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Tribute to Professor Peter Winship

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TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR PETER WINSHIP

*Jennifer M. Collins & Bruce Tomaso**

PETER Winship, the James Cleo Thompson, Sr. Trustee Professor of Law, has retired after forty-five years as a distinguished member of SMU's law faculty. Professor Winship, who assumed the title of Professor *Emeritus* of Law in December 2018, taught and researched primarily in the areas of domestic and international commercial law. Teaching hundreds of students over the course of his career, he also taught Corporate Law, seminars on American legal history, Comparative Commercial Law, Admiralty Law, and Law and Ethics.

Professor Winship joined the SMU faculty in 1974 after earning his A.B. and LL.B. degrees from Harvard University and his LL.M. from the London School of Economics. He has been a visiting professor at numerous institutions, including the University of Pennsylvania, King's College at the University of London, the University of Rome, the University of Konstanz in Germany, and the University of Texas at Austin.

The author of seven books and dozens of chapters and articles, he served as editor in chief of the *International Lawyer* for many years. He also served as a member of the Board of Editors for the *American Journal of Comparative Law* and the Editorial Advisory Board for the *Tulane Law Review*. Professor Winship held a wide range of positions in international law, including serving as a correspondent for the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law, Rome; a national correspondent for the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, Vienna; and as a member of the United States Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Private International Law. He is also a member of the American Law Institute.

He is considered one of the leading U.S. scholars on the drafting and adoption of the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods. The treaty, which established a uniform international sales law, has been ratified by ninety-one nations, making it one of the most successful international uniform laws in history. In 2007, he received the Leonard J. Theberge Award from the American Bar Association's Section of International Law in recognition of his contributions to private international law.

Professor Winship shared with his faculty colleagues what he called a bit of "ephemera" he found while cleaning out his office at retirement: a

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yellowed copy of the convocation address he delivered to newly arrived SMU students in August of 1987.

"I remember," he told his fellow professors, "putting as much effort into writing this address as I did in short law review articles."

In his convocation address, Professor Winship welcomed the new students into "the company of educated men and women."¹ He urged students to pursue a broad legal education that would enable them to become highly skilled lawyers able to analyze a problem from multiple perspectives, as well as future leaders in both the profession and their communities. "[Y]ou will receive excellent technical training at our University,"² he said,

But you should receive more than a technical training. Indeed, you should claim more You should 'take as the rightful owner' an education that prepares you for a worthy personal life and for an active civic role in a complex world.

. . . .
. . . Seek out mentors who can not only help you to understand special technical problems in their areas of expertise but who will help you to struggle with issues that ignore artificial barriers between academic disciplines. Seek out accounting professors who can talk knowledgably about the revolutionary effect of double-entry book-keeping on the conduct of business in Renaissance Italy Seek out engineering professors who struggle with the ethical implications of laser research that might be used to develop life-threatening weaponry but might also lead to life-saving medical breakthroughs. Seek out professors of theatre who study the impact of role playing on the conduct and character development of the learning impaired.³

He quoted from SMU's Master Plan of 1963: "For the well-educated person is indeed a WHOLE HUMAN BEING."⁴

We are profoundly grateful to Professor Winship for his decades of dedicated service to SMU and for the thoughtfulness, dedication, and wit with which he approached all his scholarly endeavors. He was truly the Renaissance man that he urged his students to become. We will miss him terribly and wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

1. Peter Winship, Convocation Ceremony Address (Aug. 30, 1987) (on file with author).

2. *Id.*

3. *Id.*

4. *Id.*