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## In Appreciation of Ted St. Antoine

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## IN APPRECIATION OF TED ST. ANTOINE

*Terrance Sandalow\**

As I began to think of what I might say this evening, it occurred to me that I was fortunate the occasion had not been billed as a roast. It would not be easy — and, indeed, might be sacrilegious — to direct attention to the foibles of a man whom thousands call “the Saint.” That title, by which he has been known by generations of students, is, of course, a measure of their affection and their esteem for him. For more than three decades, Ted has been one of our most popular teachers. Although I have learned a great deal from him over the years — though probably not as much as I should have, and surely not as much as Ted thinks I should have — I have never observed his classes. And so I must leave it to others to sing his praise as a teacher. Unfortunately, I am also not competent to comment on the importance of his scholarly achievements or on his many contributions to the profession, both as an arbitrator and as a leading member of the labor bar.

Ted and I have, however, been colleagues for thirty-two years, for all but one of the years that he has served as a member of the faculty. I have, therefore, had more opportunity than all but a few people to observe and consequently to appreciate the importance of his contributions as one of the Law School’s leading citizens. Younger members of the faculty, those who have only known Ted as an august personage, may not appreciate that in his early years on the faculty he was one of a band of Young Turks who, in the view of at least some of their elders, were intent upon depriving Michigan students of a sound legal education. Of course, being Ted, he was a very sober Young Turk. (I should explain that by sober I mean that Ted’s manner was, as my dictionary puts it, “marked by seriousness, gravity, or solemnity,” not that he was, in the dictionary’s primary definition of the word, “habitually abstemious in the use of alcohol.” Far from it, for in those days social occasions at the St. Antoinés’ were brightened by a bottle of Tanqueray gin that Ted kept in his freezer so that his martinis would not be

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\* Edson R. Sunderland Professor of Law, University of Michigan. A.B. 1954, J.D. 1957, Chicago. Professor Sandalow made these remarks at a faculty dinner held to honor Professor St. Antoine on the occasion of the latter’s retirement. — Ed.

diluted by ice — or, if truth be known, by much vermouth either. And the martinis were not only for guests.)

The issues that divided the faculty in those days were central to the intellectual life of the Law School. Faculty members held widely differing views about the extent to which allied disciplines should be incorporated into the curriculum, about the importance of adding to the faculty individuals competent in those disciplines, and about clinical education. Those issues have long since passed into history. At the time, however, they threatened to create deep fissures in the faculty. Ted's skills as a negotiator and mediator and the soundness of his judgment played a vitally important role not only in bringing the issues to a happy conclusion, but in doing so in a way that held the faculty together during a difficult time. Those qualities, together with universal respect for his integrity and confidence that he would not pursue an agenda different from its own, have repeatedly led the faculty to turn to Ted, initially to become its dean and later to handle a variety of other sensitive assignments.

Ted has, without fail over more than three decades, justified the faculty's confidence in him. Not the least of his achievements, it should be said, is the remarkable underground addition to the library. The structure is a permanent tribute to Ted, without whose prodigious efforts and considerable diplomatic skills it could not have been built. Ted has said, I know, that he would prefer not to be remembered for the addition. But in this, I believe, he is mistaken. Curricular innovations come and go and, it must be said, so do faculty. But the addition will endure when all of us are forgotten. Anyone who has spent time with our alumni will appreciate just how much their affection for this place and their sense of the importance of what goes on here depends upon the buildings that make up the quad. Ted's addition, for that is how I think of it, will continue to enrich the experience of students for generations to come. He should be proud of it, and we should be grateful to him for it.

While he was dean, Ted often said that his goal was to build a faculty so strong that he could not gain appointment to it. In that respect, I believe he failed, or at least I hope he did, for no institution can prosper without individuals who bring to it the strengths and the dedication that Ted has brought to the Law School during the past thirty-three years.