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Memorial Dedicaton—Lloyd Tevis

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MEMORIAL DEDICATION

Lloyd Tevis devoted the latter thirty-three years of his life to Loyola of Los Angeles School of Law. During these years he served the law school as a professor, dean, and most of all, friend to faculty and students. Professor Tevis worked tirelessly for the greater success of Loyola and its students, and we are deeply indebted to him. In his memory we have assembled these personal reflections of some of those who knew him well.

The Board of Editors of the Loyola of Los Angeles Law Review is honored to dedicate this issue to the memory of Lloyd Tevis.

The Board of Editors

*Christopher N. May**

Lloyd Tevis—Lawyer

So read his business card. Simple, unpretentious, to the point. Capturing, in a word, one facet of the man. If he had been inclined to advertise himself, there might have been other cards, equally succinct and unassuming: “Lloyd Tevis—Teacher . . . Husband . . . Dodger Fan . . . Boxer . . . Catholic . . . Jazz Enthusiast . . . Dean . . . Photographer . . . Friend.” Facets of a man. Roles which defined his boundaries in this world.

Our lives intersected Lloyd’s at different points, in different ways. Generations saw the gifted teacher. Many knew the warm friend. Grace embraced the loving husband. A few less fortunates confronted the college intramural boxing champ. Yet, whichever facet we encountered, we met a man who sparkled in his simplicity, who impressed us by his courage, who moved us by his humility. We will remember Lloyd less for the roles he played, and played well, than for the spirit which gave them life.

That spirit endured to the very end. When it was clear that death was at hand, he did not flinch. “I’m not wild about the idea,” he remarked, “but I’m not all broken up about it either.” We were the ones who had to fight back the tears. In those final months he was genuinely baffled by the kindness people showed him, wondering why he should elicit such a response.

Lloyd Tevis’s legacy lies in the impact that he had on those of us who knew him. We will treasure his memory. Perhaps it will inspire our own lives with a little more humility, a little more courage, a little more compassion.

* James P. Bradley Professor of Constitutional Law, Loyola of Los Angeles School of Law.

*Frederick J. Lower, Jr.**

I was privileged to write a tribute to Lloyd Tevis when he retired from teaching several years ago. In it, I recounted many aspects of his life and work as a lawyer and teacher. Retirement led Lloyd and Grace several hundred miles away from Los Angeles, making personal visits all too rare. Years of daily contacts ended and I found that my appreciation of Lloyd became more focused. It was as though I recognized a subtle, melodic theme in a complex piece of music.

I was always aware that Lloyd was a superb classroom teacher of several legal subjects. I always admired his analytical abilities, especially the way he could cut through lexo-babble, whether inflicted by a judge, a lawyer or a faculty colleague. Obscured by daily contacts was the fact that he taught other things by the way he lived his life. If I had to pick the greatest lesson that Lloyd taught by his life, it would be personal generosity. This virtue went far beyond his generosity with money. I have in mind Lloyd's willingness to spend that rarest coin of our age—personal time. Lloyd went out of his way to spend his time helping people. He was available as and when help was needed. He was there when you needed him, not according to his schedule. And he asked nothing in return.

Lloyd Tevis was held in deep affection by his colleagues and his students. He was able to reach out to diverse people and touch their lives in a way of which they often were unaware. He never sought fame or personal glory. He was so modest that he was unaware of the effect that he had on others. During his last illness, he mentioned to several of his friends that he was perplexed by the fact that so many people were being nice to him. He could not understand why.

Lloyd Tevis met the test of his final illness with serenity. We should pause to consider the effect that his life had on each of us, knowing that it may be several years before we become fully aware of his legacy.

* Interim Dean and Professor of Law, Loyola of Los Angeles School of Law.

*William G. Coskran**

Thanks Lloyd, It Has Been Grand!

Dear Lloyd,

Your wife, Grace, told me that you have gone on ahead of us this afternoon. We knew for a few weeks that the time was precious and short, but it seems like the illusion of acceleration when the setting sun first touches the horizon.

