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Davison M. Douglas
William & Mary Law School, dmdoug@wm.edu

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REMEMBERING OUR FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE, PROFESSOR CHARLES KOCH (1944–2012)

Davison M. Douglas*

The *William & Mary Bill of Rights Journal* has done well to celebrate the life and work of our longtime friend and colleague, Professor Charles Koch.

Professor Koch was, for many years, a national leader in the field of administrative law. Before entering academia, Professor Koch worked as a staff attorney in the Office of the General Counsel of the Federal Trade Commission. Not long after beginning his academic career at DePaul Law School, Professor Koch joined the law faculty at William & Mary in 1979. Over the course of his thirty-three year career at William & Mary, Professor Koch wrote an important multivolume treatise on administrative law entitled *Administrative Law and Practice* and served for seven years as Editor-in-Chief of the *Administrative Law Review*. He also held leadership positions in the Administrative Law Section of the Association of American Law Schools. Active with the administrative law bar, Professor Koch served on two occasions as a consultant for the Administrative Conference of the United States.[1]

Later in his career, Professor Koch became particularly interested in administrative law in the European Union. Thereafter, much of his teaching and research was devoted to enhancing our understanding of the European Union, and he eventually co-authored a book entitled *Administrative Law of the European Union* with George Bermann. Professor Koch liked to refer to the European Union as the biggest administrative agency in the world, and he was fascinated by its structure. On many occasions, he would explain in great detail the complexities of the European Union to those of his faculty colleagues who focused almost exclusively on American law.

Professor Koch was much beloved by his faculty colleagues. One faculty colleague, Professor Alemante Selassie, remembers Koch this way:

> [Professor Koch] was an unassuming man who loved to learn, always finding new subjects that excited him and inspired him to broaden his intellectual horizon. He also had an unusual ability to listen and listen attentively. . . . On a personal level, I will always

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* Dean and Arthur B. Hanson Professor of Law, William & Mary Law School.

[1] David F. Morrill, *Law School Honors the Life of Charles Koch* (Apr. 3, 2013), http://law.wm.edu/news/stories/2013/law-school-honors-the-life-of-charles-koch.php; Jaime Welch-Donahue, *Professor Charles H. Koch, Jr. (1944–2012)* (Mar. 5, 2012), http://law.wm.edu/news/stories/2012/professor-charles-h.-koch,-jr.-1944-2012.php.

> cherish with sadness in my heart the memory of Charles as a man who added breadth, humanity and a special dignity to my life.[2]

Another faculty colleague, Professor Christie Warren, has described Professor Koch as

> [o]ne of the most open-minded, intellectually curious people I have known. [H]e disdained simplistic, rigid thinking and loved nothing more than analyzing legal issues through new lenses. . . . Whenever I returned from a field assignment, . . . Charles was the person I was most eager to talk to. I knew he would listen quietly and then challenge me with incisive questions that got right to the heart of issues I had been working on. We shared a love of comparative approaches and a respect for the contributions other legal systems can make in improving our own.[3]

Professor Koch was also much beloved by his students. Here is a small sampling of comments by some of his students:

"Professor Koch was an incredible professor, and, more importantly, an incredibly funny and kind person. He will be sincerely missed."[4] (Johanna Orleski, Class of 2011.)

"Professor Koch brought a dry sense of humor and a keen awareness of both the practical and the ridiculous to his teaching. His amusement with the absurdities of law and politics was infectious, and his love of law and life was inspiring."[5] (Ian Ralby, Class of 2005.)

"I met Professor Koch on my first day of orientation. He was instrumental in encouraging me to pursue an academic career and over the next 25 years became my teacher, mentor, colleague, confidant and friend. . . . He was a terrific human being and I will miss him and our interactions deeply."[6] (Jeffrey Kaufmann, Class of 1990.)

Professor Charles Koch touched the lives of so many people—friends, colleagues, students, and fellow administrative law scholars and lawyers. His many contributions to his field of scholarly endeavor—administrative law—will continue to inform us. And the friendship that many of us enjoyed with him will continue to inspire us. We are better for having known him.

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[2] Jaime Welch-Donahue, *Thoughts on the Passing of Professor Charles H. Koch, Jr.* (Mar. 5, 2012), http://law.wm.edu/news/stories/2012/on-the-passing-of-professor-koch.php.

[3] *Id.*

[4] *Id.*

[5] *Id.*

[6] *Id.*