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GEORGE THOMPSON

John J. O'Connor Jr.
In 1972, the Trustees of Western New England College voted to establish a full-time law school. That decision necessitated a national search for scholars to join the new full-time faculty.

George Thompson was one of the pioneers. Ignoring the risks associated with a new venture and never complaining when the obstacles seemed insurmountable, George was always the first to volunteer for any task and many times was the last to lock his office door at the end of the day. As we grew to know and love George, we were not surprised to learn that George had been a successful practitioner, District Attorney and Attorney General in the State of Wisconsin. He was a recognized leader among his peers.

The law school grew and it was clear that new leadership was needed. George Thompson, because of the breadth of his experience in public and private life, was the obvious choice. George thus became the first associate dean. He continued to teach and managed to administer the academic rules and regulations with an even hand. But George was first and foremost a teacher. He loved the classroom. He loved the students. He brought to the classroom respect for the subject matter, a sense of humor, a wealth of experience, and common sense.

As the years passed, we came to know George as an administrator, colleague, teacher, lawyer, father, advisor and friend. He wore many hats. He wore them well.

We miss George. He was a true friend and respected colleague to all of us.

* Professor of Law, Western New England College School of Law. A.B., St. Michael's College, 1954; J.D., Boston College, 1957.