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Dean Robert Gerald Storey

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IN MEMORIAM: DEAN ROBERT GERALD STOREY

by

*A. J. Thomas, Jr.**

I FIRST had the pleasure of meeting Robert Storey in the summer of 1947, shortly after he had accepted the deanship of Southern Methodist University School of Law. At that time, I, as a young man, was looking for a position, but not necessarily in the field of law teaching. We struck it off well together. Both of us were interested in international law, international affairs, and in a quest for world peace through law. He recently had returned to the United States from his duties at the Nuremberg Tribunal, and I recently had returned from the Foreign Service of the United States. In that first interview with Storey, I was impressed with his dynamism, his vigor, and his dreams for a better world. He convinced me that he was going to convert the Southern Methodist University School of Law into a preeminent institution, second to none, to advance legal education in the Southwest. He inspired me to become part of this goal. Thus, in the fall of 1947 I joined the faculty of the Law School to help Storey advance his objective.

Never did a man so live up to what he said he would do. Despite scoffers and doubters, Storey did not waver. He took his cause to the lawyers and businessmen of Texas and the surrounding states of the region in order to persuade them of the value that would be reaped through the establishment in Dallas at SMU of a great legal center. Not only did he seek a training center of best quality for young people pursuing their legal education, but he also sought the establishment of a place where lawyers could come to renew and refresh their knowledge of the law, a center dedicated to continuing legal education through a series of institutes, seminars, and short courses designed for the practicing attorney. A drive for finances began. Members and nonmembers of the legal profession responded to the Dean's entreaties and reasoning powers. The drive was successful. Within a short time foundations were laid for two new law buildings on the SMU campus.

One must realize what the SMU Law School was like when Robert G. Storey became dean, and what it came to be a few years thereafter, in order to realize the miracle that he wrought. In 1947 the physical facilities

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of the Law School consisted of two classrooms on the main floor of Dallas Hall. Here also two administrative offices were allotted by the University to the School of Law. The east wing of the basement of Dallas Hall contained the law library and the faculty offices, the latter being shared with professors of the Business School. The law library was catalogued in something like four drawers of a cabinet. Two additional classrooms in a war-time Quonset hut later were assigned to the Law School to accommodate the burgeoning student enrollment composed in the main of homecoming G.I.s from World War II returning to their interrupted studies.

Despite its physical shortcomings, the SMU Law School rested on a firm scholastic foundation. Former Dean Charles S. Potts had seen to that. He was a scholar of the old school. He and the professors whom he had gathered around him had established a first-rate academic endeavor upon which Storey began to build. By the end of 1950 the Law School was no longer a stepchild in Dallas Hall. Following impressive inaugural ceremonies, the Law School moved into three magnificent Georgian-style buildings on the northwest corner of the University campus, the corner that soon became known as the Law Quadrangle. Florence Hall, the former theological seminary, was remodelled and became the Law School classroom building. Storey Hall and Lawyers Inn were built from scratch, the former serving as the law library and faculty offices, and the latter as a law student dormitory. Dean Storey's dream was well on its way to fulfillment.

But his dream did not end with physical facilities. A quest for academic excellence ensued. Such excellence demanded an enlarged and strengthened faculty as well as expanded horizons in the law school curriculum. Not only were new undergraduate courses instituted, but the Dean decided to establish a graduate school emphasizing certain specialities such as corporate law, the law of taxation, international and comparative law, and oil and gas law. He initiated the continuing legal education program, so dear to his heart, to assist members of the bar to keep pace with the many changes in the law. He was also a leader in the clinical education movement. A clinic was established at the law school wherein students, under the supervision of professors, dealt with the legal problems of persons who could ill-afford a lawyer.

To encourage faculty research in newer fields of legal endeavor and to strengthen his new law school programs, Storey was instrumental in obtaining faculty research grants to augment faculty salaries. He also established a strong financial scholarship program, enabling SMU to bring outstanding students to the Law School from all of the states of the Union and from many foreign nations as well. The Law School's graduates across the nation and around the globe served as living evidence of the culmination of Storey's aspirations.

Although his contribution to legal education as the dean of the Law School and president of the Southwestern Legal Foundation would have been sufficient for most, Storey was not content to rest on these accomplishments. He proved himself to be an able legal scholar through his own

studies and writing. Notable among these studies are *The Final Judgment—Pearl Harbor to Nuremberg* and *Our Unalienable Rights*. These studies show much of the character and quality of this fine man. *The Final Judgment* first discusses his military career in World War II, which he often described smilingly as that of a World War I retread, for he served in both of the Great Wars. The book recounts his activities as a colonel in the United States Air Corps, his service on the War Crimes Commission in Bulgaria, his intelligence work in the Mediterranean theater, and most important, his work as executive trial counsel for the United States at the Nuremberg trials of the major Axis war criminals. In these studies his passionate devotion to the rule of law becomes highly evident. The second study demonstrates also his sincere belief in the constitutional system of his country and in the fundamental human rights of all Americans.

Legal education and legal scholarship were not the sole components of Storey's career. He was always there to give of his time to advance law and government through service to the organized bar and to government. The positions he held and the honors he received are too numerous to list, but a few may be set forth. He was elected president of the Dallas, the Texas, the American, and the Inter-American Bar Associations. He was appointed to such commissions as the New Hoover Commission, the National Crime Commission, the Commission on Human Rights, and the Atlantic Pacific Inter-Oceanic Canal Study Commission. He was special counsel of the State of Texas in the investigation of President Kennedy's death. He promoted foreign scholarship and international relations through the establishment of the Korean Legal Center, through service as chairman of the board of Fulbright Scholarships, and through his intense interest in the World Peace Through Law movement.

James B. Donovan has spoken most aptly of his friend, Robert G. Storey. He has stated:

In a day when all concerned with youth are seeking exemplars, we can ask our young to consider the career of Colonel Storey. May we have many of our young inspired to the ideals which led him to his extraordinary service to his country.

The honors awarded to Robert Gerald Storey were numerous and well-deserved. His life was that of a truly dedicated man, a man for all seasons—practicing lawyer, educator, scholar, and promoter of a better world through law.

