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## Tribute to R.S. Hunt

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## TRIBUTE TO R.S. HUNT

John R. Price\*

In 1966 Dean Emeritus Lehan K. Tunks lured Bob Hunt from private practice to join the faculty of the University of Washington School of Law. Bob came with impressive academic credentials and a rich array of experiences in private practice and academe. He graduated with honors from Oberlin College and was appointed a Francis Parkman Fellow in American History at Harvard University, where he earned a masters degree. Following World War II, Bob studied law at Yale University, from which he received an LL.B. in 1947. From 1947 to 1949, he was a member of the faculty of law at the University of Iowa. Bob later studied under a Rockefeller Fellowship at the University of Wisconsin, from which he received a Doctor of Juridical Science degree in 1952. In the fall of 1950, he entered practice with the Chicago, Illinois firm of Schiff, Hardin, Waite, Dorschel & Britton, becoming a partner in 1957.

While at Wisconsin, Professor Hunt was a member of a group of doctoral students who worked with Professor Willard Hurst on the Wisconsin Legal History Project. Professor Hurst is widely recognized as, perhaps, the leading modern American legal historian. Members of the group working with Professor Hurst wrote several important books that focused on the interplay of law and social and economic policy. Professor Hunt's contribution to the series, Law and Locomotives: The Impact of the Railroad on Wisconsin Law in the Nineteenth Century, received the David Clark Everest Prize from the Wisconsin Historical Society. Bob's other major contributions to legal scholarship covered a broad spectrum, ranging from Weather Modification and the Law<sup>1</sup> to Madame El Khadem, the Ninth Circuit, and the Risk Capital Approach.<sup>2</sup>

From the beginning, Professor Hunt taught several important courses, mostly concentrated in land use planning and securities regulation. The courses mirrored his experience in practice and his service as a member of the Cook County (metropolitan Chicago) Board of Zoning Appeals. For fifteen years Bob also taught our principal course in professional responsibility. His dedication to teaching and interest in his students helped him establish a solid reputation. In addition to teaching duties, Bob served as one of our associate deans during a turbulent time on this and other

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<sup>1.</sup> In Weather Modification: Science and Public Policy (Fleagle ed. 1968).

<sup>2. 57</sup> Or. L. Rev. 3 (1977).

American campuses, 1970-75. Unfortunately, Bob's time in the classroom was diminished by his election to take early retirement in June 1986.

Professor Hunt contributed to the ambiance of the law school and to the establishment and continuation of friendly relations between faculty and students and with alumni. As dean I especially appreciated Bob's willingness to support law school events of all kinds, from graduation to receptions for alumni and student social events. His wit, charm, and friendly manner often helped ease tensions among faculty members and added an important air of humanity to the experience of our students. Those facets of Bob's personality, together with his elegance and courtliness, are particularly apt in light of his longstanding affection for France and things French. The rapport he established with several generations of students typically continued after their graduation—especially with those who were located near prime ski areas.

We will miss Bob's steady presence in the classroom, his collegiality, and his help with committee work. On the other hand retirement allows him to spend more time with his wife, Claudette, and to pursue his many interests. It is too easy to envy one who lives in Seattle for the summer each year and the balance of the year in France.