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The Journal of Air Law and Commerce

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SYMPOSIUM

on

CURRENT TRENDS IN AIRPORT LIABILITY AND GENERAL AVIATION

March 21-23, 1973

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The Editors and Staff of the *Journal of Air Law and Commerce* respectfully dedicate this issue to

ARTHUR LEON HARDING
Emeritus Professor of Law
Southern Methodist University

Arthur Leon Harding, Emeritus Professor of Law, Southern Methodist University, has devoted the larger part of his adult life to the teaching of law. At the grand old age of twenty-one he commenced his teaching career here at Southern Methodist University, where, in the fall of 1927, he was appointed an Instructor in Law. His credentials were a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Arkansas, where he graduated with honors and became a member of Phi Beta Kappa; a Juris Doctor degree with honors from the University of Michigan and membership in the Order of the Coif; and a superior analytical legal mind.

Professor Harding was granted a leave of absence from Southern Methodist University in 1931 and 1932 to hold an appointment as Brandeis Fellow at the Harvard Law School from which he received the degree of Doctor of the Science of Law. He returned to Southern Methodist University for one year and then was appointed a Professor of Law at the University of Idaho for the years 1933 to 1940.

During World War II Professor Harding served in the War Department General Staff in the Office of Headquarters of the Army Ground Forces and returned to the academic world following the war with the rank of colonel. He served continuously as a member of the faculty of the Southern Methodist University School of Law until his retirement in May 1972.

Although he taught in almost every field of the law, his principal concentration came to be in the fields of contracts and jurisprudence. There are virtually hundreds and hundreds of lawyers who learned their contracts law from Professor Harding. During his forty-five year teaching career, he has instructed fifty-one sections of contracts with a total of between 3,000 and 3,500 students.

Professor Harding's primary contribution to legal literature has been in the field of jurisprudence. Between the years 1951 and 1961 he sponsored a series of conferences with a theme of legal philoso-

phy at the Southern Methodist University School of Law. These conferences resulted in works entitled *The Administration of Justice in Retrospect*; *Origins of the Natural Law Tradition*; *Religion, Morality and the Law*; *Responsibility in Law and Morals*; *The Rule of Law*; *Free Man Versus His Government*; *Fundamental Law in Criminal Prosecutions*; and *Natural Law and Natural Rights*. To each of these fine scholarly works Professor Harding was an important contributor.

The Colonel, as he came to be called as a result of his tour of duty with the armed forces, was an exacting taskmaster who demanded and expected the best from his students, for he always gave his best to them. A man who studied under the Colonel knew that he had received the finest instruction possible and that successful completion of a course taught by the Colonel signified knowledge.

Professor Harding's tenure at Southern Methodist University enriched the lives of those around him, not only of his students but also of his fellow faculty members. His contributions to teaching and research has enriched the law and the legal profession. It is fitting that this distinguished legal educator and scholar be honored. Therefore, this issue of the **Journal of Air Law and Commerce** is given the character of a tribute to this eminent law professor.

A. J. THOMAS

*William Hawley Atwell Professor of Constitutional Law
School of Law, Southern Methodist University*