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Tributes

REMARKS ON THE PASSING OF HOWARD TAUBENFELD*

Charles Galvin

Rita, Robin, David, Marc, grandchildren, relatives and friends of Howard Taubenfeld and friends all. It is an honor and a privilege for me to participate in this memorial service for Howard Taubenfeld. Following Howard's undergraduate degree from Columbia College, he completed his law degree and a doctorate in philosophy at Columbia. He practiced law and taught in California and New York and then came to the SMU Law School in 1961. He and I began a collegue-ship on the faculty that lasted for over twenty years.

He brought to SMU a distinction in research and teaching. I was dean for fifteen years, and I can state without reservation or exception that students year after year consistently praised Howard for his teaching. He expected careful and thoughtful preparation and sought to develop within his students a capacity for incisive and critical reasoning. Yet withal he was gracious, courteous, and considerate. Indeed, from time to time I read student comments that he should be dean and I should quit immediately. Deans expect slings and arrows, but in this case, they were probably right, for considering his unflagging and unfailing good humor and seemingly boundless patience he would have performed very well in the position.

Howard's interests were many, varied and eclectic. He offered a seminar in law and technology with the Engineering School in order to provide law students and engineering students with a better understanding of the interaction of legal rules and rapidly developing technology.

Professor Carney and I for many years offered a seminar for law and theology students in which we explored the various ethical and legal dilemmas that beset the human predicament. When I could no longer continue that enterprise, Howard took over in my place and performed with his customary excellence.

* This tribute was originally delivered by the author at a memorial service honoring Howard Taubenfeld held at Southern Methodist University in March 1996.

Rita and Howard were a splendid research team and did numerous projects together that have been published, widely received, and highly regarded.

Finally, colleagues and friends, the best memorial tribute to Howard will not be from any of us here but will be in the minds and hearts of his family and countless hundreds of former students who have been influenced by his scholarship and teaching. Howard professed the law for thirty-five years, and although he leaves us in body, that thirty-five-year legacy continues in spirit for countless years to come in many able and respected practicing lawyers throughout the state, the nation, and abroad and we celebrate that lasting joy in this liturgy today.

I return to the point of beginning: it is an honor and a privilege to participate in this memorial, and I am deeply grateful to Rita and the family for inviting me to offer these words of appreciation for a most esteemed colleague.