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## Tribute to Professor Calvin William Sharpe

Jonathan L. Entin

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academy and his wider professional world now, at his retirement, give deserved tribute to Calvin William Sharpe.

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*Jonathan L. Entin*<sup>†</sup>

Calvin William Sharpe, the Galen J. Roush Professor of Law, has retired after thirty years on our faculty. These are among the most difficult words I have ever written. We met during my interview, which took place during his first semester at Case Western Reserve University, and our conversation that day began a deep friendship that has shaped my outlook on the law, legal education, and life. Calvin is retiring only because physical problems make that step necessary, but his mind remains as strong as ever.

Calvin helped me learn my craft. He read drafts, taught me a lot about teaching, and helped me surmount the insecurities that afflict junior faculty. He set me straight on a few occasions, but he did so in a way that conveyed not only his disappointment that I had gone astray but also his confidence that my missteps were aberrations. I haven't always agreed with Calvin, but even our differences helped me learn and grow.

An expert in labor and employment issues, Calvin founded the law school's Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Conflict and Dispute Resolution (CISCDR, pronounced like "sister") and served as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Among his publications are a leading text in labor law<sup>1</sup> and a pioneering casebook on international labor law.<sup>2</sup> He also has written numerous book chapters and articles<sup>3</sup> and taught a wide variety of courses and seminars in the fields of evidence, labor law, and dispute resolution.

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<sup>†</sup> Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (School of Law), David L. Brennan Professor of Law, and Professor of Political Science, Case Western Reserve University.

1. DOUGLAS E. RAY, CALVIN WILLIAM SHARPE & ROBERT N. STRASSFELD, UNDERSTANDING LABOR LAW (3d ed. 2011).
2. JAMES ATLESON, LANCE COMPA, KERRY RITTICH, CALVIN WILLIAM SHARPE & MARLEY S. WEISS, INTERNATIONAL LABOR LAW: CASES AND MATERIALS ON WORKERS' RIGHTS IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY (2008).
3. See, e.g., Calvin W. Sharpe, *Two-Step Balancing and the Admissibility of Other Crimes Evidence: A Sliding Scale of Proof*, 59 NOTRE DAME L. REV. 556 (1984); Calvin William Sharpe, *Judicial Review of Arbitration Awards Under the New South Africa Labour Relations Act of 1995*, 33 CASE W. RES. J. INT'L L. 277 (2001); see also Laura J. Cooper, *Tribute to Professor Calvin William Sharpe*, 64 CASE W. RES. L. REV. 1 (2013) (citing numerous other works by Professor Sharpe).

Calvin also took the lead on many programs that contributed to the law school's vibrancy. One of CISCOR's first speakers was Maya Angelou, and the center sponsored a wide range of lectures and conferences on reconciliation and other forms of dispute resolution featuring law professors, lawyers, social scientists, and humanities scholars. And before CISCOR was established, he organized remarkable symposia about the National War Labor Board<sup>4</sup> and on public sector labor law<sup>5</sup> for the *Case Western Reserve Law Review*.

Calvin came to Case Western Reserve in 1983 from the University of Virginia. He also taught at Arizona State University, DePaul University, George Washington University, the University of Minnesota, and Wake Forest University, among other places.<sup>6</sup> He has held leadership positions in the Association of American Law Schools, the National Academy of Arbitrators, the International Society of Labor and Social Security Law, the Public Sector Labor Relations Association, the Greater Cleveland Roundtable, WCPN Cleveland Public Radio, and JustPeace Center for Mediation and Conflict Transformation. He also is a distinguished arbitrator who has heard many cases involving major corporations, professional sports leagues (including the National Basketball Association and the National Football League), and federal, state, and local agencies. Moreover, he played an active role in developing post-apartheid South Africa's system of resolving labor disputes.

A graduate of Clark College in Atlanta and Northwestern University School of Law, where he was an editor of the *Northwestern University Law Review*, Calvin clerked for the late Judge Hubert L. Will of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, practiced with a respected Chicago labor and employment firm, and was a trial attorney for the National Labor Relations Board before beginning his academic career. Between college and law school, he held a fellowship at Oberlin College, taught history in the New York City public schools, and obtained a master's degree from the Chicago Theological Seminary. Indeed, knowing how Calvin came to the law can help us understand the seemingly diverse strands of his academic career: underlying his work in labor and employment law, evidence,

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4. Symposium, *An Oral History of the National War Labor Board and Critical Issues in the Development of Modern Grievance Arbitration*, 39 CASE W. RES. L. REV. 505 (1988-89).
  5. *The Ohio Public Sector Collective Bargaining Law: First Anniversary Colloquium*, 35 CASE W. RES. L. REV. 345 (1984-85).
  6. Many of these positions were visitorships that Calvin took to spend more time with his wife, Jan, an accomplished lawyer in her own right. Jan has had many professional opportunities around the country, and Calvin has always been very supportive of her career. Despite the inconveniences that this entailed, he always retained his connections to our law school.

and dispute resolution is an optimistic yet sophisticated view of humanity and of the necessity for resolving conflicts in a way that allows “people of fundamentally differing views”<sup>7</sup> to respect each other despite their disagreements.

These biographical details suggest Calvin Sharpe’s extraordinary range of interests and experience, but those represent only a small part of his contributions to the law school. Beyond his high profile in the academy, in the nation, and around the world, Calvin has always been a source of wisdom and good counsel. He has been a generous friend and colleague on whom we could always count to find a sensible path through difficult terrain.

How someone deals with adversity can be very revealing, and Calvin Sharpe has taught us all some important lessons in recent years. Health problems gradually robbed him of the ability to speak, but he has faced these challenges with courage and grace. We will miss this extraordinary person who has meant so much to so many. Words are inadequate to thank him for everything he has done for us. Those of us who have been privileged to work with Calvin as a colleague and to count him as a friend wish him, his beloved Jan, and the rest of the family only the best in his retirement.

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*Douglas E. Ray†*

I have known Calvin Sharpe and admired his work and character for over twenty-five years. It is my privilege to be his friend and an honor for me to be part of this tribute.

As someone who has now been the dean of three law schools, I have formed an opinion on the attributes of an ideal faculty member. Calvin Sharpe is that person. He is an expert, has a national and international reputation for excellence, has an agenda to make the world a better place, is an insightful teacher and clear communicator, and is a caring and trusted human being.

As a fellow labor lawyer, labor law writer, and labor arbitrator, I know just how great an impact Calvin has had on the law of labor relations. His work as a federal clerk, a lawyer in private practice, and an NLRB trial attorney who worked on some of the most formative cases of modern labor law prepared him well for his career as an outstanding teacher and scholar in the fields of evidence, labor law, employment law, and dispute resolution. After becoming a law

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7. *Lochner v. New York*, 198 U.S. 45, 76 (1905) (Holmes, J., dissenting).

† Dean and Professor of Law, University of St. Thomas School of Law; Member, National Academy of Arbitrators.