

William E. Burby: An Inspiring Example

SCOTT H. BICE *

William E. Burby served as a member of the faculty at the University of Southern California Law School for thirty-eight years. During his tenure at USC, he contributed significantly to the education of thousands of law students through his rigorous and demanding classroom teaching. He became a legend as an effective and dynamic legal educator. Generations of USC law alumni remember with a mixture of awe and admiration the unforgettable experience of being a student in one of Professor Burby's classes. I am constantly impressed with the number of alumni who remember his classes above all the other experiences in their legal careers.

William Burby was also a fine scholar. His works on property law were highly regarded and widely used. His famous *Handbook on the Law of Property* was published in three editions and, for many years, it was the standard reference work.

Most of the present faculty of the Law Center came to USC after Professor Burby "retired" in 1964 to begin teaching at California Western School of Law. Though we missed the opportunity of having Professor Burby as our colleague, his reputation for gifted teaching and prolific scholarship has been an example for us. His impact on our institution through the students he so carefully trained will be felt positively for years to come, and the example he so admirably set will continue to inspire us.

* Dean, University of Southern California Law Center

