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High Brow

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HIGH BROW

*Lee C. Bollinger**

Terry Sandalow has an extraordinary mind, its power suggested by his incredible brow and forehead. (I'm always reminded, in fact, of Melville's description of the massive size of the sperm whale's head as representing its huge intelligence.) By any measure, Terry is very smart, broadly educated, and deeply sensitive to the nuances of life. From my earliest days on the law faculty, I remember being continually impressed, at faculty discussions and seminars, by his illuminating questions and comments and aware of his reputation among students as one of the most intellectually challenging teachers. Colleagues routinely sought his advice and criticism on their research and drafts. And it was part of his general reputation that he set the highest standards — probably too high — for his own scholarship.

Terry's deanship was marked by his determination to carry these personal standards over into the life of the school. No one could doubt that he intended primarily to enrich our intellectual life. Terry started a program of inviting distinguished scholars from around the country to be in residence for a semester. But his most remarkable achievement was in encouraging the diversification of the faculty with connections to other academic fields. The interdisciplinary theme is a common one within universities, but here it was realized in significant — and widely noticed — proportions.

You cannot know Terry and be unaware of the distinctive orientation of his mind and person. Terry belongs to that group of intellectuals who are inherently suspicious of, and personally uncomfortable with, strong human passions, and who remain ever alert to the tendency in all of us to distort standards of reason to suit some other agenda. His is the perspective, for example, of Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., and Isaiah Berlin, both of whom stood witness to the hardened intolerance and hideous deeds that arose in societies that had succumbed to the sinister allure of certitude. To Terry, as to these colleagues, the appropriate aim of a good mind, and a good person, is a measured attitude towards one's beliefs and a healthy modesty born of self-doubt.

This particular point of view on the world has profoundly affected all that Terry has undertaken. Eventually one must somehow come to terms with the hard existential reality that passions and desires and

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commitments are part and parcel of the human — certainly the political and even the legal — landscape. A common path out of this tension, and the one Terry has taken with his own original contributions, is to stand somewhat apart from this messy center of life and to insist on the guarantees of process and rights by which we seek to contain its irrational excesses. Terry's distinguished scholarship expresses sharply and eloquently this wariness of the expansionist tendencies within constitutional law, but also of the narrowing tendencies (such as simplistic notions of following "original intent") that refuse to recognize the need for adjustment to social evolution. It has made Terry one of the fiercest advocates of such ideals as free speech and academic freedom. And Terry's skills as a critic and teacher have arisen out of this exceptional capacity for self-reflection built on a relentless caution about our wish to reduce the world to simple ideas.

All of us who have had the pleasures of having Terry Sandalow as our colleague and friend (and of feeling the pains of his criticisms) appreciate this occasion to express our deepest gratitude.