

Ira S. Flory Memorial

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Speech - Annals of ⁸⁸
Mr. Flory's portrait -
Law Library -
Thurs. Sept. 14, 1950

DEAN MCMAHON, my colleagues of the Law Faculty, students of the Law School of Louisiana State University:

We gather today in sorrow but with ^{reverent} pride to honor ^{the memory of an honored} a departed colleague whose professional lustre cast a glow which neither time nor passing can ^{erase} and teachers whose passing has left a great void whose passing is a loss from ^{or} ^{dim.} His passing leaves a void and creates a loss from which this Law School will neither soon nor ever recover - whose name has throughout its entire history been associated with the most valued traditions of the Law School; ^{his} whose teaching and whose example will never be forgotten by those ~~who~~ privileged to sit at his feet as students.

The great mathematical physicist, Albert Einstein, ~~was~~ asked to define success, stated simply: "Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile."

Tested by that definition, Professor Ira S. Flory's life was the epitome of the life-worth-while. He truly lived for others - for his family, for his students, for his friends, for the institutional success of the Law School to which he gave a lifehood of professional distinction; for the cause of education which he ^{found} ~~selected~~ with eminent success, ^{as his} ~~in the cause of~~ service to others ~~which was a~~ ~~passion with him.~~ whom he trained and taught to uphold the integrity, the justice and the majesty of the law.

It is ~~hard~~ ^{seems out of keeping} to speak of Professor Flory with flowery words for we knew him as a man of ^{deep} humility and simplicity; - one who was never wont to encourage the ostentatious; one whose rugged honesty, sincerity of purpose and strong character taught lessons related to life which went far beyond the ^{casebook} ~~textbook~~ and which moulded indelibly the character of students subjected to the rigorous mental discipline and ^{the code of} moral values of which his life and work were the exemplification.

Ira S. Flory was born at Bridgewater, Rockingham County, Virginia, August 24, 1883. It was characteristic of him and typical of his ^{deep} sense of loyalty - that he ^{could} ~~never~~ ^{lose} ~~lost~~ the feeling of being a Virginian, proud of his native State and of its numerous contributions to the early history of ^{our} ~~this~~ Nation. His early collegiate education was received at Mt. Morris College, Mount Morris, Illinois,

from which institution he received the Bachelor of Arts degree in 1907. That he was destined for a teaching career became evident even in his ^{early} days as an undergraduate student. He so distinguished himself that he was selected during his junior and senior years in college to serve as an instructor of mathematics. ~~at the College.~~ But, for him, the law had its ^{strong} attraction. Accordingly, he matriculated ~~as a student~~ in the Law Department of the University of Virginia ^{where he studied} ~~when he was a student~~ under such distinguished ~~teachers~~ teachers as Dobie and Minor. It was a compliment to his legal abilities and to his scholarship when he was designated as Instructor in Law at the University of Virginia immediately following his graduation. For three years - 1909-1912, he devoted himself to teaching law at ^{Virginia} ~~his alma mater~~. The Law School of Louisiana State University was a swaddling legal infant only six years of age when Ira S. Flory decided in 1912 to leave Virginia and his alma mater to accept a full professorship of Law at L.S.U. It was a most fortunate association for this institution and one which was destined to be maintained with only a two years' interruption from 1917 to 1919, during which period he practiced law in New York City and entered the Military Service during World War I. For thirty-six years, he taught in this Law School. Teaching was a passion with him. He was twice called upon to serve as the acting dean - a call he accepted only out of his sense of duty to the Law School for he much preferred his teaching to ~~any~~ other educational duties and his judgment concerning the area in which he wished to serve has been amply vindicated through the years in the lives of the successful lawyers, ^{members of the bench} graduates of this law school, who were the beneficiaries of his devotion to teaching. The record will show that during his thirty-six years of service, he never once took a leave ~~of absence~~ and his service was unbroken save for brief absences occasioned by his later illness. As a teacher, the subjects he covered during his long career are numerous and ranged over the entire scope of the common law curriculum.

To the students who have passed through this Law School in the past twenty-five years, he will always be particularly remembered for the exceptionally high quality of his teaching) in Bankruptcy, Federal Procedure, Evidence and Negotiable

and has out of the teaching profession

Instruments. His ability at clarity of exposition, I have never seen or known to be equalled by any classroom exponent of the law. *His sense of humor and his illustrative anecdotes designed always to emphasise the case in point -*

Of Mr. Flory, the teacher, much more might be said. One might also dwell upon his intensely human qualities. *His devotion to his wife family.* His interest in his students - his activity in the professional organization to which he contributed so much. (But his works are

became a legend in the law school

well known in the hearts of all of us who ~~admired~~, admired, respected, and loved him for *his splendid* all of these qualities.

Properly has he been called the "Father of the Law Library" because the growth of the library from a book collection of less than 3,000 volumes, when he joined the Faculty in 1912, into one of the largest university law libraries in the South was made possible through his efforts. When the law school needed money to reach the goal of 5,000 volumes necessary to have the Law School accredited by the Association of American Law Schools, Professor Flory took his car in the summer of 1924 and travelled from one end of Louisiana to the other, calling personally upon the alumni explaining the need for a larger law library. His efforts in obtaining contributions from the alumni made the necessary purchases possible. Thus, the foundations of our present Law Library and the accredited status the School now enjoys can be attributed to Professor Flory. *\$ 50,000*

Over a decade ago, Professor Flory, still in his prime, had a photograph made which was a remarkable likeness. Professor Daggett prevailed upon him to permit its being tinted *appropriately* and framed. She then conspired with me, as Dean of the Law School, to beg Professor Flory to allow the picture to be hung in the second year class room. Typical of his modesty and umility was his refusal. Grudgingly, *however* he consented to allow Mrs. Daggett to hang it in her office - but not until he had written an inscription on the back, making clear *it* his wish that *it* was not to be publicly displayed, but was to be kept in her office. After he was gone, ~~it~~ *he said* ~~it~~, it "might" - (he chose the word "might" deliberately) be hung elsewhere in the Law School. Today, we fittingly gather formally to present that picture to the

Law School.

(Pull the cord)

"Professor Flory - Your life ~~has not been in vain~~ has been one of inspiration and of service to the cause of legal education in Louisiana. Your career has reflected honor upon this Law School and upon the profession of the law; ^{for 36 years} your integrity and character have been beacons of influential light, affecting ^{starts} ~~others~~ mightily by precept and example. Into the care of the greater Law Library which you founded, we, the Faculty and the students of the L.S.U. Law School, place this likeness of you, confident in the realization that as long as the Law School of this University shall ^{endure} ~~last~~, your name and your life-work shall ever be revered ^{as a proud} ~~as part of the~~ heritage of the School; confident also that the memory of your accomplishments will be lasting in their influence and will have ^{continued impact} ~~upon generations yet to pass through~~ these portals ^{with us} ~~as~~ beneficiaries of the work to which you gave your life, ^{of law students}