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FRANK E. COOPER

Published by the University of Michigan Law School



FRANK E. COOPER

1910—1968

IN MEMORIAM; FRANK E. COOPER

It is difficult to express in a short space the scope of Frank Cooper's contribution to the University of Michigan Law School. Armed with an incisive analytical mind, with an abiding respect for law and legal institutions, with a dedication to excellence in the training of tomorrow's lawyers, and with a warm interest in every student he encountered, he exemplified in his every act the ideal law teacher. No student problem was ever too small to warrant his attention. No legal problem was ever too large to escape his attack. As a result, one finds in his writing, as well as his actions, evidence of his remarkable capacity to deal effectively with both the broad philosophical aspects of our legal system and the minute technical aspects through which the philosophy may be implemented.

For most people, a choice must be made between the practice of law and the teaching of law. For Frank Cooper no such choice was required, for he excelled in both. Although he carried on a busy and successful law practice, he never failed to meet his classes, and his record of scholarship rivals that of any of his colleagues. His writings in the field of administrative law reflect a careful balance between the necessity for effective, prompt decision-making for litigants, and the equal necessity for recognition of the merits of adversary proceedings and procedural regularity. Though some may argue with his emphasis upon the courts as the ultimate repository of power, no one can deny the logicity and persuasiveness of his presentation, and the influence of his writing will long be felt.

It would be improper to omit from this memorial some reference to those personal characteristics which make his loss so keenly felt. Frank Cooper exuded friendliness. His tolerance for ideas or conduct which ran contrary to his own was broader than many of us can muster. And above all, his kindness for fellow humans marked him for greatness as a colleague. We shall miss his warmth, his counsel, his work, and take solace only in the fact that his exemplary life will remain a model for those who continue to labor in legal education.

Allan F. Smith
Vice-President for Academic Affairs