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A Compleat Lawyer

Anthony Morella

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A COMPLEAT LAWYER

No man can be a compleat lawyer by universality of knowledge without experience in particular cases, nor by bare experience without universality of knowledge; he must be both speculative and active, for the science of the laws, I assure you, must joyn hands with experience.

COKE, *Book of Entries: Preface*

George D. Horning, Jr., Professor Emeritus of The Washington College of Law of The American University, is the compleat lawyer.

It was 1922 after a distinguished academic record at Georgetown University when George Horning began a career in the law which has spanned forty-eight years. At the start there were four years of dedicated service as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia. Then followed entry into the private practice of law before the courts of the District of Columbia and Maryland. George Horning's talents, training, dedications and ambitions charted for him at an early age the rigors and satisfactions of a trial practitioner. His virtuosity for such was promptly evident to his peers—and at an age before most of us today complete preparation for the profession.

Professor Horning stayed his established career at the bar at the outbreak of World War II. He assumed active duty in the United States Naval Reserve. He served for the duration of the War in virtually every world theatre of naval operations. With almost characteristic expectation he retired with the rank of rear admiral.

The years away from practice tendered no obstacles to George Horning's prompt return to his professional pursuits. He resumed his practice with the distinguished Washington law firm of Hogan & Hartson. Within the year he found his legal "sea-legs" again. He was invited into the partnership and his colleagues elected him to lead their civil litigation department.

George Horning is a man not readily contented with the demands of an extensive and encompassing practice. He is an activist. His commitments are total. His arduous pursuits as a trial practitioner by no means precluded him from a desire to return to his alma mater, The Georgetown University Law Center, where he was appointed an adjunct professor to share his talents, insights and know-how with many students of the law eager to learn the techniques, styles, demands and satisfactions which only the skilled and experienced trial practitioner knows. He taught his students well. He instilled in them the same

guidelines, admonitions and substantive requirements for the good trial lawyer that he gave to his younger associates at Hogan & Hartson; and there are today, from all those who shared, many who rank among the leaders at the trial bar.

There can be no speculation that those days and nights at Georgetown rekindled in George Horning a dream and ambition shared by so many compleat lawyers: to cap their careers in the active practice of law at the lecterns and in the classrooms of a law school. The law students of The American University have been the beneficiaries of that ambition. For over five years now George Horning has devoted his full energies to the law teaching profession since his retirement from practice.

What is the measure for such a man who has given so much to his profession, his colleagues, and his students? Is it reflected in his telling young students of the law how to do it? Or does he tell them how he did it? These objectives are too narrow and too self-indulgent for George Horning. His mind, his energy, and his dedications could not be satisfied by simply meeting students in classrooms, pouring over cases and rules of evidence and procedure; feeding the young minds and demanding the traditional feedback. George Horning's mind is too aggressive for such patterns. He is too untiring to secure contentment from the droppage of legal gems from the mouthings of a master. George Horning cares and he teaches by doing. He demands maximum effort from his students. His own thoroughness in preparation, diligence in analysis, slavishness to complete research and articulateness in communication of the law in both a written and spoken manner are infectious to his students. His projections and zeal to be a contemporary lawyer fully capable of meeting the contemporary demands of a societal structure rooted in the rule of law will not permit acceptance by him from his students of anything less than the best standards of excellence.

It is fitting that the Editors and Staff of The American University Law Review have elected to dedicate this Special Symposium Issue on The Modernization of Justice in the District of Columbia to Professor Horning. The focus of this issue will be on the Court Reform and Criminal Procedure Act of 1970.

This comprehensive and massive reformation of the processes and methods for the administration of justice in the District of Columbia is something which all compleat lawyers applaud. This Symposium Issue is designed to orient the compleat lawyer. Such an objective has always been among those to which George Horning, lawyer, practitioner, scholar, author, and teacher, has dedicated forty-eight years of his life.

In this twilight of his distinguished career, it has been my honor to

teach courses jointly with Professor Horning. We have worked together in the same classroom, which for us has been the Law School's Courtroom. During these enriching years I have always sensed that I have not been a co-professor to George Horning. On the contrary, I too have been among his students and I too have been infected. I believe that I sense what is in the hearts of our students because it is in mine. I trust we have conveyed those sentiments in this dedication to a lawyer with a universality of knowledge and experience; to an activist who has joyed experience with knowledge; to the compleat lawyer, Professor George D. Horning, Jr.

Anthony C. Morella
Vice President and General Counsel
The American University