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Dedication to Professor Gilliam

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Dedication To Professor Gilliam

This issue of the Kentucky Law Journal is dedicated to Professor Richard D. Gilliam, Jr., who retired from active teaching to become Professor of Law Emeritus on July 1, 1968.

Highlights of his non-teaching career begin with his entrance on November 16, 1897, at Petersburg, Virginia, into a family of distinguished professional men, lawyers and gentlemen. Combat military service in France during World War I cut short his education at the University of Virginia. This was followed by labor in a steel mill until the post war depression, when Mr. Gilliam returned to the University to receive his B.A. degree, with a Phi Beta Kappa key, in 1923, and LL.B. in 1924. For the next seventeen years he engaged in general practice of law as a member of a small firm in Birmingham, Alabama. Again military service interrupted his professional career. He volunteered as a private in the U.S. Army in 1942 and was discharged with the rank of Captain, after serving in a variety of posts from Fort Knox to the Persian Gulf.

Two full years following the war were spent in Korea as a civilian employee of the United States Military Government, where Mr. Gilliam made one of his outstanding contributions. He is still highly regarded by the Korean bar and educated public for his work related to the judicial system and reform of criminal procedure. The changes effected in Korean law include the institution of safeguards against illegal arrests and detention of persons charged with crime, akin to our habeas corpus, and the provision for judges independent of the prosecutors—the kinds of civil liberties previously unknown to Koreans under either their own political system or foreign domination.

Home from Korea, Mr. Gilliam decided upon a teaching career and spent two years in graduate studies at Yale Law School. He began teaching with a one year visiting professorship at the University of Kentucky in 1951-52, taught several years at Wake Forest Law School, and returned to Kentucky in 1955, to serve continuously until his retirement this year.

Professor Gilliam has taught in more than a dozen different
fields and has come as near to mastery of these subjects as humanly possible without making one of them his lifetime career. In recent years, however, his main teaching fields have been Real Property Conveyancing, The Legal Profession, and Workmen's Compensation. Students and former students respect his thorough preparation, emphasis upon accuracy and attention to pertinent detail, as well as his conviction to principle as he sees it—including especially loyalty to country and high standards of honor. But the degree of his dedication to his students may be considered his outstanding attribute and contribution: no student seeking help has been refused. And to many in need of assistance he has provided counsel and special training far beyond the call of duty—to their avowed gratitude. As loyal alumni attest, his sacrifice and contribution is not soon to be equalled.

His work in formal student activities outside the classroom includes direction of the Moot Court Program since 1957, in which capacity he was instrumental in creation of the Student Moot Court Board. Since 1957 he has served as adviser to Phi Delta Phi legal fraternity.

Professor Gilliam's love of students went beyond the law and the classroom. He chatted with them about their non-legal problems and was very much present at law school social affairs. Legends have developed concerning his fountain of youth, energy and recuperative powers and devices after a late party, always alert for an eight o'clock class the next morning though considerate of some of his students less well prepared or awake.

Professor Gilliam is not a stranger to the Kentucky Law Journal, whose pages reflect his advice and counsel in the form of student notes which he has inspired, and, less extensively, some writing of his own (see e.g., Review of a Review, 45 Ky. L.J. 386-393, 1956). The philosophy of any large modern university must deplore that so much of his research is not preserved in print for posterity; yet even if this research is not published during his retirement years, it may still be said of his total contribution, "He wrote in the minds of men."

As Professor Gilliam "retires" from teaching, the student body and faculty wish him many happy and fruitful years.

Frederick W. Whiteside, Jr.  
Professor of Law