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Dedication - J. Westwood Smithers

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JOHN WESTWOOD SMITHERS

Mr. Smithers has been associated with the T. C. Williams School of Law for 50 years, both as a student and as a professor. Over the course of the half-century which has passed since he began his first year as a student in the old building on Lombardy Street, Mr. Smithers has served as example, mentor and friend to countless scores of students and attorneys both within and outside the state. He taught his last regular class at T. C. Williams last year, leaving behind a school saddened by his departure, yet richer for his service. The Editorial Board, therefore, gratefully dedicates Volume 14 of the *University of Richmond Law Review* to Mr. Smithers, the first editor of this publication.

In the following pages there appear three tributes to Mr. Smithers written by people who have had the privilege of knowing him longer than have we, the editors. The three consist of one of Mr. Smithers' teachers, Judge M. Ray Doubles; a teaching colleague, William S. Cudlipp; and a respectful student, Judge Robert R. Merhige, Jr. We include first, however, a brief biographical sketch of Mr. Smithers' impressive career. What emerges is an intelligent and active man—the type of individual any law school would be hard-pressed to replace.

Mr. Smithers was born in Richmond in 1909. He earned his B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Richmond and then received his LL.B. in 1932 from T. C. Williams School of Law. He was president of his law school graduating class and was awarded the Charles T. Norman medal as the best all-around law school graduate. He was a research fellow at the Harvard Law School from 1935-36, where he studied under Dean Roscoe Pound and Professor Joseph H. Beale.

Upon graduating from law school, Mr. Smithers was hired as a member of the T. C. Williams faculty, becoming a full professor upon his return from Harvard in 1936. Except for a stint in the Navy during World War II, Mr. Smithers remained a member of the faculty until 1964. He has practiced law in Richmond since 1964, but was recalled to the faculty in

1970, and served as an adjunct professor until his retirement in 1979. Over the years Mr. Smithers has taught courses in Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Agency, Torts, Domestic Relations, Partnerships, Municipal Corporations, Ethics, Legal Methods, Conflict of Laws, and Virginia Procedure. He was the first editor of the *University of Richmond Law Notes*, which made its appearance in the Spring of 1958 and from which the *University of Richmond Law Review* developed.

Outside of the law school, Mr. Smithers has been active as a life member of the American Law Institute, the Virginia Bar Association, the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association, of which he was the executive director and editor of its law letter from 1962-1977, the Richmond Trial Lawyers Association, and the Richmond Bar Association. He was retained by the Virginia Attorney General in 1959 to draft several chapters of the Virginia Code for the 1950 revision, and in 1970, served as counsel to the Committee on Justice of the Virginia Code Commission, which had as its task a revision of portions of the Virginia Code relating to the judiciary.

Since 1947, Mr. Smithers has coached, prodded, and otherwise pulled hundreds of Virginia lawyers through the Virginia bar examination by means of his Richmond Bar Review course, which he continues to teach with great success.

Mr. Smithers has served as the national vice president of Phi Alpha Delta legal fraternity and can still be found at many of the T. C. Williams P.A.D. functions. He is a member of the McNeill Law Society, Omicron Delta Kappa, Tau Kappa Alpha forensic fraternity, and Sigma Alpha Epsilon social fraternity.

As these few short paragraphs indicate, Mr. Smithers has had a long and active career. Fortunately, he remains active and thus his list of accomplishments will no doubt continue to grow.

The Editors