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A Tribute to a Friend, Colleague, & (and) Brother

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A TRIBUTE TO
A FRIEND, COLLEAGUE, & BROTHER

DEAN JAMES B. McLAUGHLIN*

How often does one have the opportunity to honor someone who fits all of the above relationships in their life. Such is my privilege and honor as this tribute to Patrick K. Hetrick is written.

Pat and I first met in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1981. At that time, I was teaching at Pepperdine University School of Law and Pat was teaching at Campbell's Law School. We immediately became friends. It was a natural result. We both taught Property, both thought we were funny, both thought the other was funny. Admittedly, while recognizing that the other was funny, both thought himself to be the funnier of the two. Beliefs which continue to this very day. Pat was chair of Campbell's Faculty Recruitment Committee that year. We talked about the possibility of my moving back to the south and teaching at Campbell if an opening ever occurred. It was a fun time in St. Louie! The weekend meeting ended and we flew in different directions. Later that school year, I attended a conference in Atlanta. Pat invited me to visit Buies Creek. It was an opportunity to renew our friendship and meet the faculty at Campbell. It was a fun time in Buies Creek. I flew back to California.

In 1984, that opening on the Campbell law faculty came about. The McLaughlins (Jim, Diane, Cole and Rhett) headed back towards heaven, i.e., THE SOUTH! Pat proved to be a true friend right from the start. He was there (bad back and all) on day one (with some law students) to unload the moving truck. Over the years the friendship deepened. In 1987, Pat became the dean. The next year he asked this writer to serve as associate dean. We served together in those positions until Pat resigned after eleven years of outstanding service as dean. During those eleven years, Pat's character, integrity and commitment to the law school never wavered. When people say that character and integrity are irrelevant to being an effective leader, I know better. I had the privilege of serving with a leader of with such qualities. Pat always made

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decisions without considering his own interests. While we often joke with, and about, each other, it is easy to say that Pat Hetrick served with true humility and a servant’s heart. He practices what he preaches. That is true of far too few men and women in these days in which we live.

Not only did this writer learn first hand about Dean Hetrick’s character and heart; I also learned he had a keen legal mind. Not only is he an outstanding teacher in the classroom, he is a scholar. More importantly, Pat loves to teach and write. He is superb at both. He is gifted with a sharp analytical mind. He has often given this writer insights about legal issues that would have otherwise been missed. It has been a joy to work with such an outstanding teacher, scholar, and person.

In eleven years as administrators working in adjacent offices, we never had a cross word. Of course, we sometimes disagreed on certain issues and decisions which needed to be made, but the discussion was always honest and collegial. Pat is as fine a colleague as one could ever hope for. He is always willing to help in any way possible. Again, he has a true servant’s heart.

Last but certainly not least, Pat is a brother in Christ. Working with a man with a commitment to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is truly a blessing. One reason the McLaughlins came to Campbell was to be closer to their home state of Georgia, but the most important reason was the opportunity teach in a Christian law school that was also closer to home than the Christian law school in California. Both Pat and this writer would not be in teaching if we had not been called by God into this profession. Pat could teach at schools with more national prestige. In fact, he would be one of the best teachers and scholars at such a school. Pat Hetrick has chosen to serve his Lord Jesus Christ in a school where Christian teachers, administrators, staff and students can serve and learn together and work for the glory and honor of The Son Of God.

This place called Campbell is a better place because a man named Pat Hetrick came this way. The law school will sorely miss Pat’s leadership as dean. However, he has returned to his first vocational love - teaching the law. As a result, more students will have the privilege of learning from a truly outstanding teacher; my friend, colleague and brother in Christ, Patrick K. Hetrick. Thanks Pat for being all of these in my life and in the life of this law school!