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Eric Stein

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ERIC STEIN

*William W. Bishop, Jr.**

It is an honor and a pleasure to be asked to write a brief tribute to my long-time colleague and friend, Professor Eric Stein. Because of its well-established program of teaching and research in comparative and international law, the University of Michigan Law School was selected by the Ford Foundation as one of the institutions to receive a grant for International Legal Studies in late 1954. One specified purpose of this grant was to create an additional professorship in this field. It was in this connection that the Law School added Eric Stein to its faculty in late 1955. Looking back on the years since then, this was surely the most important result for the Law School of that first Ford Foundation grant. In the years since he joined our faculty, he has contributed in many ways to the long-lasting success of the school's program.

Born in Czechoslovakia in 1913, Eric Stein's law study in that country led to the J.U.D. degree from Charles University of Prague in 1937. After coming to the United States he received the J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School in 1942, having worked on the *Michigan Law Review* in addition to completing his law studies. He was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1946, and to the District of Columbia Bar in 1953. After a short period of practice in Illinois, he joined the United States Army and served in Europe, particularly in Italy, winning decorations from that country as well as from the United States. From 1946 until 1955 he was a member of the United States Department of State, working in the Office of United Nations Political Affairs, and with United States delegations to the United Nations General Assembly. At the end of 1955 he joined the University of Michigan Law School faculty.

Here he taught courses and seminars in international law, international organizations, conflict of laws, the European Communities, arms control, international trade, and international protection of human rights. He also supervised graduate students on their doctoral degrees, and encouraged and supervised research by both foreign and domestic law students. From 1958 until 1976 he served the Law School as co-director of international legal studies. In 1976 he was honored with a named professorship, becoming the Hessel E. Yntema Professor of Law. He retired to emeritus status in 1983.

He was sought as a visiting professor in other universities, serving as a visiting professor of law at Stanford in 1956 and 1977; in Sweden at Stockholm, Uppsala and Lund in 1969; and at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies of the University of London in 1975. In 1971 he lectured at The Hague Academy of International Law. In 1977 and 1978 he was awarded honorary degrees by both the Flemish and French law faculties of the Free University of Brussels, marking the part he played in an on-going program

* Professor Emeritus of Law, University of Michigan Law School. J.D. 1931, University of Michigan. — Ed.

of cooperation of that university with the University of Michigan Law School. At various times he has been a Guggenheim Fellow; a Social Science Research Fellow; a Scholar-in-Residence at the Aspen Institute of Humanistic Studies; and a Rockefeller Foundation Scholar-in-Residence at Bellagio, Italy. He has served on advisory panels for the United States Department of State, and as a consultant to the U.S. Representative for Trade Negotiations. He was vice-chairman of the Committee on Atlantic Studies of the Atlantic Institute, and a member of the Advisory Council of the Institute for European Studies of the Free University of Brussels.

His memberships in professional societies have included the American Bar Association, International Law Association, Council on Foreign Relations, British Institute of International and Comparative Law, International Academy of Comparative Law, and American Society of International Law. He now serves as Honorary Vice-President of the last-named organization. He has worked as a member of the Boards of Editors of the *American Journal of International Law*, *Common Market Law Review*, *Legal Issues of European Integration*, and *Rivista di Diritto Europeo*.

In addition to many articles in legal periodicals, his publications include *American Enterprise in the European Common Market* (with Thomas Nicolson, 1960); *Diplomats, Scientists and Politicians: The United States and the Nuclear Test Ban Negotiations* (with Harold Jacobson, 1966); *Impact of New Weapons Technology on International Law — Selected Aspects* (1971); *Harmonization of European Company Laws — National Reform and Transnational Coordination* (1971); and *Courts and Free Markets* (with Terrance Sandalow, 1982). He also prepared and edited two collections of cases and materials which have been widely used in law schools: *Law and Institutions in the Atlantic Area: Readings, Cases and Problems* (with Peter Hay, 1967); and *European Community Law and Institutions in Perspective* (with Peter Hay and Michel Waelbroeck, 1976).

He was among the earliest of American scholars to appreciate the potential, and the problems involved, in the establishment and functioning of, first, the European Coal and Steel Community, then the European Economic Community and Euratom, and then their merger into the European Community of the Six — now of the Ten. On both sides of the Atlantic, scholars, officials and practicing lawyers recognize his mastery of the applicable laws, and his understanding of the ways in which Community institutions work and their relationships with national governments. To this field of developments in Western Europe he has brought an inquiring mind, an ability to work in a number of languages, training in both the common law of the United States and England and the civil law of the European Continent, interest in politics and economics, and understanding of the practical problems of international business.

As a teacher, Professor Stein has been particularly successful in stimulating interest and hard work on the part of his students, many of whom have gone into careers on the international and comparative side of law. Foreign students at the University of Michigan Law School have found him a friendly and sympathetic guide and inspirational teacher, whose former students in many parts of the world look back upon him affectionately and welcome opportunities to renew their friendship with him.

Over the years he has shown a highly unusual ability to interest other faculty members (both in law and in political and social sciences) in the international and comparative law aspects of their own specialized areas. This has led to valuable cooperation in research, and to establishing the broad interests and reputation of the University of Michigan Law School in international legal studies.

In 1955, Eric married Virginia Elizabeth Rhine, who has contributed so greatly to the experiences of foreign students at the Law School, and of other members of the Law School and University community. As well as for her own teaching in the history of art, "Ginny" is warmly remembered for so many happy informal gatherings at the Stein home in Ann Arbor.

How does Eric, as a person, impress one who has enjoyed the privilege of knowing and working with him for almost thirty years? I would say I think of him particularly as a *friend*, one who is always glad to do whatever he may be asked to help with — and a little more; one who does his work cheerfully and well, and then comes up also with an excellent new idea no one else seems to have thought of. In addition to his work and scholarly interests, Eric is a wide reader, an enthusiastic tennis player, a runner, a lover of good music, and above all one who enjoys talking with people and who leaves them with new ideas after the conversation. The Law School, and the broader community of those interested in international legal matters, rightly hold him in high esteem as their friend.