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LAW, TRUTH, AND INTERPRETATION: A SYMPOSIUM ON DENNIS PATTERSON'S *LAW AND TRUTH*

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Howard J. Taubenfeld
December 23, 1924 - February 25, 1996

FROM THE EDITORS: TRIBUTE TO HOWARD TAUBENFELD

It is not our place, nor our wish, to supersede the comments on the following pages, which praise Howard Taubenfeld as a quintessential scholar, man of learning, and compassionate human being. Personal praise is best left to those who know a person well, and the comments of Dean Rogers, Dean Galvin, and Professor Winship speak volumes that we know we could never match. We feel it would be remiss, however, if student voices were not also raised in tribute to Professor Taubenfeld. He touched so many lives in 35 years, we cannot attempt to duplicate the stories or memories of the students he taught; nevertheless, we think we speak for all of those students when we say that a tremendous chasm has been left by his passing.

While he was all of the things that his colleagues describe, he was also something more, something invaluable and simultaneously indescribable for generations of students: “teacher.” It is consequence of the world we live in that a term of honor is often diluted by the mass of information to which we are subject. But Howard Taubenfeld brought honor back to the word “teacher.” He taught not only the law, but an aspiring lawyer’s place in it. He taught not only black letter law, but how to analyze the black letter law so it could fit situations which could not have been contemplated when the black letter law was written. Not only did he challenge preconceived notions (every teacher’s duty, in his eyes), but he challenged his students to develop new ideas, new formats, and a new *Weltanschauung* for this very new world in which we live.

SMU Law Review, and the countless students whose lives he touched, mourn Professor Taubenfeld’s passing. We express our sympathy to his family at their loss, but we also express our gratitude for sharing him with us for 35 wonderful years.

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