Woodfin L. Butte, professor emeritus of law, died on September 19, 1981, while on a trip in Alaska. He was 72.

Professor Butte was born on November 1, 1908, in Muskogee, Oklahoma, the son of George C. Butte, who taught at The University of Texas School of Law and served as dean of the law school in 1923-24.

Professor Butte studied at The University of Texas at Austin, earning his bachelor's degree in 1927. He earned his LLB degree from Yale University School of Law in 1931. He then served as secretary to the governor of Puerto Rico and later practiced law in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Caracas, Venezuela. Professor Butte spent almost a quarter of a century as an attorney and executive of Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, including six years based in London as the company's Middle East representative.

Professor Butte joined the faculty at the law school as an expert in civil, comparative and international law, the law of the sea, and the legal systems of Latin America. His important writings included an influential, though unpublished, mimeographed casebook, “Selected Mexican Cases,” which dealt with the civil laws of Mexico.

John R. Durbin, Secretary
The General Faculty