After feeling sorry for myself for a bit, I realized that there were many things I have left unsaid over the years we have known one another. You probably knew what was on my mind anyway (you always had a knack for that), but I want to say thanks publicly.

Thank you for the gifts you shared with me and many others while you were my teacher, my Dean, my colleague and my friend. In all of these roles, you demonstrated your very real caring and concern. You were always ready to take time from your busy schedule to discuss and counsel, and you always made us feel like we were dealing with the problems of most importance to you. You served well with your rare skill of providing guidance while encouraging the development of independent judgment and creativity.

Thank you for constantly demonstrating, in many ways, the skills, attitude and approach of the professional. There was no room for sloppy thinking or work-product. You insisted on clear analysis and sound reasons to support any conclusion. In the occasional situation where you could not determine a proper conclusion, you were not inclined to waste your time or credibility with a "snow" job. Many think of you as a quiet man. There was no need to raise your voice. Your thoughts and views were valued and respected, so we stopped to listen. Also, when you had nothing to say, you refrained from giving a wordy demonstration.

Thank you for your continuing interest and efforts in improving the quality of the law. I know the many hours you donated to bar association committees and individuals, sharing your expertise and views on case decisions and legislation, and seeking solutions to legal problems. The high regard the legal community had for you placed heavy demands on your time.

Reputation and honors sort of snuck up on you. You never even sought the fifteen minutes that Mr. Warhol allocated to everyone. There were plenty of opportunities along the way to seek a high profile track, but you were always more interested in doing the best job you could for

* Fritz B. Burns Fellow in Real Property Law, Loyola of Los Angeles School of Law.

your students and for Loyola. You demonstrated that Loyola Law School should not be a place locked in time and space—it should be people.

Thank you for showing the importance of sharing some of your time and talents to improve the lot of those in need. You did it with a personal touch and without fanfare.

Your sense of integrity, ethics and morality was both professional and personal. Your standards were not limited to some compartment of your life—they were pervasive and uncompromising. Your standards were not taught in a course or tested on an exam. You demonstrated them daily in the way you chose to live.

I cannot overlook the importance of your sense of humor. I do not recall ever hearing you “crack a joke.” But I can still sense the twinkle of humor that was almost always around. Your humor was never designed for the belly laugh. It was more of a sense of perspective to keep the trivial from overcoming us. Also, it was humor that kept one’s self-importance within realistic limits.

Thank you most of all for the opportunity to share the last few weeks with you and Grace. I have respected and admired you for many years. But those years were just a small prelude. I have seen love, faith, strength, dignity, loyalty and many other qualities that do not fit neatly into words. Thanks also for leaving your wonderful wife, Grace, to comfort us. Rainbows are a product of moisture and sunshine. The moisture has been in our eyes. The sunshine has been provided by you and Grace. Thanks for the rainbow days!

Lloyd Tevis, you were a reasonable man, but certainly not ordinary.

Until later,
Bill Coskran

*Brian T. Wardlaw**

It was nineteen years ago when I, as a first year evening law student, entered one of the two main lecture rooms in what now is the Rains Building. I had just settled myself in the last row of seats when a dour, bespectacled man, dressed in a conservative dark suit and narrow tie, entered the room. At the instant the hour bell rang, the man introduced himself as "Mr. Tevis."

For the next two semesters Professor Tevis methodically covered everything I ever needed or wanted to know about contracts. He had an uncanny ability to call upon students in what appeared a random fashion to recite the facts and points of law from the cases we studied. It was amazing, however, that no one escaped being called upon an equal number of times, especially the back row.

It was an intimidating experience to be called upon to recite, especially in the beginning. So thoroughly versed was Mr. Tevis on each case, that one felt like one was walking through a minefield. Instead of explosions there would come several piercing questions. But there was also a very exhilarating feeling in making it through this encounter, and it was certainly great preparation for facing judges later on.

