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# REGIS W. CAMPFIELD, MY ACCOMPLISHED COLLEAGUE

*Henry J. Lischer, Jr.\**

I am delighted to provide a tribute to my esteemed colleague, Regis W. Campfield, the Marilyn Jeanne Johnson Distinguished Law Faculty Fellow, upon the occasion of his retirement. I have had the pleasure of knowing Regis for more than thirty years as a colleague, and during much of that time, our offices were in close proximity, so we often had discussions about law professing, taxation (a subject we share), our similarly aged children, our advancing years, and other matters regarding the human condition.

During the spring of 2009, the law school hosted a reception in honor of Regis upon his retirement, and I was invited to address the assembled group of family, faculty colleagues, and other friends. Regis is not much for ceremonies, particularly about himself, so I chose to be direct and brief in delivering my reflections on Regis's distinguished career. I intend to be the same in this written tribute. My professional interests overlap significantly with his, so I feel that I fairly can comment on the significance and immensity of his many accomplishments during his standout career.

Regis graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a degree in accounting and from the University of Virginia School of Law with his LL. B. degree in 1966, having served as an editor of the *Virginia Law Review*. He then joined the Cleveland law firm of Squire, Sanders & Dempsey, a premier law firm that provided Regis experience in a very sophisticated trusts and estates practice that served as the professional foundation of Regis's career in wills, trusts, estates, and estate planning.

When an opportunity arose at the University of Notre Dame Law School, Regis left the practice of law to commence his four illustrious decades as a law professor. He began teaching at Notre Dame in 1970, and since 1977, Regis's professional life has been based at SMU. He was a visiting faculty member at the University of Virginia during the 1980–1981 academic year.

As I see it, certainly one of the great successes in Regis's life is the Notre Dame Tax & Estate Planning Institute, an annual continuing education program that he has chaired from its inception more than thirty years ago. It is a huge undertaking, involving a registration that has ex-

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ceeded 1,000 participants! I know that Regis's wife, Mary, has worked tirelessly on the Estate Planning Institute over many years. In recognition of the Campfields' devotion to the Institute, the Notre Dame Law School has created the Regis and Mary Campfield Collection in Estate Planning at the Notre Dame law library. I remember, in the early days of personal computer technology, that Regis and Mary were path breakers in managing Estate Planning Institute matters on a Radio Shack computer with huge, 8-inch floppy discs.

Regis very actively participated (and held leadership positions) in the American Bar Association Section of Taxation and Section of Real Property, Trusts and Estates Law. In recognition of his dedicated service to the estate planning community, in 2007 Regis received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Association of Estate Planning Planners and Councils. Regis also has been elected to membership in various limited-membership-by-election professional organizations, and these memberships reflect the very highest distinctions attainable within his profession:

1. He is a Life Fellow of the American Law Institute.
2. He is an Academic Fellow of the American College of Trust & Estate Counsel (and he also served as a Regent of the College, Editor-in-Chief of *Probate Lawyer*, Editor of *Probate Notes*, and as a member of the Editorial Board).
3. He is an Academician and Executive Council member of the International Academy of Trust and Estate Law.
4. He is a Fellow of the American College of Tax Counsel.

Regis also was the only academic member of an invitational group known as the Estate Planning Group Seminar, which is composed of practicing lawyers (plus Regis as the only academic member), that meets several times a year for a full day of debate and discussion immediately before the meetings of the American Bar Association Section of Taxation. The membership of this Group includes practitioners who are at the pinnacle of their professions, and I know that Regis has treasured his membership in this Group.

Regis enjoys wide renown for his many publications, and I will recount only the most significant of his publications:

1. He is a co-author of the leading transfer tax casebook entitled *Taxation of Estates, Gifts, and Trusts* (23d ed. 2006), which is published by Thomson-West. Regis has been working to prepare a new edition due out in 2010, but Congress must decide what to do about the estate tax before the book can go to print.
2. He is the author of *Estate Planning & Drafting* (3d ed. 2007), and a new edition of this book is due out in 2010.
3. He is the author of *Fiduciary Tax Guide*, published by Commerce Clearing House.

3. Regis has served for many years as a member of the Board of Editors for the Study of Federal Tax Law series published by Commerce Clearing House.

4. Regis also authored Tax Management Portfolios for the Bureau of National Affairs on the subjects of revocable trusts and migrating clients. The Portfolio series is widely used throughout the estate planning community.

In addition to his many professional activities, Regis made time for his family, to whom he most certainly has been devoted. Mary and Regis have been together all the way back to Regis's law school days at the University of Virginia, where Mary was working on her Ph. D. in Chinese history. Regis and Mary have had distinguished careers in the respective professions, and they worked side by side on a variety of tasks. Regis's parents also were an important part of his life, and Regis was blessed in having his parents live long lives, the senior years of which were in Dallas. To his great joy, Regis's family now includes grandchildren. If you have seen Regis with his grandchildren, the mutual affection between Regis and them is immediately obvious.

Regis is deservedly proud of the accomplishments of his two daughters, one of whom (Claire) followed him into the legal profession, and the other of whom (Allison) became a medical doctor. I know them both, and I can attest to an impressive foundation upon which Regis and Mary justifiably can be proud of their children.

Regis, your retirement is well earned. You have attained, in my opinion, quite simply the highest levels of professional recognition that one can attain. Your body of published work reflects most favorably on your high level of technical skill and your ability to organize, and make accessible, complicated materials. Your many accomplishments reflect much credit upon your abilities, your hard work, and your attention to your tasks. You have attained a level of professional accomplishment and recognition attained by very few. We at the SMU Dedman School of Law have benefitted from your renown, and I thank you for the luster you have added to this institution.

I wish you the best for your retirement.

