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Alfred Conard

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ALFRED CONARD

*Stanley Siegel**

An occasional man achieves such distinction, makes so great a contribution, leaves so striking a mark on his profession, that it is almost unseemly to sing his praises. Such a man is Alfred Conard. Still, there are so few occasions when one can, with relative impunity, publicly confess the respect, the admiration, and the affection that one feels for a colleague, that I am — despite my own admonition — going to indulge in praising the great.

Al Conard is the magic combination of scholar, teacher and colleague that we all seek to become. He has written authoritatively on an enormous range of subjects, from the problems of the tort system of reparation for automobile accidents to the responsibilities of corporate directors, from the abstraction of a complete rethinking of the perspectives of corporations to the practical details of revising the Model Business Corporation Act. He has not limited himself to the “safe” and ready solutions to legal problems, but instead has blazed new paths. To name but a few: no-fault auto insurance, elimination of the concept of corporate stated capital, wholesale revision of the derivative suit, reexamination of the personal liability of corporate directors. His approach is innovative, integrative, and scholarly.

To me, however, this remarkable thinker and scholar represents much more. When I joined the University of Michigan law faculty at the ripe age of 25, Al greeted me as an equal, as a seasoned teacher and colleague. He invited me to join in the revision of his casebook. He asked my advice on matters of substance and form. But of course I wasn't Al's equal then, and even fifteen years later I look to Al as a model. He has taught not only generations of students, but generations of faculty members as well. Al will soon leave the classroom, but his “students” — I among them — look forward to many more years of instruction and collaboration.

Alfred Conard, a very special colleague, a most gifted teacher and scholar, a rare and treasured friend. Al is a gift from the University of Michigan to the world of law, and to those fortunate ones among us who have the joy of working with him.

* Professor of Law, University of California, Los Angeles. B.S. 1960, New York University; J.D. 1963, Harvard University. — Ed.