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## Dedication: Joseph M. Cormack

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DEDICATION



## JOSEPH M. CORMACK

*Editorial Board*

After seventeen years of devoted service to the faculty and students of the College of William and Mary, Professor Joseph M. Cormack is retiring in August of this year. The staff of the William and Mary Law Review sincerely regrets his departure and feels a deep sense of loss, but at the same time hopes that he will enjoy a pleasant and productive retirement. Because of his unfailing interest and encouragement of our efforts, the editors of the William and Mary Law Review feel it is only fitting that this final issue before his retirement be dedicated to Doctor Cormack.

Professor Cormack received his A.B. degree from Northwestern University in 1913 at the age of nineteen. The following year he entered the law school at Yale University where he received his LL.B. degree in 1915 and his J.S.D. in 1928. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and the Order of the Coif, and has been admitted to the Bar in the states of Connecticut, New York, Texas and California.

After he graduated from law school, Doctor Cormack practiced law in New York until 1917. Upon the outbreak of World War I, he joined the United States Army in which he served until 1919, attaining the rank of captain. Following his return to civilian life, he moved to Texas, passed the Bar, and began practicing in Beaumont, remaining there until 1924.

In 1924 Doctor Cormack embarked on his long and distinguished teaching career by moving to Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, where he taught law and also served as law librarian. He remained at Emory until 1928 when he moved to Ohio State University for one year. In 1929, he took up his duties as law professor at the University of Southern California, a position which he held until 1942.

In 1942, he again joined the United States Army, this time with the rank of lieutenant-colonel on the Judge Advocate General's Staff. But within a year he was called to Washington to act as a special assistant to the Attorney-General in the Anti-Trust division of the Department of Justice for the

purpose of ending discrimination in railroad rates in the Southern States. Although he was successful in this task his natural desire to teach caused him to give up his position with the government in 1946 and move to Williamsburg in order to teach in the Marshall-Wythe School of Law, a position he held until his retirement.

A listing of the subjects taught by Dr. Cormack would resemble the curriculum page of a law school catalogue. They include Admiralty, Bills and Notes, Pleading, Conflict of Laws, Creditors' Rights, Criminal Law, Equity, Evidence, Insurance, Labor Law, Legal Bibliography, Municipal Corporations, Oil and Gas Law, Procedure, Roman and Comparative Law, Suretyship, Torts, Trusts and Wills.

In addition to his distinguished career in teaching, Professor Cormack has left an indelible mark on the field of law through his many articles and book reviews that he has published in law reviews throughout the country. His articles have appeared in the William and Mary Law Review, the Southwestern Law Journal, the Journal of Legal Education, the Southern California Law Review, the California Law Review, the Illinois Law Review, the Virginia Law Review, the American Bar Association Journal, the Yale Law Journal and the Commercial Law League Journal. He has written on such varied subjects as Elections, Labor Law, Legal Education, Conflict of Laws, Contracts, Legislation, Securities, Suretyship and Guaranty, Constitutional Law, Bills and Notes, Associations, Copyright, Courts, Eminent Domain and Juristic Persons.

Several of Dr. Cormack's articles are regarded as leading authorities in their fields. Included in this category are the following: *Baker v. Carr and Minority Government in the United States*;<sup>1</sup> *Renvoi, Characterization, Localization and Preliminary Question in the Conflict of Laws*;<sup>2</sup> *Indorsements After Maturity and the "New Bill" Doctrine*;<sup>3</sup> *Universal Draft and Constitutional Limitations*<sup>4</sup> and *Legal Tender Cases—A Drama*

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<sup>1</sup> 3 W&M L. Rev. 282 (1962).

<sup>2</sup> 14 So. Calif. L. Rev. 221 (1941).

<sup>3</sup> 30 Ill. L. Rev. 46 (1935).

<sup>4</sup> 3 So. Calif. L. Rev. 361 (1930).

of *American Legal and Financial History*.<sup>5</sup> However, it is in the field of Mexican law that Doctor Cormack has achieved his greatest prominence. In fact he has been called the leading authority in this country on Mexican law. Individually and with his collaborator and close friend, F. F. Barker, he has contributed a wealth of material to the literature of this country on Mexican law.

Any other person with such accomplishments would be content to rest on his laurels. But not so with Doctor Cormack. He has no intention of staying idle after his retirement from teaching. He already has several projects planned. The first item on his agenda, which he has already announced, will be to bring his article on *Renvoi, Characterization, Localization and Preliminary Question in the Conflict of Laws* up to date.

The William and Mary Law Review would like to join in bidding a fond farewell to Professor Joseph Marshall Cormack and to congratulate him for a teaching job well done. The editors would like to wish him good luck in whatever venture he may undertake in the future and we are proud that we have had a man of such stature on the faculty of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law. We sincerely hope that his retirement will not sever our relationship but that he will continue to honor our publication with his erudite writings and offer us his constructive criticism for our future improvement.

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<sup>5</sup> 35 Comm. L. League Journal 131 (1930); 16 Va. L. Rev. 132 (1929).