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PROFESSOR JOHN CHARLES HUSTON: A COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND FOR ALL SEASONS

John R. Price*

For almost thirty years Jack Huston has been a valued colleague and friend of mine who was particularly helpful in making my move from practice to teaching as smooth as possible. Jack was a unique colleague from another perspective—during his entire teaching career he was incredibly dedicated and loyal to the law school, often at considerable personal inconvenience and expense. Colleagues and deans could always count on Jack to “carry the flag,” rally the alumni, conceive and coordinate a CLE program, host visiting dignitaries, and otherwise put his fingers in the dike.

Professor Huston’s contributions to the law school, beyond being a fine teacher and a prolific scholar who produced books and articles on a wide range of subjects, extend across a much broader spectrum. Indeed, his “other” contributions have benefited every law school constituency, including students, staff, faculty, and alumni. For students, he provided wise counsel and assistance as well as encouragement in their careers. He also provided his students with an incredible array of visual aids—including diagrams and charts that illuminated the otherwise impenetrable complexities of the federal income, gift, estate, and generation-skipping taxes. Who could forget the “Incredible Marital Deduction Machine”? Indeed, similar diagrams and the book he co-authored on Japanese International Taxation aided literally generations of students in his transnational tax classes. Jack also provided sympathetic counseling, advice, and almost invisible assistance to members of the law school staff. As a colleague I particularly valued his cheerful willingness—and ability—to fill in for me when I was attending a meeting of one or another gathering of some august professional body. On some occasions I reciprocated—but not nearly so cheerfully or effectively. Between ourselves we invoked an agency term to describe our absences—“frolics and detours.” Additionally, and of incalculable value to his colleagues, Jack was always ready—indeed, eager—to help us understand the complexities of the Internal Revenue Code, the anomalies of trusts and estates law, and the mysteries of the Rule Against Perpetuities. His role as one of the founders of the Washington Law

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School Foundation, almost twenty years before the University of Washington Foundation was created, was one of Jack's most enduring and important contributions to the law school. The support provided by the Foundation and its independence has been absolutely critical to the many law school programs.

Despite Professor Huston's deep commitment to legal education at the University of Washington, over the years he has led a rich life outside of the law school. Few, if any, of our faculty have pursued as wide a range of outside interests—from travel and languages, through reading, flying, and singing. Numerous invitations to lecture abroad have allowed him to combine scholarship with travel—with recent lecture and teaching tours to Australia, Japan, and Korea.

If the need were to arise Professor Huston would be glad to lend a hand by firing a steam locomotive. He remains fiercely proud of his early stint as a locomotive fireman in Tacoma—and his membership in the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. Perhaps that experience led to his later mastery of flying and his private pilot's license.

Jack's fascination with foreign languages was encouraged by a stint early in his career in Turkey with a team that provided advice to the government regarding the constitution, the courts, and judicial administration. During his stay he gained a working knowledge of Turkish and authored books on Turkish mining law and criminal law. By now I know that Jack can also carry on conversations in French, Spanish, and Swedish. Indeed, I have heard him speaking convincingly in Japanese and Korean as well.

Finally, in addition to being an accomplished raconteur and master of limericks, he has been known to break into song (in good voice) "at the drop of a hat." ("At the Drop of a Hat" is the title of an album of incredibly humorous songs by the irrepressible Englishman Michael Flanders and Donald Swann that is one of Jack's favorites.)

Professor Huston's family is perhaps his most absorbing and important "outside" activity. Jack is a loving husband, a proud parent and grandparent, and a good and loyal friend. May he and Inger enjoy a long and joyous retirement together.