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Olin L. Browder

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The University of Michigan Law School will sustain a very great loss when Professor Olin L. Browder retires at the end of the current academic term. Professor Browder is that rare combination, a scholar, a teacher, and a gentleman. His excellence as a scholar in his chosen fields hardly needs recounting. It is familiar to anyone who has an interest in property law in general or in the more specialized fields of trusts and future interests. Before I joined the Law School faculty in 1959, I was familiar with his chapters on Illegal Conditions and Limitations in the American Law of Property. I was, of course, impressed by the fact that, at a relatively early period in his career as a legal scholar, he was selected to join the group of eminent property law scholars who prepared the American Law of Property under the general editorial direction of Professor A. James Casner. During my years as a member of the Law School faculty, I have been delighted and greatly assisted in my work by Professor Browder’s published articles dealing with a variety of topics.

Although I was not so fortunate as to have been a student of Professor Browder, it is clear to me — as it is to all his colleagues — that he has been an outstanding classroom teacher during his tenure at the Law School. I have talked with a multitude of his students and former students who regard him as one of the very best teachers on the Law School faculty. Professor Browder’s excellence as a teacher is partly a result of his mastery of the material he teaches and his ability to arouse his students’ interest in that material, and partly a result of the kind and sympathetic personal interest he takes in all his students.

Professor Browder has also taken a kind and sympathetic personal interest in his faculty colleagues throughout the nearly quarter-century of my association with him at the Law School. When I first arrived in Ann Arbor, he was one of the first Law School faculty members to welcome me and make me feel at home here. During the ensuing years, he has become my best friend on the Law School faculty, and has given freely of this time and energy when I needed counsel or assistance. Like all of his colleagues, I will be sorry to see

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him retire from full-time teaching at the Law School, but will find comfort in the knowledge that he will continue to teach part-time at the Law School and that he and Olive will remain residents of Ann Arbor.