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January 2002

## William J. Flittie - A Tribute

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### Recommended Citation

Charles O. Galvin, *William J. Flittie - A Tribute*, 55 SMU L. REV. 1399 (2002)  
<https://scholar.smu.edu/smulr/vol55/iss4/3>

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# WILLIAM J. FLITTIE—A TRIBUTE

*Charles O. Galvin\**

**P**ROFESSOR William J. Flittie joined the SMU law faculty in 1961. In addition to his academic training at the University of Minnesota (Bachelor of Science in Law) and at Columbia (Bachelor of Laws), Bill was Assistant Attorney General in South Dakota for three years and then attorney for Texaco in Denver, Los Angeles and Chicago for eight years. Thus, Bill brought to the classroom an excellent academic background, broad regulatory government experience, and important assignments with a major oil and gas company. Bill was a good teacher, demanding of students, but always fair and highly respected.

While I was Dean, I found him always available for various faculty assignments and a loyal, concerned, and responsible colleague. When he disagreed, he could be vocal and sharply critical; yet his criticism was fair and cogent.

It was my pleasure to serve with Bill as a co-editor of the Oil and Gas Reporter for all the years he was on the faculty. He provided an excellent insight and analysis of oil and gas cases, and his discussion notes on cases which he reported were well-reasoned and clear.

Bill was philosophically an individualist, conservative, and a dedicated Republican.

Those who knew him can appreciate an experience I once had. When he had suffered a fairly serious heart flare up and was under treatment in the hospital, I visited him. While there, the daily newspaper was brought to him and there was a headline about some action taken by the Democrats in the Johnson administration. His fury rose to a booming crescendo and, despite my efforts to calm him, I had a genuine concern that he might bring on an attack that could kill him. He survived, of course, but when I left, I requested the attending nurse to shield him, if at all possible, from any national political news.

Bill was one of those teachers that students do not forget. Over twenty-six years he was an influence on thousands of young men and women who learned the law from him and learned it well.

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