

11-1-2001

Dedication of Louisiana Law Review, Volume 62, Issue 1, to Professor Lee Hargrave

Katherine Shaw Spaht
katherine.spaht@law.lsu.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.law.lsu.edu/lalrev>



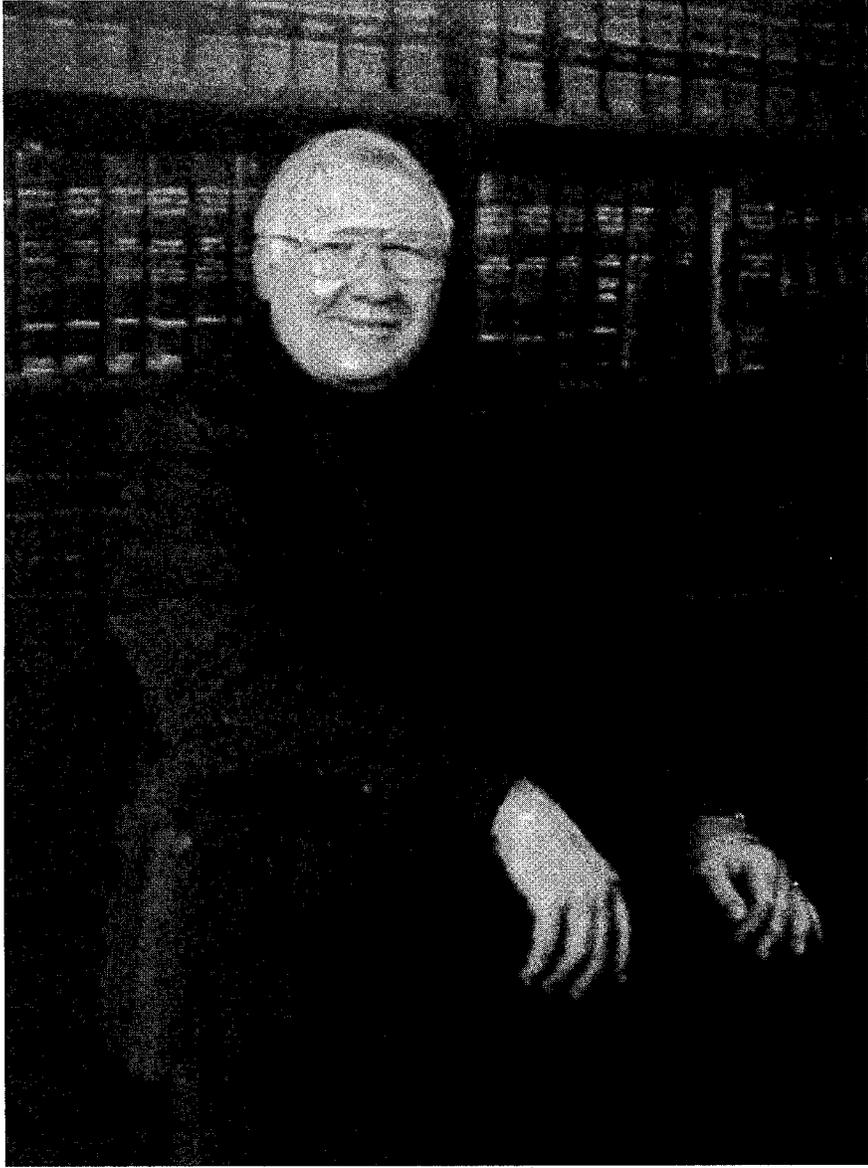
Part of the Law Commons

Repository Citation

Katherine Shaw Spaht, *Dedication of Louisiana Law Review, Volume 62, Issue 1, to Professor Lee Hargrave*, 62 La. L. Rev. (2001)

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.law.lsu.edu/lalrev/vol62/iss1/3>

This Front Matter is brought to you for free and open access by the Law Reviews and Journals at LSU Law Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Louisiana Law Review by an authorized editor of LSU Law Digital Commons. For more information, please contact kreed25@lsu.edu.



Dedication of Louisiana Law Review, Volume 62, Issue 1, to Professor Lee Hargrave

*Katherine Shaw Spaht**

Professor Lee Hargrave had an extraordinary tenure at the LSU Law Center, thirty-three years as a professor that began the very same year he graduated. No doubt because of his exceptional ability demonstrated while a student at the Law School, Dean Paul M. Hebert and the faculty recognized his promise and had confidence in his ability to develop his remarkable talents. They offered him a teaching position beginning the fall semester following his May graduation. Lee did not disappoint them.

As a teacher, he was exceptional—incisive, rigorous, probing, analytical, an extremely disciplined thinker. I can attest to his ability as a teacher because the second class I attended at the LSU law Center in the fall of 1968 was Civil Law Property taught by Professor Hargrave; the course was taught during the first semester of the freshman year and accounted for four hours of a freshman's sixteen-hour load. I had the opportunity to compare his teaching style with all of my other professors during the ensuing three years and although he was the youngest and least experienced, he was among the very best. And, he always enjoyed his students—genuinely enjoyed spending time with them, relaxing with them, and keeping up contact with them after graduation.

But extraordinary teaching was not his only contribution. Lee, unlike so many of his own professors, was a prolific scholar. His publications, beginning with his first symposium article published in the *Louisiana Law Review*, have covered a wide range of disparate subject matters—United States and Louisiana constitutional law, criminal law, property law, community property law. He has served the profession, especially in this state, extremely well. His writing, like his teaching, is disciplined, clear, logical, and goes directly to the essential point. Furthermore, he completed each scholastic effort ahead of deadline and with a clean desk at the end of each day.

Lee also gave generously and often to our collegial, cooperative life—accepting tasks in the form of the chairmanship of committees, perennial law review advisor, author of law center publications, and his most recent project—a history of the law school. Often thankless tasks Lee assumed, but he did so willingly as a form of service to us, the institution, and the state he loves. Among his most essential responsibilities was to serve as institutional historian—facts not to be

Copyright 2001, by LOUISIANA LAW REVIEW.

* Jules F. & Frances L. Landry Professor of Law, Louisiana State University.

published in his latest project—but discharged by his unrivaled collection of faculty minutes and committee reports, complete with reliable indices. He served as our institutional faculty memory.

The state he loves owes Lee an enormous debt of gratitude for his greatest and most enduring legacy—other than the legacy of thirty-three years of well-trained lawyers—the Louisiana Constitution of 1974. No other single person had greater influence over that document than Lee Hargrave. It stands as proof of his ability to direct an overwhelmingly complex legal research and drafting project, stay on task, manage strong personalities and their politics, and earn the respect of all those who participated in the Constitutional Convention. If the 1974 Louisiana Constitution lasts as long as its predecessor, Lee's legacy will be a living one until at least 2027.

How many law professors will leave such an indelible mark of having lived in, worked and served our institution and the people of the state who financially supported our individual efforts? I salute my friend and colleague, Professor Lee Hargrave, for a job well done.