



January 2007

John J. Mylan: A Great Friend and Colleague

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Recommended Citation

Christopher H. Hanna, *John J. Mylan: A Great Friend and Colleague*, 60 SMU L. REV. 1413 (2007)
<https://scholar.smu.edu/smulr/vol60/iss4/4>

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JOHN J. MYLAN: A GREAT FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE

*Christopher H. Hanna**

I first met Jack Mylan over seventeen 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 Steve Lind, who is one of my mentors, told me what a great place SMU would be for a tax law professor due, in large part, to the presence of Jack Mylan. Steve had known Jack for many years and had glowing things to say about him. When I arrived in Dallas for my interview (Super Bowl Weekend 1990), I met Jack and immediately realized why Steve thought so highly of him. Jack was a very down-to-earth type of person with a very pleasant personality. He also demonstrated a strong command of the tax laws, particularly in the area of corporate taxation.

Having Jack Mylan 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 seventeen years. On many occasions, I have ventured from my office on the second floor to Jack's office on the third floor to get his opinion on a tax issue. Over the years, I have learned that Jack's opinion on a tax issue is always right. He is able to cite, usually off the top of his head, little known tax cases and rulings that are inevitably on point with respect to my tax issue.

Jack's skills as a classroom teacher and scholar are well-known. He always has a large following of students taking his courses, beginning with Income Taxation, continuing with Corporate Taxation, and concluding with Taxation of Closely-Held Corporations. In addition, he has written two highly-regarded treatises in the area of taxation of closely-held corporations.

Former SMU Law Dean, Robert G. Storey, started the SMU Graduate Tax Program in 1950. During my entire time at SMU, Jack has been the de facto director of the Graduate Tax Program. It has been, in large part, through his leadership that the Graduate Tax Program has flourished over the years. Jack's administrative abilities have received little attention at SMU, but those of us familiar with the success of the Graduate Tax Program know about Jack's skills as an administrator.

I am pleased that Jack Mylan continues to come to the law school on a regular basis (when he is in Dallas) and is available to answer the really

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tough tax questions. He has been a wonderful colleague and friend to me, and although he has retired from full-time teaching, I look forward to continue making the trek up to the third floor to get his advice on all matters related to tax law.