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In Memoriam: John W. Richards

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JOHN W. RICHARDS

The faculty and alumni of the University of Washington Law School were saddened by the news of the sudden death of John Richards in Tucson on July 6, 1969.

John was an honored senior member of the legal community. He graduated from the Harvard Law School in 1926, and after three years of practice in Wisconsin, returned to Harvard for graduate study. In 1931 he received his S.J.D. and joined the Washington faculty, here to remain for more than three decades.

Upon his retirement, he joined the Faculty of Hastings College of the Law, University of California, where he remained until shortly before his passing.

Like most law teachers of his era, he "taught around the curriculum." At one time or another, he presented courses in Admiralty, Auto Accidents, Code Pleading, Damages, Domestic Relations, Evidence, Insurance, Legal Writing, Practice Court, Probate Practice, Quasi-Contracts and Wills. He is best remembered for his first-year course in Torts—in which well over a generation of Washington lawyers gained solid professional competence and, in the process, some information about the misfortunes of Mrs. Palsgraf and others. Torts taught by Richards had the reputation of being a tough course. Few of its veterans admit to having been spoon-fed.

As warm and convivial with students and alumni without the classroom as he had been their antagonist within, he was during the years of his retirement the faculty member most often inquired about by our law alumni. He had played his classroom role with skill, with drive, with enthusiasm. His students emerged far better for it; and they are grateful.

He became the faculty business manager of this *Review* in 1936 and remained in that role until 1956 when he turned over his duties to a former student, Marian Gallagher. His written contributions can be found in nine volumes of the *Review* and his spirit lives on today. Its growth and development reflect his efforts on its behalf.

His friends are left with warm and pleasant memories of John Richards. He was a polished, professional teacher of the law—unique, irreplaceable.

John Huston
Professor of Law
Associate Dean