If Professor Tevis was challenged on any point, he never appeared threatened, but rather he greatly relished the opportunity to review his analysis. Of course, during the great majority of these encounters, the clarity of his thought would prevail. Nevertheless, such was his intellectual integrity that he could always concede a different point of view if it was well-reasoned.

Before deciding to enter law school, I was browsing through the UCLA Bookstore and came across the first-year law books. They were imposing tomes with the small print found in telephone directories. When I started going through one of these "telephone books" with Mr. Tevis' guidance, I was fascinated by how common human situations and problems were resolved by the law. Rather than being the drudgery I had feared, law school became a challenge which I greatly enjoyed.

I learned two critical lessons from Mr. Tevis. The first was the effectiveness of critical analysis on the legal issues each attorney faces on a daily basis. It is imperative to constantly test your working assumptions and re-analyze your conclusions. Secondly, I was greatly impressed with Professor Tevis' passion for the law. He believed the law to be an indispensable tool, in the hands of good attorneys, to resolve human problems

* Former President, Loyola of Los Angeles Law School Alumni Association Board of Governors, and current partner in the law firm of Wardlaw & Jones.

and conflicts. He trained and inspired his students to be those good attorneys. I may have forgotten much of the contract law we covered, but I will never lose sight of these ideals imparted to me by Professor Lloyd Tevis.

*Gerald F. Uelmen**

Lloyd Tevis—The Perfect Mentor

While law professors frequently reflect on their roles as teachers and scholars, we seldom give much thought to the role that is most demanding of all, the role of mentor to our students, even to our colleagues. Webster defines a mentor as “a faithful counselor,” informing us that the word comes directly from the name of the friend to whom Odysseus entrusted his house and the education of his son when he set out for Troy.

Lloyd Tevis was a mentor to generations of students of Loyola Law School. Many of these relationships continued long after he retired. He also served as a mentor to many of his younger faculty colleagues, including this one. The gentle qualities Lloyd brought to this task offer a model of the perfect mentor.

The first quality of the perfect mentor is generosity. Being a mentor is very time-consuming. Much patient listening is required. When you walked into Lloyd Tevis’s neat and orderly office, anything else he was doing was immediately set aside. You had his complete and undivided attention for as long as you needed him.

The perfect mentor is also wise. Wisdom is an elusive quality, closely linked to maturity. Lloyd rarely offered “off the cuff” advice. When he said, “Let me think about that,” it was not a polite way of putting you off. It meant he really wanted some time to carefully weigh all of the ramifications. For Lloyd, rendering thoughtful advice was the essence of the lawyer’s function.

The final quality I would attribute to the perfect mentor is Webster’s adjective: faithful. There are two senses in which that word assumed heroic dimensions in Lloyd’s life. He was absolutely loyal to those who sought his advice. Confidences could be shared with absolute assurance that no one else would ever hear even veiled references. The other dimension was Lloyd’s deep and abiding faith in God. That faith anchored Lloyd’s life, and imbued all that he did with a real sense of purpose and meaning.

Having seen how many of Lloyd’s students took him as a role model, I was curious who Lloyd’s personal role models were. I quickly discovered his models did not include the ancestor for whom he was named! The first Lloyd Tevis was one of the wealthiest men in gold-rush San Francisco, whose personal fortune was the foundation for the Kern County Land Company. I recall bringing a book to show Lloyd a picture

* Dean and Professor of Law, Santa Clara University School of Law.

of the fabulous mansion the first Lloyd Tevis built on Nob Hill when he was president of Wells Fargo Bank. Lloyd seemed almost embarrassed, explaining that his branch of the family had little to do with the “moneyed” Tevises. Lloyd’s “model” was a very humble woman who makes poverty a holy calling—Mother Theresa of Calcutta. In hundreds of quiet ways, Lloyd worked to advance her cause throughout the world. She sums up the philosophy that governed Lloyd’s life—that love is something you *do*, not something you talk about.

*Harry N. Zavos**

There are many things which one could catalogue in a eulogy of Lloyd Tevis's life; only some appear in this journal. And, no one will exhaust the differences he made in peoples' lives. I choose to write of only one.

