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IN MEMORIAM: JOHN J. O'CONNOR, JR.

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**WESTERN NEW ENGLAND
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**IN MEMORIAM—
PROFESSOR JOHN J. O'CONNOR, JR.**

It is with great sorrow that the *Western New England Law Review* announces that Professor John J. O'Connor, Jr. died on November 3, 1987. Practitioners, educational colleagues, and students alike will miss Professor O'Connor deeply.

Professor O'Connor graduated from Boston College School of Law in 1957, and began his legal career as a sole practitioner in Springfield, Massachusetts. He began teaching at Western New England College School of Law in 1973, and was instrumental in transforming the law school from a part-time into a full-time institution. Professor O'Connor was one of the first full professors of law at Western New England, and also served as acting Dean of the law school in 1976. He taught classes in Contracts, Sales, Criminal Procedure, and Criminal Law. Professor O'Connor co-edited "The Law of Liability Insurance," and his legal interests included researching various aspects of the Uniform Commercial Code and English legal history.

In keeping with his commitment to the practice of law, Professor O'Connor represented the Town of Longmeadow, Massachusetts as Town Prosecutor from 1972 until the time of his death. His practicing colleagues admired both his trial preparation and presentation, and acknowledged Professor O'Connor as one of the finest trial attorneys in the Greater Springfield area.

As a legal educator, Professor O'Connor demanded as much from his students as he gave of himself. His classroom presentation showed his knowledge and respect for the law, and his constant reminders that textbook cases are about people, not just principle, helped students to gain a greater understanding of the lawyer's role in society. Professor O'Connor referred to his students as "counsel," indicating his high expectations from them as students, and his confidence in them as fu-

ture attorneys. He cared enough about his students to demand their best, and settle for nothing less. While demanding, Professor O'Connor was well-known for his quick wit which would set a class at ease, and facilitate the free exchange of ideas. He reminded students not to take themselves too seriously, and often related personal anecdotes in order to illustrate that point.

The administration, faculty, staff, and students of Western New England College School of Law mourn the death of Professor O'Connor, and we will miss him.