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Tribute to Professor Peter M. Gerhart

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IN MEMORIAM
PETER M. GERHART
1945-2021

The editors of the Case Western Reserve Law Review respectfully dedicate this issue to Professor Peter M. Gerhart. On March 11, 2021, Case Western Reserve University School of Law held a memorial service to honor Professor Gerhart's memory and celebrate his life. The following tributes were first delivered at that service.

Jessica Berg and Michael Scharf

Peter Gerhart, longtime professor and former dean of the Case Western Reserve University School of Law, passed away on February 7, 2021, after suffering a brain hemorrhage. He was a dedicated teacher, a prolific scholar, and a caring and engaged colleague. We will miss his ever-present smile!

Peter was the John Homer Kapp Professor of Law and held a secondary appointment at the Weatherhead School of Management. He received his B.A. from Northwestern University in 1967 and his J.D. from Columbia University Law School in 1971. He began his career as an associate at the law firm of Weil, Gotshal & Manges in New York City before teaching for eleven years and serving as associate dean and interim dean at Ohio State University College of Law.

After a national search, Peter joined the Case Western Reserve law school faculty as dean in 1986. He served in that capacity for ten years, until 1996. During his decanal tenure, he played a key role in developing the Frederick K. Cox International Law Center and the Milton A. Kramer Law Clinic. A talented and experienced higher education administrator, he served as the interim president of Lake Erie College from 2015 to 2016.

Peter was a noted expert in antitrust and trade regulation before joining our law school, and later a specialist in international economic law and globalization. He published dozens of law review articles in leading law journals. Most recently, he focused on legal theory. His trilogy of acclaimed books published by Cambridge University Press spanned the legal universe: *Tort Law and Social Morality* (2010), *Property Law and Social Morality* (2014), and *Contract Law and Social Morality* (2021). Each followed the novel approach he developed regarding legal reasoning, making the case that the doctrinal categories we use to understand private law have only artificial boundaries. The books stand as a memorial to Peter's scholarship and life's work.

† Co-Deans, Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

While service and scholarship played a crucial role in Peter's career, his passion for teaching, especially first-year law students, stands out as one of his defining characteristics. By his own choice, he taught four different courses in our 1L curriculum: torts, contracts, property, and legislation & regulation, sometimes covering two of them in the same year. Moved by the recent spate of incidents of racial injustice, he devoted part of his fall 2020 sabbatical to designing a course in structural racism and the law.

Peter truly loved teaching and freely gave much of his time and energy to our students. He was also a phenomenal colleague, whose warmth and wisdom were shared widely throughout our faculty. He cared deeply about the law school, provided the two of us valuable advice about dean-ing, and assisted in fundraising. His impact will long outlast him.