IN MEMORIAM

WILLIAM FRANCIS FRITZ

William Francis Fritz, Vinson, Elkins, Searls and Smith Professor of Law at The University of Texas at Austin, died on February 9, 1972. He is survived by his widow, Fay Hobdy Fritz, and by two sons, David and Kermit.

He was born in Ganado, Texas on February 13, 1911. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from The University of Texas with high honors, and was honored by election to Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Delta Kappa. He later earned the degree of Master of Arts at the same school. Bill taught English in several Texas high schools until he entered the Army in 1943. After separation from service as a lieutenant in Anti-Aircraft Artillery, he enrolled in The University of Texas School of Law. His career as a law student was a distinguished one. During his senior year he served as editor-in-chief of the Texas Law Review, and was a member of Phi Delta Phi, Order of the Coif, and Chancellors, the latter being the most exclusive of the school's honorary societies.

Upon graduation from law school he became a member of the faculty and began a career which continued until the time of his death, except for a year of graduate study at Yale University, where he was a Sterling Fellow in Law.

Professor Fritz was a scholar and teacher in the field of property law. He was co-author of a widely used property casebook, the third edition of which had gone to press a few days before his death. He was also co-author of a casebook on damages. His law review articles, most of which were published in the Texas Law Review, have become classics. Professor Fritz drafted statutes abolishing, in his state, the Rule in Shelley's Case and the Doctrine of Worthier Title, and successfully worked for their passage. He also played a major role in the drafting and enactment of legislation restricting the operation of the Rule against Perpetuities in such a way as to preserve its sensible objects, while at the same time giving effect to the intentions of testators and grantors.
to the extent that the legitimate purpose of the Rule would not be frustrated. His services to the state in this respect, and also as a teacher and writer, were recognized in a memorial resolution adopted at the last session of the Texas Legislature.

Although he was a demanding teacher, he enjoyed great popularity with his students. The grace and ease with which he expressed himself in writing also characterized his oral performance in the classroom.

All of his time belonged to his students. His door was always open. No matter how busy he was, he always had time to confer with any student, whether the subject matter of the conference concerned course materials or some personal problem that the student might have. His unfailing good humor and kindness endeared him to thousands of his students as well as his colleagues on the faculty.

After his death one of his younger colleagues wrote:

"Though I would gladly tell of a man who, like most notable departed, soared above the earth, I speak of Bill Fritz who merely walked upon it and with whom I could, therefore, speak at eye level. His work was to be a teacher, first of language and then of law, closely allied subjects. For me it is enough to say, for it is to say a great deal, that he taught well. He could convey understanding because he knew what it was not to understand. He was patient and careful with his students and his subjects. Most importantly, he was serious. He believed in the possibility of teaching and learning, labored at the former and expected the latter. Typically, he would spend more time and effort than anyone else at the thankless and distasteful task of reviewing examination papers with students, sometimes even permitting them to try their hand at additional questions. Bill was a full-time, full-devotion teacher. His foremost interest was the interest of the students. His seriousness resulted in high standards for himself and his students, many of whom found him the most effective of teachers and none because of undue generosity in grading. May this note be
entered that Bill's honesty, unpretentiousness, earnestness, 
genuine good will and palpable humanity are missed at The 
University of Texas Law School and elsewhere."

We, his friends, know that he will never be replaced.

Stephen H. Spurr
President of The University of Texas at Austin

Harold C. Bold
Secretary of the General Faculty

This Resolution was prepared by a Special Committee consisting of 
Professors M. K. Woodward, chairman, T. J. Gibson and William O. Huie.
BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE PUBLISHED WRITINGS
OF
WILLIAM FRANCIS FRITZ

Books


Articles


Notes and Comments


"Hearsay Evidence as a Basis for Deportation Orders," 23 Texas L. Rev. 386-394 (1945).


Reviews