If it had not been for Lloyd Tevis, I would never have gone to law school. From early childhood, when asked what I would become when I grew up, I said, "A Lawyer." But like so many of us there were turns in life, unanticipated by the child; and, in my mid-thirties, I found myself a professor in the Speech Communications Department at California State College in Los Angeles. We had just hired a young man as debate coach and in conversation he told me that he was enrolled in the night program at Loyola. I told him how I always wanted to go to law school. I still had the itch, and felt that not only would it satisfy a long-standing desire, but it would be useful in my professional life—I felt there were cross-overs between the law and my professional interest in the theory of argument and in empirical research in attitude change. He urged me to apply and said we could go though the program together.

At his urging, and on impulse to satisfy my long-held curiosity about and interest in law, I came down to 1440 9th Street to apply. When I told the registrar why I was there, in her own individual style and with more than a hint of incredulity, she informed me not only was the period for application long closed and the entering class chosen, but law school was to begin in two weeks. She said she could do nothing for me that year. I told the young debate coach, who said "Go speak with the Dean." And that is how I met Lloyd Tevis.

That meeting ended with Lloyd telling me that if I could get my transcript to Don Cowen, the Associate Dean, right away, if review of those transcripts was satisfactory, and if I were willing to take the LSAT while in law school and willing to leave if I did not meet the required score, then he would see to it that I could start at Loyola Law School. I am convinced that if that moment in time had passed without my entrance, I would not again have acted out the desire or followed the impulses to enroll in law school.

In our first meeting, Lloyd took the time to hear me out and took great care to let me present myself as well as my case. He did not mechanically and impersonally apply the rules (which he had every right to do). Rather, he approached me on an individual and personal basis. He was willing to say that, while the general rule may apply in most

* Professor of Law, Loyola of Los Angeles School of Law.

cases, it need not apply in a meritorious individual case. He was willing to take a chance and thereby give someone a chance. I am convinced if Lloyd had not been the man he was, nor Dean at that time, I would never have gone to law school. In all my dealings, I found him always willing to see the individual and to give him or her a hand and a chance. As a friend, he was always open to hear any problem and to give whatever help he was able to give. There are those who have known him and have been touched by his many qualities as a respected lawyer, a patient teacher, a selfless worker with the Missionary Brothers of Charity in ministering to the hard-core poor and dispossessed of Central Los Angeles, a devoted man in his church, a loyal friend, and a modest human being ready to give of himself. I merely memorialize one quality which made a difference in my life.

Who can exhaust the differences he may have made in the lives of others?

*Daniel L. Stewart**

It seems only yesterday that Loyola said “so long” to Lloyd Tevis, one of its most revered faculty members, on the happy occasion of his retirement. Of course, those who knew Lloyd best lamented the fact that new generations of law students would never enjoy the experience of being his students, and new faculty members would never share firsthand his wisdom and friendship. Selfishly perhaps, we who were his friends were comforted by the awareness that he was but a phone call—or, if one were so inclined, a short drive—away. In addition, our sense of loss was ameliorated by our confidence that he was enjoying the leisure that he so rightly deserved after his many years of service to the law school and the larger legal community. For us, the news of his sudden illness came as a profound shock and even called into question one’s sense of ultimate justice: why Lloyd and why now?

Although Lloyd himself, a deeply religious person, never would have presumed to respond to such a question, his courage as he confronted his own death, coupled with his sense of humor and perspective, gave by their example the best answer. Lloyd died as he had lived—grateful for what he had been given, devoted to trying to share his gifts with others and content with the thought that he had done his best.

Lloyd, your best was as good as it gets. We’ll miss you.

* Professor of Law, Loyola of Los Angeles School of Law.

*Bryan D. Hull**

Lloyd Tevis: The Lawyer and Teacher Outside the Classroom

I never had the pleasure of observing Lloyd Tevis in a classroom setting. From all eyewitness accounts that I have heard, he was truly a masterful teacher. A review of Lloyd's lecture notes and teaching materials reveal a very structured, thorough and challenging presentation. Having heard Lloyd speak before an audience, I am certain that his eloquence and dry humor served him well in the lecture hall.

