

Washington Law Review

Volume 62
Number 3 *Dedicated to Professor Luvern V.
Rieke*

7-1-1987

To Father

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Recommended Citation

Paul V. Rieke & Janis R. Cunningham, Dedication, *To Father*, 62 Wash. L. Rev. 2373 (1987).
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.law.uw.edu/wlr/vol62/iss3/3>

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TO FATHER

After a combined fourteen years of post-high school education, four years of Law Review work and twenty-one years of legal experience, we've discovered that nothing is more difficult than writing about one's father. This is especially true when he has been so special to so many people. We expect that others writing in this dedication issue may honor the teacher, the lawyer, the law student, or the faculty colleague. We, however, write of our father. On into our adulthood he has embodied for us the ideals of honesty and fairness, of compassion and caring for the world, both local and national, of intelligence and hard work, and of love. As we have matured from childhood, we have recognized our fortune in having his continuing example, and the fortune of the community to which he has dedicated most of his adult life. Never one to tout himself, he has worked quietly and effectively to improve the situations of the less fortunate. He is a man dedicated to his family, his faith, his students, and his community and continues as our example of the ethics and personal integrity that is lawyering at its finest.

In a society which grows more complex, technologically, legally, and in almost every other way, it is too easy to lose sight of the intended beneficiaries of our profession: people. Vern Rieke never has and never will lose sight of this priority. He would be happiest if remembered as standing for the principles of fair and honest dealings, tempering law with equity, and extending the helping hand wherever possible. He sought to teach the personal touch and human sensitivity as well as the legal principles with which we all deal professionally.

Perhaps the following favorite quotation of our mother best summarizes his method of achieving this end:

This above all: to thine own self be true,
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man.¹

Respectfully, with love

Paul V. Rieke

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1. Shakespeare, Wm., *Hamlet*, (I, iii, 78) in *THE COLLECTED WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE* (Shakespeare Head Press ed., Oxford U. Press).