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David D. Gregory

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DAVID D. GREGORY

David Dolliver Gregory was born in Rockland, Maine on December 5, 1941. He attended schools in Rockland and received his B.A. degree from Duke University in 1964. After graduation from Duke, David attended Princeton Theological Seminary for one year. In 1965, he enrolled at the University of Maine School of Law. Not surprisingly, David was a brilliant law student. He served as Editor-in-Chief of Volume 20 of the Maine Law Review and graduated from the Law School at the top of his class in 1968.

David began his legal career in 1968 as a trial and appellate attorney with the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Justice Department in Washington, D.C. In 1971, he left the Justice Department to attend Harvard Law School from which he received his L.L.M. degree in 1972.

In 1972, David returned to our Law School as a member of the faculty, teaching a range of courses, including torts, criminal procedure, remedies, intellectual property, evidence, and admiralty, among others. David also served as a Visiting Professor in the 1987-88 academic year at University College Galway, an institution in Ireland with which the Law School has a long-standing relationship. David was a teacher par excellence whose skills in the Socratic method are legendary among his former students and his colleagues. His Law School colleagues honored him last year by selecting David for the Faculty Senate Teaching Award.

David was counsel to the NAACP from 1972-1978, preparing briefs for submission to the U.S. Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court in major school-desegregation litigation. In 1978, David was appointed by the U.S. District Court for the District of Maine as Special Master to oversee the implementation of the federal consent decree governing the rights of residents of the Pineland Center. He served as Special Master until 1981. From 1978 to 1983, David served as the first Executive Secretary to the Committee on Judicial Responsibility and Disability, the judicial ethics committee established by the Supreme Judicial Court of Maine to conduct investigations and disciplinary proceedings of state judges. He also served as Counsel to the York County District Attorney’s Office, representing the State of Maine in criminal appeals to the Supreme Judicial Court since 1984.

David’s scholarly publications include Maine Tort Law, which he co-authored with Professor Donald Zillman and Jack H. Simmons, and “Irish Conflict of Laws,” which was published in 10 Dublin Law Journal 198 (1988). At the time of his death, David was working on a major article on the history of contempt in the U.S. Supreme Court. David was an elected member of the American Law Institute, and served on the Board of Directors of Pine Tree Legal Assistance, and as Chairman of the Maine Commission on Mental Health from 1990-91.

David is survived by his wife, Jane Backlund Gregory; his daughters, Carson Burnham of Cohasset, Massachusetts and Erin Forbes of Portland; his mother, Louise Dolliver Gregory of Owl’s Head and his twin brother, Donald Gregory of Boston, Massachusetts; and his granddaughter, Hayley Burnham.

He will be sorely missed by all.