While I cannot write firsthand about Lloyd's talent as a classroom teacher, I can write about some of his contributions outside the classroom. I know that I learned a lot from Lloyd in the short time that I knew him, and that others who were never his classroom students also profited a great deal from their dealings with him. Lloyd taught me quite a bit about substantive law and how to teach it, but those probably were not the most significant lessons he taught. More important were the lessons Lloyd taught by example in selflessness and kindness to others.

I became a member of the Loyola Law School faculty when Lloyd retired. I was hired to teach the classes Lloyd had taught. Many friends who had been students at Loyola told me that I had big shoes to fill; Lloyd was a very demanding, excellent teacher. My colleagues in the commercial law community also spoke highly of Lloyd; he had been "the laboring oar" on the California State Bar Uniform Commercial Code Committee (the U.C.C. Committee). After reviewing Lloyd's teaching materials in debtor/creditor relations, it became apparent to me that Lloyd had a tremendous grasp of the law in this area and a knack for making the material understandable.

It was with some trepidation that I contacted Lloyd to ask his permission to use his unpublished teaching materials on debtor/creditor relations; how would this veteran law professor respond to a rookie who really did not know what he was doing? I need not have been concerned. Lloyd told me that he would be very pleased if I were to use his materials, and that he would be glad to meet with me to discuss the class or teaching generally. Upon meeting Lloyd, I was impressed with his warmth and lack of pretentiousness. Lloyd was not going to force his ideas on me in any way, but if I wanted assistance, he was there to provide it.

I enjoyed talking with Lloyd. He was always available from his home in Los Osos to answer questions I had about commercial law top-

* Associate Professor of Law, Loyola of Los Angeles School of Law.

ics, and I had quite a few questions. If Lloyd did not know the answer to a question, he would readily admit it. It was always comforting to me when Lloyd would say that he shared my confusion over an issue; we would then talk about the various ways of dealing with the problem. Our conversations would soon range from the legal problems I had called about to other topics, including politics, sports (we shared an affinity for the L.A. Dodgers and for U.C.L.A. sports teams) and what was happening in current episodes of L.A. Law. The telephone bills from our conversations were frequently quite high.

Lloyd was also a great contributor to the commercial law community. He was a very active member of the U.C.C. Committee, which studies possible changes to the Uniform Commercial Code. The reports Lloyd wrote for the U.C.C. Committee were highly respected. He was also involved in the revision of California law governing debtor/creditor relationships. Lloyd's recommendations to the California Law Revision Commission (Law Revision) are reflected in the new attachment law and enforcement of judgments act.

Lloyd continued to serve on the U.C.C. Committee for a time after he retired from Loyola. When he retired from the committee, its members were very sorry to see him go. Before he retired, Lloyd recommended me for membership on the committee and I have found that membership to be very useful in my growth as a professor.

Lloyd did not expect compensation or honors for his Law Revision work or for the help that he provided to me. He simply enjoyed being of assistance. If he could pass on a little knowledge to somebody else or help somebody reach a worthwhile goal, so much the better. In the Law Revision area, the only thanks he needed was in knowing that he had helped make commercial law perhaps more efficient and equitable.

I will miss the wit, wisdom and kindness of Lloyd Tevis. But I will always remember the assistance that he gave to me and to others. Lloyd's quiet contributions to the law and to the lives of others will have an impact for many years to come. His life of service and his selfless concern for his students both in and outside the classroom provide an example for us all.

*Frederica M. Sedgwick**

It is still difficult to comprehend a world without Lloyd Tevis. Just knowing that he was out there somewhere made the world a better place. Even when he retired from Loyola Law School, he continued to be available—as a counselor, as a resource, as a friend. So he was to the multitude of students who passed through this institution, to his fellow faculty members, and to the staff who knew him as an efficient, but compassionate, administrator.

