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Tribute to Professor Calvin William Sharpe

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board member of JustPeace Center for Mediation and Conflict Transformation. At Case Western, he created and led the Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Conflict and Dispute Resolution (CISC DR). As the director of CISC DR, Calvin greatly enriched the intellectual life of the law school, the university, and the Cleveland community by recruiting a remarkable array of both scholars and practitioners of alternative dispute resolution. True to the mission of CISC DR, Calvin drew speakers from a wide array of disciplines and experiences. Finally, within the law school, his has been a calm voice that always seeks resolution and reconciliation. In the twenty-five-plus years that I have known him, I have never heard him raise his voice in anger.

The rabbinic sages of the Talmud chose to end the Tractate Berakoth with a discussion of how scholars increase peace in the world.¹⁴ Rabbi Eleazar, teaching in the name of Rabbi Hanina, considered a passage from the Prophet Isaiah, who wrote that “all thy children shall be taught of the Lord, and great shall be the peace of thy children.”¹⁵ Drawing on rabbinical technique of wordplay, Rabbi Eleazar noted that the Hebrew roots for the words “children” and “builders” are the same and argued that by substituting builders for children one sees that scholars are builders of peace.¹⁶ The rabbis could have been describing Calvin Sharpe. Through his scholarship, his service, his teaching, and his example, he has been a builder of peace.

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Samuel C. Thompson, Jr.[†]

I will leave to others who are writing as part of this tribute to Professor Calvin William Sharpe[†] the discussion of the significant contributions he has made to the legal community generally, to legal scholarship, to the law-teaching enterprise, and to Case Western

14. THE BABYLONIAN TALMUD: BERAKOTH, tractate 64a (Rabbi Dr. I. Epstein ed., Maurice Simon trans., Socino Press 1948) (ca. 200). For an interesting commentary on this passage, see *Psalm 122: The Peace of Torah Scholars*, RAV KOOK ON THE TORAH, <http://ravkooktorah.org/S HALOM59.htm> (last visited Oct. 21, 2013) (discussing the commentary of Rabbi Abraham Kook, the first Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Palestine under the British Mandate).

15. BERAKOTH, *supra* note 14, at tractate 64a (teaching *Isaiah* 54:13).

16. *Id.*

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1. Calvin Sharpe served as the Galen J. Roush Professor of Law, Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

Reserve University School of Law. I knew Professor Sharpe before he became a law professor; he was a student in the first law school course of my teaching career (Federal Income Taxation), which I taught in the spring semester of 1973 at Northwestern University School of Law.

As a student, Professor Sharpe made an immediate impression on me. He was uniquely interested not only in the “nuts and bolts” of Tax law but also the “whys” of this complex law. I can remember exactly where he sat in the class, which was held in Northwestern’s Lincoln Hall classroom, one of the greatest law-teaching venues in the world.

Notwithstanding his demonstrated talent in discussing and thinking about tax law issues, I remember him mentioning while in law school his deep interest in labor law and his intention to pursue that area of the law as a profession. At Northwestern, Professor Sharpe was a member of the *Northwestern University Law Review* and published a student article dealing with his chosen area of the law.² After graduating and clerking for one of the most outstanding Federal District Court Judges in the country at the time, Judge Hubert L. Will, Professor Sharpe embarked on a life-long career in labor law by practicing in one of Chicago’s leading labor law firms, working for the National Labor Relations Board, and, finally, teaching and writing on this topic.

I generally followed Professor Sharpe’s career after his graduation, and, after I became a member of the faculty at the University of Virginia School of Law, I (1) contacted Professor Sharpe and urged him to think about teaching law and (2) urged the appointments committee at Virginia to consider him for an open position in the labor law area. I am delighted to report that Professor Sharpe expressed an interest in teaching law, and Virginia offered him a position on the faculty, which he accepted.

Although I departed Virginia for law practice, I kept in contact with Professor Sharpe, and I learned that his colleague on the Virginia faculty, Professor Ernest Gellhorn, was becoming the dean at Case Western. I also learned that Professor Sharpe had so impressed Dean Gellhorn that he recruited Professor Sharpe for the Case Western law faculty. Dean Gellhorn succeeded, and, as indicated by these tributes, Professor Sharpe has served Case Western with excellence and dignity for the last thirty years.

So, I am pleased to say today that it is an honor to have been present when Professor Sharpe (1) first began the study of the law and (2) first began teaching law. It is also an honor to be a part of this recognition by the *Case Western Reserve Law Review* of Professor Sharpe’s extraordinary contributions to the law.

2. Calvin W. Sharpe, Comment, *A Reappraisal of the Bargaining Order: Toward a Consistent Application of NLRB v. Gissel Packing Co.*, 69 NW. U. L. REV. 556 (1974).