



2012

Tribute to Roark Reed

John B. Attanasio

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholar.smu.edu/smulr>



Part of the [Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

John B. Attanasio, *Tribute to Roark Reed*, 65 SMU L. Rev. 745 (2012)
<https://scholar.smu.edu/smulr/vol65/iss4/3>

This Tribute is brought to you for free and open access by the Law Journals at SMU Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in SMU Law Review by an authorized administrator of SMU Scholar. For more information, please visit <http://digitalrepository.smu.edu>.

TRIBUTE TO ROARK REED

*John B. Attanasio**

PROFESSOR Roark Reed taught for thirty-five years at SMU Dedman School of Law before he retired in May of 2010. He received a B.S. and B.A. from Georgetown University Business School and then went on to earn his J.D. at Georgetown University Law School, graduating from their evening program in 1969. Professor Reed then worked in the Public Defender's Office in Washington, DC until 1972. He served as the Director of the Maryland Division of the Criminal Justice Clinic of Georgetown University Law Center from 1972 until 1975, when he joined the SMU law faculty as an Assistant Professor of Law. In 1978, he was promoted to Associate Professor of Law and in 1989, he was promoted to Professor. He served as Associate Dean for Clinical Education from 1983 to 1988. In 2000, he was a visiting professor at the Meijigakuin University Law Faculty in Tokyo, Japan. From 2001–2008, he served as Director of the Death Penalty Project at the School of Law. At the time of his retirement, Roark served as Director of Clinical Education and Director of the Criminal Justice Clinic. During his tenure, he taught evidence, federal criminal trial practice, trial advocacy, criminal procedure, a course on the Japanese legal system, and a seminar on the death penalty. In conjunction with the University of Texas Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, he also taught a course on expert testimony.

In 1983, Roark was awarded a Fulbright grant to teach American Constitutional Criminal Procedure at the University of Tokyo and Rikkyo University in Japan for one year. Just six years later, he was awarded a second Fulbright grant to teach Comparative Japanese and American Criminal Procedure at the University of Tokyo. His time in Japan led to a comparative law treatise, *Amerika No Keiji Tetsuzuki (American Criminal Procedure)* on Japanese criminal and American criminal law.¹ He co-authored this work with Judge Megumi Yamamuro and Professor Masahito Inouye, a famous Japanese criminal law professor who subsequently served as Dean of the University of Tokyo Law School and chaired the committee on restructuring Japanese legal education.

Roark wrote numerous articles in the areas of criminal procedure and

* Judge James Noel Dean and Professor of Law & Judge William Hawley Atwell Chair of Constitutional Law, Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law.

1. Roark M. Reed, *Amerika No Keiji Tetsuzuki [American Criminal Procedure]* (1987).

litigation including publications in the *Journal of Legal Education*,² the *Cumberland Law Review*,³ and various international publications. In addition to American Criminal Procedure, he is also the author of *Expert Testimony: A Series of Simulations*,⁴ and the *Criminal Justice Clinic Trial Handbook*.⁵ He has spoken at numerous conferences on various topics relating to clinical education and the criminal justice system throughout the United States.

During his tenure, Professor Reed served on a number of Law School Committees. He was chair of the Public Service Committee for many years, which administered our public service requirement. This requires that all students must perform at least thirty hours of public service in order to graduate. SMU was the second law school in the United States to impose such a requirement for graduation. Roark's leadership here was pivotal to the tremendous success that this program has enjoyed. The public service requirement helps to shape the minds and hearts of young lawyers in the direction of public service, and to instill in all of our graduates that law is a service profession.

Roark also played a pivotal leadership role in the reestablishment of SMU Law School's evening program. After the faculty voted to reinstitute the program, Roark was the natural choice to chair the Part Time Program Transition Committee. As the faculty was determined to make the evening and day programs part of one seamless school rather than two different divisions, this job required looking at every aspect of the educational process at the Law School. It involved working with faculty, staff, and students. Roark was diplomatic, practical, and academic. He made sure that both programs were well-integrated and that the law school retained the highest academic standards. The evening program added to the richness of our institution, because it attracted many more students who were already accomplished professionals from a variety of different fields.

His work encompassed a wider range of activities beyond his responsibilities at the Law School and the University. In the wider University, he served on the Faculty Senate, the University Serious Offenses Judiciary Board, and the Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects. He also served as a consultant to Case Western Reserve University Law School on establishing curriculum guidelines for a proposed master's program in trial advocacy and was legal consultant to a Task Force on Organized Crime Legislation for the State of Texas. Professor Reed was also a member of the Teaching Staff for the Experimental Criminal Trial Advocacy Institute of Sam Houston University Criminal

2. Roark M. Reed, *Group Learning in Law School*, 34 J. LEGAL EDUC. 674 (1984).

3. Roark M. Reed, *Welfare Fraud: The Tip of the Iceberg*, 8 CUMB. L. REV. 683 (1978).

4. ROARK M. REED, *EXPERT TESTIMONY: A SERIES OF SIMULATIONS* (1979).

5. Roark M. Reed, *Criminal Justice Criminal Trial Handbook* (unpublished manuscript) (on file with Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law Criminal Justice Clinic).

Justice Center and the Hawaii Public Defender Annual Training Institute. He testified before the State Committee on Human Resources on the operational aspects of the Department of Public Welfare and suggested areas for improvement. He also took part in the drafting of proposed statutes for the administration of the Welfare Department in the State of Texas.

Over the years, Professor Reed's students found him to be insightful, inspiring, and an innovator. His rapport with the students was excellent, and he consistently received very positive student evaluations. Examples of student comments included "Best instructor around," "Level of instruction was superior," and "Marvelous teacher . . . if a better teacher is hired, look for a star in the East."

I remember once speaking with Dave Dillon, the Chairman and CEO of Kroger Co., and asking him what was his favorite course at the law school. Without hesitation, he responded the Criminal Law Clinic and cited Roark Reed. He reminisced with great fondness about his experiences in the clinic and about what a terrific teacher Roark Reed was. He considered Roark such an inspirational teacher that Dave has said that someday he himself would like to teach criminal law.

After spending more than half of his life in Texas, Roark moved to Charlottesville, Virginia last spring to be nearer to his children. We were fortunate to have worked with and learned from him and have benefitted from his many contributions. We miss him very much and wish him much happiness.

