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**HECTOR CURRIE**

## DEDICATION

A true southerner, Professor Hector Currie was born in Meridian, Mississippi, in August of 1917 and completed his undergraduate education in his home state in 1938, when the University of Mississippi granted him a Bachelor of Arts degree. His legal education began with a trip to England as an American Rhodes Scholar. After receiving a degree in jurisprudence from St. John's College in Oxford, he returned to the United States to enter Yale Law School. In 1942 he received his Juris Doctor degree from that institution and then served in the Navy during World War II. Admitted to the bar in Georgia in 1946, Professor Currie practiced law there for one year. He then returned to Oxford to continue his studies of the law as a Rhodes Scholar. In 1948 he was awarded a Master of Arts degree in jurisprudence from Oxford University.

Upon his return to the United States, he began his teaching career in 1948 as Associate Professor of Law at the University of Mississippi. While there, he wrote extensively on jurisprudence and sales. He was promoted to Professor in 1952. In 1963 he joined the LSU Law School faculty, where he was soon recognized as a well-established star in the teaching constellation. Recently he was acclaimed favorite professor because of his outstanding service to the student body, and a silver bowl thus engraved was presented to him. It is hard to think of a higher distinction for a teacher.

Hector has excelled in certain areas where the law is dry and tightly cut, as in bankruptcy. Yet, such is the endowment of his intellect as to allow him to channel the same excellence through diverse endeavors. Indeed, since the time of his early collegian choices Hector has engaged in a passionate romance with the English language and its incomparable literature. This is readily confirmed by a glance around his fourth floor office where law books line one wall, but books of a very different nature line another. That may help to explain why it was so easy for Hector to excel where the law naturally flows from history, as in common law property, or where the law transforms itself into a heated debate on paramount values, as in constitutional law, or where legal science merges with compassion, common sense and poetry, as in equity. Hector's mastery of the law of equity, with its many overtones sounding in early civil law, has carved for him a unique place among teachers of the law in Louisiana, where the civil law sounds richer because of its common law overtones. Because of that mastery, I have often-times defined Hector as an undercover civilian.

Hector is a rare exception in the context of American law professors. In his company, talking law is neither a necessity nor a last resort. From Evelyn Waugh, through southern politics, and across the stock market, I cannot think of anything that escapes his perception. A brilliant conversationalist, his skill at that almost-extinguished art is not a lesser one among his many achievements.

Professor Currie's retirement I deem something for this school to regret. It is comforting to know, however, that, in a different office, he will still be available to students and colleagues, always ready to enlighten those who call on him with a question about the law, the English language, the death of kings.

*Saul Litvinoff*  
*Professor of Law*