

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS JOHN E. CONWAY

Prior to joining the University of Wisconsin Law School faculty, John Conway's legal career exemplified the commitment to public service of so many graduates of the UW Law School. John, a native of Watertown, WI, graduated from the university with a bachelor's degree in political science in 1931 and with a law degree in 1935. After briefly practicing law in his home town, John joined the Tennessee Valley Authority where he would continue until 1948 with time out for service as a captain in the US Marine Corps during World War II.

In 1948, John returned to Wisconsin to serve as assistant revisor of statutes. In 1953 he left the revisor's office to become a professor at the UW Law School. In 1973 he became the Jackson Professor of Law and continued in that chair until his mandatory retirement in 1979. He taught the courses Civil Procedure and Evidence to thousands of law students. He authored numerous law review articles, several casebooks on civil procedure and environmental law, and authored two editions of *Wisconsin and Federal Civil Procedure*, a text used for years by both law students and lawyers throughout the state. From 1961-80 he served as a member or chair of the Wisconsin Judicial Council, and he was instrumental in developing a joint program in law and public administration in the university.

John had a small section of Civil Procedure during the first year that the Law School offered this unique opportunity not only for students to bond to each other but also for students to develop a closer relationship to a potential faculty mentor. Students in that first small section heard rumors from second- and third-year students that "Professor Conway had failed half his students" in the previous year. During the first weeks in class, it was easy to give credence to those rumors. John still sported a Marine-like brush haircut, quite unlike most of his students in the turbulent late-1960s. He sat ramrod-straight in the classroom and, despite his small stature, oozed authority at the front of the class. Those students who ventured to his office, however, soon discovered a very different side of John. In his office he was the ultimate mentor, encouraging his students to ask the right questions and find the right answers. He was always ready to take time for others and their problems.

After his retirement John moved to Leisure World in Laguna Hills, California. He continued to be active in his new community and often rode his bicycle to visit the nearest law library in Santa Ana. To the end, he remained voraciously curious about everything and anything. A visit to his home would find an abundance of books in areas that he knew nothing about but wanted to learn.

In 1979, the Wisconsin Law Alumni Association presented John with its Distinguished Service Award. The presentation by his friend and faculty colleague G. William Foster cited a poem by A. A. Milne who introduced to the world a marvelous character described as follows:

Jonathan Joe has a mouth like an O
And a wheelbarrow full of surprises.
If you're in need of a bat
Or something like that,
He has it, whatever the size is.

Foster went on to summarize John's contributions to legal education as follows: "I place John on a list with few peers and second to none in practicing the belief that education is a life process, never to cease while life continues."

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John died on August 29, 2007, in Laguna Hills, California. His first wife, Barbara, died in 1989. He is survived by his second wife, Audrey, a son, two daughters-in-law, four grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and innumerable friends, colleagues and former students.

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