

WILLIAM W. BISHOP, JR.: A GREAT LIFE IN THE LAW

*Michael H. Cardozo**

The career of William W. Bishop, Jr., provides a special opportunity to observe one of the ways, as Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. put it, of "living greatly in the law." His accomplishments must have brought great satisfaction to him, for he was recognized worldwide as one of the leading authorities and teachers in the field of public international law. That alone bespeaks a good life in the law.

The career of Professor Bishop, however, meant much more than his own contentment with success. His influence on others has been enormous. The thousands of students who sat in his classrooms were able to perceive a sincere devotion to law as a means of bringing order, peace, and justice in the world community. Those students make up just a small array of people who understand that humanity has a means of achieving those ends and avoiding resort to arms.

The students who heard Professor Bishop in person, however, are not the only beneficiaries of his convictions and wisdom. His renowned casebook on international law spread his influence far beyond his own campus. His many other writings provided practitioners in and out of government, in the United States and elsewhere, with the guidance that can lead to acceptance of the Rule of Law in world affairs.

Such a career makes important contributions to the Rule of Law and the administration of justice in human affairs. The contributions embrace two major kinds: (1) by scholarly writing and learned advocacy, formulating and interpreting rules of law in the international arena, and (2) by precept, example and pedagogy, building a large body of members of the legal profession who are devoted to observance of those rules of law. William Bishop's choice of the path of scholarship, teaching and public interest has demonstrated what a great life can result from that choice.

Other kinds of careers make different forms of contributions. Those other kinds of careers can bring great satisfactions to those who engage in them, not the least of which is the greater possibility of ma-

* Lawyer; Secretary, *American Society of International Law*; former professor of law; former government official.

for financial rewards. Many lawyers who have achieved financial success in their careers have also contributed mightily in international affairs: the names of Arthur Dean, John Foster Dulles, Elihu Root, Dean Acheson, and Sol Linowitz are examples of private practitioners also distinguished in diplomacy and statesmanship. Undeniably they should have found great satisfaction in their whole careers, emphasizing the variety of paths that lead to Holmes's conception of living greatly in the law.

Laymen as well as lawyers and students may wonder what kinds of satisfactions, derived from the Bishop-style career, can equal or even exceed the satisfaction of affluence fed by the fees of the private practitioner. Teachers can testify to the good feeling that follows from former students' participation in causing a rule of law to contribute to the benefit of the society where it applies. Scholars, whose writing is cited or relied upon by judges to support a decision affecting the course of national or international events, feel that a contribution has been made to progress toward the achievement of the purpose of the scholarship.

For the teacher or scholar who has a heart set on the public interest rather than private gain, these satisfactions are enough. Professor Bishop, during his lifetime, saw and heard many examples of his influence on the effort to achieve a peaceful world ruled by law. When that effort finally bears fruit, the part he played in moving civilization nearer to that end must be recognized. Happily, he lived long enough to hear words of praise for his great life in the law.