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## Professor Roy Ryden Anderson

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# PROFESSOR ROY RYDEN ANDERSON

*Jennifer M. Collins\**

IT is my great privilege to introduce this tribute issue to the extraordinary Professor Roy Anderson, who has retired after fifty-one years of service on the SMU Law School faculty. Professor Anderson earned his undergraduate degree from Texas Christian University, his J.D. degree from SMU Dedman School of Law, and his LL.M. from Yale University.

His very first role at the law school was serving as Executive Director of the Criminal Justice Program, beginning in 1969. In addition to teaching thousands of students courses such as Contracts, Sale of Goods Transactions, Damages, and Commercial Remedies over the course of his five decades at SMU, he also played a significant administrative role at the law school. For example, he served as Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs from 2003 to 2009, and he continued to offer very wise advice and counsel to this dean, a kindness for which I am very grateful. He also served for many years as the advisor to the *SMU Law Review* and to SMU's award-winning moot court program. He is the author of the treatise *Damages Under the Uniform Commercial Code*,<sup>1</sup> co-author of *Anderson, Bartlett & East's Texas Uniform Commercial Code Annotated*,<sup>2</sup> and many other articles and essays. Professor Anderson is a member of the American Law Institute and a Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation.

In 1993, Professor Anderson was selected as the Vinson & Elkins Teaching Fellow and proudly carried this title until his retirement. He characterizes this appointment as the defining event of his career. His selection for this distinguished honor comes as no surprise to anyone who was fortunate enough to enroll in one of his classes. Professor Anderson might initially come off as the stereotypical intimidating law professor made famous in *The Paper Chase*, but underneath that gruff exterior, he is an extraordinarily compassionate and wonderfully skilled teacher. As a result, Professor Anderson's students quite simply adore him. Recent comments on his student teaching evaluations include "a legend," "brilliant," "hilarious," and "one of the best." Teaching was his passion and a craft he continuously honed with great dedication and care, and our stu-

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\* Judge James Noel Dean and Professor of Law, SMU Dedman School of Law.

1. ROY RYDEN ANDERSON, *DAMAGES UNDER THE UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE* (2020–2021 ed. 2020).

2. ROY RYDEN ANDERSON, ROGER A. BARTLETT & W. DAVID EAST, *TEXAS UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE ANNOTATED* (2020–2021 ed. 2020).

dents were privileged to have the opportunity to take his classes. Professor Anderson's extraordinary teaching was recognized through his receipt of two Dr. Don R. Smart Awards for Excellence in Classroom Instruction (an award voted upon by the graduating class) and his selection as a recipient of a University Outstanding Professor Award.

The COVID-19 pandemic meant Professor Anderson's final Contracts class had to finish out the semester with him virtually, rather than showering him with applause and sharing a toast of champagne in person after the conclusion of his last lecture. But that final class made sure Professor Anderson knew how very much they appreciated him. The students sent a shower of gifts to his home, celebrated him with a Zoom party, and sent a beautiful electronic card signed individually by each student. Students wrote that he was "an unforgettable gem" and that they "were unbelievably lucky" to have the chance to learn from him. Perhaps one student summed up Professor Anderson's impact best: "Your knowledge, perspective, and witty sarcasm made a class I had no interest in my favorite class and my career pursuit. Your lecturing was so unique and made learning fascinating." Yet another wrote, "You have such a remarkable talent for making class fun and interesting. It was an honor to learn from you."

Having Professor Roy Anderson as part of SMU's faculty for fifty-one years was our honor indeed. I hope you will enjoy this very special tribute issue. We are profoundly grateful for Professor Anderson's remarkable career at SMU, and we hope the contributions that follow will give you some sense of this truly extraordinary teacher.