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## Tribute: Professor William Edward Wallace

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# WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW QUARTERLY

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## TRIBUTE

### Professor William Edward Wallace

I am indeed happy that the editors of the *Law Quarterly* have chosen to dedicate this issue to our friend and colleague, Professor William E. Wallace, whose health forced him to retire from teaching in January, 1967. For five years he was Faculty Advisor to the *Quarterly*.

When Bill Wallace came to Washington University in 1952, he was a young man of 28 with varied experience. Tall and athletically built, he looked like the basketball player he had been as an Iowa youth. He had also served in the Air Force for three years during World War II. It was after that service that he had received his B.A. and J.D. degrees from the University of Iowa. An able student, he was Comments Editor of the *Iowa Law Review*, was elected to membership in the Order of the Coif and also served as president of his class. Following graduation from Iowa, he served for a year as a William W. Cook Fellow at the University of Michigan Law School, where his peers again indicated their confidence in him by electing him president of the graduate students. Then came a year of practice with the firm of O'Connor, Thomas, McDermott and Wright in Dubuque, Iowa. In the spring of 1952, he accepted a position on the faculty at Washington University. Before he reported for duty in August, however, he found that he had multiple sclerosis. It is typical of him that he so informed the Vice Chancellor and Dean of Faculties, offering to resign.

The resignation was not accepted, and in the years that followed he taught a variety of subjects, including Code Pleading, Common Law Actions, Creditors' Rights, Insurance, Evidence, Fiduciary Administration, Wills and Trusts, and Agency. He completed his thesis and received the S.J.D. degree from Michigan. The thesis had dealt with real estate brokerage contracts, and his articles in this field were published in the *Iowa*

*Law Review*, *Vanderbilt Law Review* and our own *Law Quarterly*. Later, he contributed an article on Official Written Statements to a symposium on Evidence in the *Iowa Law Review*. Although confined to a wheel chair and with failing eyesight, he continued courageously to devote his time and his talents to his courses and his students. He also served as a member of the time-consuming Admissions and Scholarships Committee of the Law School. Finally, in January, 1967, his doctors determined that the strain was too much and that he would have to retire.

We regret that we could not have had the benefit of Bill Wallace's talents for a longer period of time, but we are grateful for the contributions he made—to legal scholarship, to the Law School, to his students and to his colleagues. We remember his sound judgment, his thoughtfulness, his integrity and his good grace in the face of adversity. And we are thankful that we still enjoy the pleasure of his company, if now in his home instead of the corridors of the Law School.

HIRAM H. LESAR\*

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