

LEWIS M. SIMES AS COLLEAGUE

*Memorial Resolution by The University
of Michigan Law Faculty Concerning Lewis M. Simes*

LEWIS MALLALIEU SIMES, Professor Emeritus, died in California in December, 1974, at the age of eighty-five, having given more than fifty years of professional service as law teacher and scholar, twenty-six of them at The University of Michigan Law School. The Faculty of the Law School, sorrowful with his loss, takes solace in the knowledge that in his field of expertise and among his many students the shadow of his influence will be as broad and as long as the extraordinary length of his span of service.

Lewis Simes joined the Michigan faculty in 1932, following legal training at The University of Chicago and Yale University, and teaching experience at Montana and Ohio State. Four years later, he published a three-volume treatise which was to become, and in subsequent editions still is, the definitive and authoritative work on the law of future interests. He was one of the last in the age of the great masters who produced encyclopedic treatises on major areas of American law. He, like a very few distinguished predecessors, had a prodigious capacity for mastering a vast accumulation of legal materials. His later work included a substantial contribution to another monumental treatise, the *American Law of Property*. A careful, thoughtful scholar, working in a field which required a broad grasp of history, a perceptive view of modern society, and an objectivity in assessing the policy values of highly technical doctrine, Lewis Simes never stopped working for the betterment of the legal system. Much of his writing from 1940 to 1965 was concerned with analyzing deficiencies in our probate system, in our conveyancing system, and in our system of trust administration. He had an un-

canny knack for locating difficulties and prescribing needed remedies, and served on numerous committees, and as adviser to the Real Property Section of the American Law Institute.

The outstanding quality of his contributions has often been recognized. We note particularly the fact that in 1947, when the Regents of the University began a program to honor members of the faculty, Lewis Simes was one of nine persons designated as Distinguished University Professors. We note, too, that his faculty colleagues named him as Director of Legal Research and, in 1953-1954, selected him to deliver the Thomas M. Cooley Lectures.

Lewis' scholarship was rivaled by his teaching skill. Quiet, modest, and possessed of a keen sense of humor and prodigious memory, he gave unstintingly of his time and effort to his students. Dozens of law teachers now in the nation's law schools took graduate work at Michigan Law School under his tutelage as Director of Graduate Studies, and thousands of practitioners owe him a debt of gratitude for his careful instruction. His dedication to scholarship and his dedication to human understanding were communicated unobtrusively by example.

The career of Lewis Simes was full, rewarding and influential in the legal affairs of the world. His faculty colleagues are proud to have shared that career.

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