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Dedication to Professor James R. Richardson

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DEDICATION

Professor James R. Richardson, to whom this issue is dedicated, is retiring from active teaching on July 1, 1974, after twenty-three very productive years in legal education, the last sixteen of which have been spent as a member of the faculty of the University of Kentucky College of Law.

A native Kentuckian, Professor Richardson received the A.B. degree from Eastern Kentucky University (1930), the J.D. degree from the University of Kentucky (1934) and the LL.M. degree from Yale University (1955). He was the Circulation Manager of this Journal as a student, and after graduation and admission to the bar, practiced law in Richmond, Kentucky and served as an Assistant Attorney General of Kentucky.

He began law teaching in 1949 at Stetson University, where he taught for three years, and then moved to the University of Florida for three years. In 1954-55 he received a Sturges Fellowship for graduate study at Yale. On leaving New Haven he returned to the practice in Kentucky at the Lexington bar, in association with the firm of Fowler, Rouse, Measle and Bell, and with whom he has maintained an “of Counsel” association ever since. He first taught at the University of Kentucky in 1957-58, as a Visiting Professor, and at the end of that year accepted appointment to the College of Law faculty as Professor of Law.

In building his teaching career, Professor Richardson made two decisions which were to be a great benefit over the years to his students and to the practicing bar as well. He selected procedure, trial practice and evidence as his principal fields of academic interest, and he concentrated his research and writing on the problems in these fields as they are encountered by the practicing attorney. Because of these decisions his teaching was marked by expertness and relevancy to the practice which are not always found in law school courses having to do with the procedural and advocacy skills needed by the modern lawyer. At the same time his research and publications were marked by authoritative and comprehensive treatment of the problem in his fields, which certainly are not always found in legal treatises addressed to the practicing bar.
This special combination of capability and interest in one man also was of very substantial benefit to this law school in the late 1950’s, the 1960’s and the early 1970’s. It was a time when good laws schools seriously attempted to improve the quality of their instruction in the practice fields. It was a time when the “new” rules of civil and federal procedure needed thoughtful, knowledgeable treatment, written for those who were putting them to actual use in the practice. It even was a time when evidentiary rules and policy were no longer confined to the trial court room but became central, practical issues for law enforcement officials and other professionals who were developing the use of the forensic sciences in modern litigation.

These are the reasons, one may suggest, why Professor Richardson has been asked so frequently for consultive advice by his former students, by Kentucky attorneys who know him through regular use of Richardson on Kentucky Practice, and by those from quite afar who had a problem involving modern scientific evidence. His students and colleagues, and those in the legal profession who have derived benefit from his extensive writing and research wish him the best on retirement.

W. L. Matthews, Jr.