

In Memorium: Dudley Warner Woodbridge

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DUDLEY WARNER WOODBRIDGE

Dudley W. Woodbridge was born in Bellaire, Ohio, February 24, 1896. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1922 and the Doctor of Jurisprudence degree in 1927 from the University of Illinois. Dean Woodbridge devoted his life to teaching law at the College of William and Mary: 21 years as Chancellor Professor, 20 years as Dean, and four years as Dean Emeritus. In 1952 Dean Woodbridge was named by *International Life* as one of America's eight "Great Teachers" and in 1963 was the recipient of the annual Thomas Jefferson Award given by the College of William and Mary. Dudley Warner Woodbridge died on October 20, 1969.

IN MEMORIAM

DUDLEY WARNER WOODBRIDGE

Many elaborate monuments have been constructed as tributes to great men. Dudley Warner Woodbridge built his own monument within the lives of countless hundreds of young men and women who were privileged to study under him.

It was my good fortune to know the Dean over a span of 36 years as his student, his colleague, and above all as his friend. The law which I learned from him as a student was a small part of the total lesson of life which he taught me.

The Dean's ability, as a teacher of the law, has been acclaimed across the nation. Some years ago he was selected as one of the eight outstanding teachers in the United States. He was a scholar in every sense of the word. My amazement at his vast knowledge of the law began with my first course in contracts under him and continued unabated throughout the years as I, from time to time, consulted him on troublesome legal problems, encountered in my practice of the law. Hundreds of former students, by their accomplishments, bear witness each day to his competence and dedication.

It was not as a great teacher of law, however, that Dudley Warner Woodbridge exerted his greatest influence. His lasting influence derived from his humility and his abiding belief in the innate goodness of man. I have met no one during my lifetime who had a greater faith in man than he. He looked for, and found, the best in those with whom he came in contact. He had the unique ability to instill in those whom he taught this faith in mankind.

Long before it was the vogue, he was a firm believer in and advocate of civil rights in the broadest sense. He believed that man's freedom should be limited only by his responsibility as a member of organized society. The law to him was a means of protecting and preserving man's freedom. He recognized that freedom could exist only under the rule of law and in an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect.

Because of his concern for the welfare of all men, he taught his students more than the mechanics of the law. To him the purpose of studying law was not just to make a living, but to make a contribution to

society. It was his belief that the study of the law peculiarly fitted one to serve mankind. The fact that he remained a teacher over his entire lifetime, when he could have received far greater financial remuneration in the practice of the law, demonstrates his dedication to the service of mankind.

The Marshall-Wythe School of Law has lost an outstanding teacher. The College of William and Mary has lost a tremendous force for good on the campus. The City of Williamsburg, the State of Virginia, and the nation have lost a dedicated citizen. He will remain a bright star in the firmament, a source of inspiration and challenge. Those of us who were privileged to study under him and know him covet the ability to measure up in some small degree to his high standards. Dean Dudley Warner Woodbridge was most certainly the best of great men*.

*Ernest W. Goodrich, Member, Board of Visitors, College of William and Mary.