes the Chief by seniority.

Chief Justice Fournet is cited for his infinite patience and devotion to the cause of judicial administration. He has established this so necessary order in the State of Louisiana. He has been recognized in the nation, and abroad, as a leader in this matter of deep concern to people everywhere.

Chief Justice Fournet is cited for his leadership in legal education. He has given of his time and his scholarship and his energy to help bar associations, institutes, law schools to appreciate in the deep and fundamental sense of that word, the responsibility of a lawyer in embryo to his instructor, in emergence to the court, to his client, to his state and nation, and to his conscience in his dedication to honor and justice.

Chief Justice Fournet is cited for his signal and unusual contribution to the jurisprudence of this state and to other states

and nations which look to Louisiana for guidance, as many do. There is recognized a creative art in jurisprudence, for which only a chosen few have the talent and dedication to perfect. Only a lesser few are presented with a blank monolith upon which to carve a face which may be looked upon forever as a guide and inspiration to those who seek justice under the law.

Without subtracting in any way from other contributions to jurisprudence made by this jurist, emphasis must be placed upon his creative art in the patient and continuous sculpture of the law of mineral rights. He had few measurements and perhaps even within his own mind and heart little knowledge of the size of the gigantic structure which he built so slowly and painstakingly. Always he proceeded with justice in his heart and in his mind an adaptation of the edifice to the firm foundation of the established law upon which to found the needs of the people. Only the members of his chosen profession, perhaps, know this contribution to the welfare of all — under the shelter of which the citizens are comfortably living.

For these visible manifestations of his contributions to humanity, his University and his Law School cite John B. Fournet for the rarely given and closely guarded highest honor conferable — the Doctor of Laws.