

## **MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

### **HAROLD SHEPHERD (1897 – 1971)**

During his long and productive professional career, Harold Shepherd's ties with Stanford were always very close. Coming here first as an undergraduate, he was an outstanding student and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. After time out for military service, he graduated in 1919. He then attended the Law School, where he compiled a brilliant academic record, seldom equaled since.

Immediately following graduation, Harold commenced upon a forty-year law teaching career, serving first as Dean of the University of Wyoming Law School. He was not long absent from Stanford, however, for a year later he joined the faculty of the Law School. Harold's reputation as a teacher and scholar put him much in demand by other law schools, and after an initial seven-year period at Stanford, he moved to the University of Chicago.

Thus began a twenty-year absence from Stanford, during which Harold was a faculty member at Chicago and five other law schools - the University of Washington, Cincinnati, Columbia, Minnesota and Duke. At the University of Washington and at Duke, he served as Dean. During World War II Harold took leave from law teaching to serve with the Legal Division of the Ordnance Department of the Army. By the end of the war, he was Chief of the Legal Division; and for his outstanding service in the formulation of new and effective procedures in the settlement of war contracts, he was awarded the Legion of Merit.

In 1949, twenty years after his departure for Chicago, Harold returned to Stanford and for the next twelve years, until his retirement in 1961, taught in the Law School here. A final year of teaching at the University of Utah Law School followed his retirement from Stanford.

Harold loved the classroom and is remembered by thousands of students as a most stimulating teacher. He was a master of the case method of instruction, setting high standards for himself and his students, who would perform at the top level of their ability in response to his demand for precision and logical thinking. Harold was also a man who understood students and responded to them as individuals. He was loved, admired and respected by those who studied under him and during his long career was recognized as one of the country's great law teachers.

Harold was a renowned expert in the Law of Contracts, in which field he did distinguished scholarly work. He was the author or co-author of five books, one of which was widely adopted for classroom use by Contracts teachers around the country. Moreover, he was one of the first law school teachers in the United States to develop and teach a course on the legal process in the undergraduate curriculum, designing a book with a colleague for this specific purpose. Harold also wrote in the fields of criminal law, legal education and bar admissions; and he published numerous articles in legal journals on these subjects, as well as on the Law of Contracts.

Beyond his teaching and scholarly activities, Harold made significant contributions to the institutional development of the Stanford Law School. Because of his widespread experience in legal education, he was able to provide insights that were invaluable in resolving problems and testing proposals for change. His counsel was often sought by his colleagues, and his opinions were highly valued. Not only was he possessed of a breadth of knowledge, experience and sound judgment, but he also was a warm person who was always willing to discuss with friends their ideas or problems. Harold's younger colleagues, in particular, will miss the guidance and assistance that he generously provided on so many occasions.

Numerous honors were bestowed on Harold Shepherd during his career. Among other tributes, he was elected President of the Association of American Law Schools, was national President of the Order of the Coif, and was a member of the American Bar Association Council of the Section on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar. He received an honorary doctorate degree from Tulane University, and held the William Nelson Cromwell Professorship, the first endowed chair at the Stanford Law School.

The last several years of Harold's life were happy and rewarding ones. He pursued his interests in gardening and woodworking at his home in Santa Cruz and traveled widely with his wife Marian, who survives him. He also leaves behind many friends who will miss him. An especially close friend, Dean Samuel D. Thurman of the University of Utah Law School presented a eulogy at the Memorial Service conducted by Rev. Robert Minto at Memorial Church on October 22nd for the Stanford Community.

Jack Friedenthal  
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