

The University of Kansas Law Review

Dedication to Professor Robert C. Casad

The lives of great scholars and teachers rarely have the drama of those of politicians or generals. They rarely are the stuff of best sellers or newspaper articles. Indeed, the lives of great scholars and teachers are usually quiet affairs, with little public notoriety. But such lives are no less valuable for the lack of thunder and lightning. Though great scholars and teachers often live in quiet obscurity to the mass of humanity, their lives are enormously important and enrich us all. It is they who extend the frontiers of knowledge. It is they who speak to the ages in their books and articles. It is they who spark the ideas that eventually lead to social, cultural, scientific, and legal change. It is they, through their students, who pass on our knowledge from generation to generation. They are the quiet ones who play so important a role in our lives and our futures.

Bob Casad is one of this fellowship. He is a great scholar and a great teacher. He has touched the lives of thousands of students in the classroom and tens of thousands of lawyers through his many publications. Throughout his career here at the University of Kansas he has gone about his tasks with little fanfare but with great expertise and knowledge. It is fair to say that Kansas would be a poorer state today without Bob's contributions to its legal system. It is absolutely clear that the University of Kansas and its Law School would be far less a place today were it not for Bob's many contributions over the years as teacher, as scholar, as member of the faculty.

Thus, it is a great pleasure for me to write this brief dedication to this issue of the *Kansas Law Review* honoring Bob Casad. I, personally, owe a great debt to Bob. Had it not been for him, I would not now be at KU. In 1993, I hosted the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Comparative Law at Syracuse, where I was dean. Bob was present at that meeting as the representative to the Society from Kansas. I did not know Bob then, but I knew and respected his work. Thus, at one of the

parties during the conference, I went over and introduced myself. After about ten minutes of conversation, Bob mentioned that KU was looking for a new dean. The rest is, as they say, history.

Everyone who has been lucky enough to encounter Bob Casad, as a teacher, as a colleague, as an author of learned works, has been enriched by that interaction. I consider myself blessed to have known Bob as a colleague and as a scholar. Although he has retired from teaching, I hope that he will remain an active member of the scholarly community here at KU for decades to come. And I hope that he will accept this issue dedicated to him and to his work as a small tribute to how much we all value him, his contributions to the law, and his contributions to the Law School, the University, and to the State of Kansas.

Dean M.H. Hoeflich