

DEDICATION

DEDICATION TO DEAN TIMOTHY L. COGGINS

“A Goodbye, and Thank You, to Tim Coggins”

*W. Clark Williams, Jr. **

At the close of the 2014–15 academic year, the law school will say goodbye to one of our most valued faculty colleagues and administrative leaders, as Associate Dean for Library and Information Services Timothy Coggins retires. Dean Coggins has made some of the most significant contributions in recent memory to the enhanced stature of the law school. His impact has been deep and profound, not only within the law library and the delivery of information services, but more broadly throughout the law school community.

Dean Coggins came to the University of Richmond School of Law in 1997, having already established a record of success in library services and law library administration during the previous twenty years. This included his prior service as the Director of the law library at the University of Alabama School of Law. His tenure at Richmond has seen significant realignment and expansion of professional staff positions in the law library, and an enhanced level of quality in the reference and research services afforded to students, faculty, and members of the legal profession. Dean Coggins also oversaw a dramatic change in the footprint of the law library itself, including reallocation of substantial space from the library’s hard copy collection with the growth of electronic resources, and the dedication of this newly available space for other much-needed purposes. The Merhige Collection Room was added to allow the law school to house the collection of pa-

* Professor of Law, University of Richmond School of Law. B.A., 1971, Brown University; J.D., 1974, Vanderbilt University.

pers and memorabilia left to us by the late Robert R. Merhige, Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. Substantial renovations were made to the study rooms in the library, making them more spacious and better appointed, and so more effective for use by student study groups. The quiet study areas on the library's first floor were put in place during this time, and additional classroom/colloquy space was located within the library. Other improvements also were made that are too numerous to mention.

Over the tenure of his leadership, Dean Coggins has impacted the life and fabric of the law school well beyond the reach of the law library. Not only has he made time beyond his administrative duties to teach fundamental legal research skills in the first year Lawyering Skills course, he also created and taught a popular Advanced Legal Research course in the upper level curriculum. He has encouraged and supported other members of the law library faculty to teach courses, and components of courses, beyond the first year curriculum, such as Public Policy Research and Drafting and International Legal Research. Dean Coggins has also co-taught the John Marshall Scholars Seminar for the past two years.

Even more broadly, Dean Coggins has become highly respected for his administrative vision, his remarkable attention to detail, and his ability to get things done. He combines these talents with a quiet, self-effacing manner, and a delightful dry sense of humor. As one colleague put it: "Whenever important issues involving the law school are being studied, Tim Coggins is someone you want in the room—for his ideas, his vision, and his judgment."

One of the most critical events in the life of a law school is the regular ABA accreditation inspection, which occurs every seven years. The most demanding and important phase of preparation for this site inspection is the formulation of a voluminous document—the Law School Self-Study. As evidence of the high regard in which Dean Coggins is held by his colleagues, the faculty and the Dean of the law school chose to entrust him with the role of Chair of the Self-Study Committee—not just once, but for the last two inspections. And of course, his work in leading the development of the Self-Study was flawless.

Dean Coggins' accomplishments and recognition extend beyond the University of Richmond. He is a widely published scholar and author of numerous journal articles and presentations, devoted primarily to the delivery of electronic legal information and, most especially, the breadth of access to that information. The American Association of Law Librarians ("AALL") has conferred upon him the Frederick Hicks Award for contributions to academic law librarianship. The AALL President has awarded him, on four separate occasions, the Certificate of Merit for significant contributions to law library science. In 2011, Dean Coggins was inducted into the AALL Hall of Fame. In 2012, he was honored with the Robert L. Oakley Advocacy Award for his leadership in helping bring about proposed uniform legislation for authentic access to government legal information by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform Laws. This legislation has now been adopted in twelve states.

Tim Coggins has made a lasting impact on the scope and quality of legal education and information services at the University of Richmond School of Law. He personifies the meaning of "the pursuit of excellence," a phrase with which the law school has identified itself since its very founding. All of us—faculty, students, staff, and administrative colleagues—will sorely miss his grace, his wit, his wisdom, and his example. We have been enriched by our association with him, for which we are deeply grateful. Thank you, Tim. We wish you the very best in your retirement.