

# Michigan Law Review

---

Volume 80 | Issue 6

---

1982

## Luke K. Cooperrider

L. Hart Wright

*University of Michigan Law School*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://repository.law.umich.edu/mlr>



Part of the [Legal Biography Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

L. H. Wright, *Luke K. Cooperrider*, 80 MICH. L. REV. 1153 (1982).

Available at: <https://repository.law.umich.edu/mlr/vol80/iss6/2>

This Tribute is brought to you for free and open access by the Michigan Law Review at University of Michigan Law School Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Michigan Law Review by an authorized editor of University of Michigan Law School Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact [mlaw.repository@umich.edu](mailto:mlaw.repository@umich.edu).

## LUKE K. COOPERRIDER

*L. Hart Wright\**

Great law schools and universities are among the most democratic of American institutions, delegating as they do enormous power and wide-ranging responsibilities to their faculties. In consequence, such greatness would be difficult to maintain unless a significant share of each faculty is willing to devote the time and attention necessary to perform the spadework and professional analysis essential to enable the entire faculty to respond wisely to school and university-wide developments — problems and activities.

On this count, to say nothing of his other contributions, The University of Michigan and its Law School are deeply indebted to Professor Luke K. Cooperrider — a premier institutionalist who joined this faculty in 1952 after having practiced with Squire, Sanders & Dempsey — the large Cleveland firm.

Since his J.D. was earned in our Law School (1948), it is at least understandable that he willingly and ably served, illustratively, as chairman of the important faculty committees that oversaw the curriculum and the *Law Review*, and alone managed and enhanced substantially both the quality and vitality of our Case Club program. But since he earned his B.S. at Harvard and was born and raised in, of all places, Columbus, Ohio (in the very shadows of Ohio State University), we had no right to expect that he would be equally generous to the University as a whole.

Fact far exceeded expectation. His contributions of time have had an impact on every aspect of this University's life. At one time or another, he served as a member of the University Senate (the faculty's legislative body); the Tenure Committee, which reviewed cases involving dismissal, demotion, or terminal appointment; the faculty Research Policy Committee, which worked with the Vice President for Research; and the Budget Priorities Committee, which worked with the Vice President for Academic Affairs in evolving the budget.

To top it off, during the terribly troublesome Vietnam period with this nation's campuses in turmoil, his incisive mind and sound judgment prompted the University's president to name him chair-

---

\* Paul G. Kauper Professor of Law, University of Michigan. A.B. 1938, J.D. 1941, University of Oklahoma; LL.M. 1942, University of Michigan. — Ed.

man of this University's Student Publications Board — the flagship of which was the deeply involved *Michigan Daily*. The wisdom he displayed in that post became the standard by which others are measured.

To do all that while carrying a full teaching load in torts, evidence, and restitution, writing in the area of torts, and helping to evolve the nation's multi-state bar examination questions, is to make an enormous contribution. And for all that, I have been allowed the privilege — at his retirement — to express here the equally enormous gratitude of his colleagues, his school, and this University. To be their spokesman in this instance is especially gratifying, for it also was my privilege to have had him as a student — yes, many years ago.

His wife, Virginia — also a longtime friend — has served this community with equal diligence and enthusiasm. Indeed, one wonders what the Friends of the University Hospital will do without the services of their almost daily volunteer. All of their children are UM alums: Peter — M.D. '73, now living in Washington; Mark — B.S. '75 and M.F. '78, now residing in Colorado; and Carol — B.A. '76, now living in New Mexico.

Our very best wishes go along with you, good friends, on your move to Arizona.