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Tribute to Professor Peter Winship

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TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR PETER WINSHIP

William V. Dorsaneo, III*

It is my good fortune to have been Professor Peter Winship’s friend and colleague for the last five decades. Peter and I met briefly when I interviewed for a faculty position at SMU Law School in the mid-1970s. Although I didn’t know it at the time, Peter and I would develop a strong and lasting personal and professional relationship after I joined the SMU faculty. In those early years, we taught similar commercial law subjects. As a result, we had a lot in common, and we discussed these subjects and how to understand and teach them after class on many days. As a result, our friendship and mutual respect flourished.

At some point in the late 1970s, I had the opportunity of making a publication contract with the Matthew Bender company. The contract was for the publication of a multivolume treatise and practice guide for most types of civil litigation and that included plans for several volumes on business and commercial litigation. Naturally, I consulted with Peter and arranged with him to take shared responsibility for the preparation of the business and commercial litigation volumes. As anticipated, Peter’s original work on these volumes and his subsequent advice on revisions in later years contributed greatly to the overall quality of the Texas Litigation Guide, which ultimately became a very popular publication among Texas lawyers.

During his teaching career, Peter developed a national and an international reputation as a scholar and as a professor of law. Peter has served as a visiting professor at the University of Texas, the University of California (UCLA and Berkeley), the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Miami, and the University of Connecticut Schools of Law. He has also taught as a visiting professor at King’s College, the University of London (2005–2010), the University of Rome, the University of Konstanz, the Norwich Law School, the University of East Anglia, and the Cayman Islands School of Law.

Peter has also authored or coauthored several books and many articles on a variety of commercial law subjects including domestic and international sales law, secured transactions, and negotiable instruments and payment systems, as well as many other articles on national and international commercial law.

* Chief Justice John and Lena Hickman Distinguished Faculty Fellow and Professor of Law, Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law.
During his long career, Peter has been a member of the American Law Institute and many other organizations dedicated to the development and improvement of domestic and international law. Among these positions, Peter has served, and continues to serve, as a member of the Board of Editors of the American Journal of Comparative Law (1991–Present), editor in chief of the International Lawyer (1996–1999), chair of the International Lawyer’s Board of Editorial Advisors (1990–1996), and a member of the Secretary of State’s Advisory Committee on Private International Law (1990–Present). In 2007, Peter was awarded the prestigious Leonard J. Theberge Award of the American Bar Association’s Section of International Law for service to private international law.

It has been my privilege and pleasure to be Peter Winship’s friend and colleague here at SMU.