began when Frank Allen asked of the famous necessity killing case, ‘What are the facts of Regina v. Dudley & Stephens?’ Frank liked to call himself a son of the manse, and he supposed that teaching and learning were serious things. He would acerbically say that learning was hard work and often little fun. But Frank knew with Holmes that one can live greatly in the law, and he brought everything he had to showing students how to read like a lawyer, think like a lawyer, speak like a lawyer.

“Later, I acquired an office facing his across the courtyard. However early I came in, I would see Frank pacing his long office, class notes in hand, preparing. Today, when I read a case, I enjoy the craft pleasure in lawyer’s work that I began to acquire from Frank. Holmes wished for the ‘subtle rapture of a postponed power’. By his teaching, Frank surely earned it.”

“I knew Frank for more than 50 years, first as my teacher, then as the dean responsible for my decision to join the Michigan faculty, and finally as a colleague and friend,” recalled Professor Emeritus and former dean Terrance Sandalow. “More than anyone I have known during that time, he embodied the intellectual virtues at which a liberal education aims. A consummate teacher and scholar, his efforts in both areas were marked by deep learning, keen insight, and a quality much rarer even among the ablest teachers and scholars—wisdom.

“Although a very private man, Frank was a warm and generous friend—at times, perhaps, generous to a fault, as in his seeming inability to see the failings of his friends. But that is, surely, the most forgivable of faults, one that those of us who were his friends have good reason to prize.”

Olin L. Browder Jr., S.J.D.’41

Olin L. Browder Jr., S.J.D. ’41, the James V. Campbell Professor Emeritus of Law, died April 11. Born in 1913, he earned his A.B. and L.L.B. at the University of Illinois, and taught at Michigan Law from 1953-84 before taking emeritus status.

Browder practiced law for a time in Chicago, and served as an attorney with the Tennessee Valley Authority in 1942-43 and as a special agent with the F.B.I. from 1943-46. Prior to coming to Michigan, he also had taught at the University of Tennessee and the University of Oklahoma.

A member of Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, and Order of the COIF, Browder chaired the ABA’s Committee on Rules Against Perpetuities from 1966-71.


Lawrence W. Waggoner, ’63, Michigan Law’s James M. Simes Professor of Law, described Browder as a students’ favorite among teachers and a highly regarded scholar. “Olin was my teacher, colleague, co-author, and friend,” said Waggoner, with whom Browder co-wrote Family Property Transactions and Palmer’s Cases on Trusts and Succession. “As a teacher, he was very popular. In and out of the classroom, he was quiet, yet had a lot to say and said it efficiently.”

“He also had a devilishly subtle sense of humor,” Waggoner added. “He made you chuckle, not laugh out loud. As a scholar, he was very perceptive. His law review articles are still cited today as authoritative, and he is thought of as one of the giants of his generation. “Above all else, he was a gentleman and a gentle man. He loved Ann Arbor and the Law School. And he loved to have a beer at lunch!”