One source of grief in my life is that I never had Lloyd as a teacher. I observed him teaching on occasion which sharpened my sense of loss for the experience. I was privileged to have him as an administrator. He was invariably prepared, diligent and considerate of all sides and questions. Yet his humanity and compassion did not make him a pushover. If there was a difficult decision to make which would cause another pain, he would make it and do everything he could to ameliorate the harshness. Always he weighed carefully the needs of the school, those of the people involved, and any outside concerns. His years as Associate Dean and Dean were marked by growth in the school and by concern for quality and excellence of instruction and services.

On a personal level, Lloyd often gave me friendly and excellent advice. This began when he suggested that I attend Loyola Law School and continued a few days before his death with comments on a contractual matter. His advice was often mixed with general conversations on the state of the world and the art of the mystery novel.

Lloyd's range of interests were as broad as his basic humanity. He treated the Law School as part of his family. He considered his Church and aid services the same way. He was an ardent gardener and loved working on his own garden in Los Osos. He enjoyed music and found the development of CDs a great boon. He was an avid reader with a wide range of interests—from mysteries for fun, to law for professional enlightenment. One of the joys of his approach was that he never forgot that law was both fun and professional.

Lloyd lived very much in the present. He gave his entire life to making the world better in every way he could. In the end, the best tribute to him is that he succeeded in doing just that because he was a loving, caring and intelligent human being.

* Professor of Law, Loyola of Los Angeles School of Law.

*David C. Tunick**

Lloyd Tevis was my teacher and my friend. He was my first law school professor. While in Lloyd's class during that first year, I could tell how thorough he was as a teacher. More importantly, I could sense that he was a compassionate person. Several years later, I joined Lloyd on the Loyola faculty. During the many years that I knew Lloyd, he always was kind, decent and compassionate. He had a keen sense of humor, but never at the expense of another. Lloyd cared greatly about the welfare of others. He was not interested in receiving credit for his many acts of kindness; but only that decency be done.

I am deeply saddened by Lloyd's death. But I also am glad to have known Lloyd and been his friend for twenty-two years.

* Professor of Law, Loyola of Los Angeles School of Law.

*Susan Liebler**

Among the many wonderful memories I have of my years on the Loyola Law School faculty are very special memories of my colleague and friend, Lloyd Tevis. As a former dean and senior member of the faculty, his leadership and wisdom were an inspiration to us all.

Most law school faculty agree that service on faculty committees is not the most enjoyable aspect of our profession. Yet I was fortunate to share many of my committee assignments with Lloyd Tevis. We worked with several of our colleagues, including Gerry Rosen, to reorganize the business and tax curriculum. Several of us, including Gideon Kanner and Mike Josephson, spent even longer hours on the faculty tenure review committee evaluating and encouraging younger faculty candidates. Under Chairman Tevis' guidance, we accomplished our business with good humor and efficiency.

We worked together on several other projects. The one that comes to mind is our battle with word processing and personal computers. We had both practiced law in an era of carbon paper and typewriters. Lloyd and his dear wife Grace and I shopped for printers and computers, and together we attacked the personal computer, determined to master a program called Final Word. Grace was the victor, but Lloyd was soon at home on the keyboard as well.

My first contact with Lloyd was somewhat contentious. The smoking members of the faculty were used to puffing away at faculty meetings. I spoke for the non-smokers and asked for a no-smoking rule. Lloyd, always the gentleman, put out his cigarette, and with his grudging consent we adopted a no-smoking rule. Lloyd and I later agreed that we all benefitted from shorter meetings.

Lloyd was a man of integrity and principle who shared his love of the law and Loyola Law School with his colleagues and his students. The many hundreds of practicing lawyers who studied contracts, bankruptcy and commercial transactions are better lawyers because they studied under Professor Tevis.

We are all richer for having known Lloyd Tevis. The Loyola community is proud and grateful for his many years of dedication and service. He would be pleased to know that the Law Review had dedicated this issue to him.

* Former Professor of Law, Loyola of Los Angeles School of Law, and current partner in the law firm of Irell & Manella.

