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REGIS W. CAMPFIELD: FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE

*Christopher H. Hanna**

I first met Regis Campfield almost twenty years ago when I interviewed for a teaching position at SMU School of Law. At that time (as well as today), his reputation preceded him. Professor Meade Emory, who is one of my mentors, had been a visiting professor at SMU Law School in the 1980s. He told me what a great place SMU would be for a tax law professor due, in part, to the presence of Regis Campfield. When I arrived in Dallas for my interview (Super Bowl Weekend 1990), I met Regis and immediately realized why Meade thought so highly of him. I also immediately realized one reason why Regis had such a stellar reputation in the estate planning community: he had a complete mastery of the estate and gift tax laws, the rules in subchapter J dealing with the income taxation of estates and trusts, and all matters related to wills and trusts.

Having Regis Campfield as a colleague is one of the reasons I decided to accept the offer of a teaching position at SMU back in 1990. It is also one of the reasons why I have stayed at SMU the last nineteen years. On many occasions, I have sought out Regis's counsel on a wide variety of issues, ranging from what are the mechanics of a bypass trust to what restaurant has the best pizza in town to what are some of the best private schools in Dallas. His broad base of knowledge and common sense thinking has always led me down the proper path. In fact, one of our SMU law school colleagues mentioned to me earlier this year that Regis had given him quite a bit of financial investment advice over the years. Our colleague mentioned that he wished he had followed Regis's advice more closely, as he would be quite wealthy by now.

Regis's skills as a classroom teacher and scholar are well-known. He always had a large following of students taking his course in Wills and Trusts (or as Regis liked to call it, The Law of the Dead). In fact, it was always one of the most popular classes in law school. In addition, Regis has written numerous books, including the leading textbook on estate planning.

I am pleased that Regis Campfield continues to visit the law school on a semi-regular basis. For the last nineteen years, he always began his arrival at the law school on the second floor of Storey Hall from the east side

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of the building. He would work his way down the hall, moving from east to west, usually visiting my office just before culminating his journey in his corner office in the westernmost part of the second floor. He has been a wonderful colleague and friend to me, and although he has retired from full-time teaching, I look forward to continuing to see him as he works his way down the second floor, visiting his many friends and colleagues.