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“IS THIS CASE JUST?” A REMEMBRANCE OF PROFESSOR DAVID GREGORY

*Louis D. Flori**

I did not know Professor Gregory as “David” or “Dave.” Nonetheless, I felt a keen admiration and love for Professor Gregory. I suppose that admiration and love sprang from my first recollection of Professor Gregory. On the first day of our “One L” classes, he descended the stairs calmly, approached the podium, and paused. He asked us, “Is this case just?” At a time in my life when justice and fairness were things that I was struggling to understand, I became immersed in the study of the law.

At Maine Law we have a climate, if you will, of being able to approach professors and so I approached Professor Gregory. I think he sensed my particular need to understand not only our law, but life. I can only by testament as a student tell you that what you heard is true.

I immensely enjoyed his classes. I immensely enjoyed the discussions that we had. I always sensed that justice and fairness were widely important to Professor Gregory. I felt that I was not just learning the law, but its principles, its history, its traditions. As a person who came from driving a truck, having a military background, and expecting that I would take my business degree and go into the business world and deal with the nuts and bolts of the business world, I was inspired. I began to see that there was a long history and tradition in the law and in some small way I could be a part of that.

There are numerous recollections that I could share with you that my fellow students discussed with me. When he would walk into a classroom and say, “Suppose ...” We knew—“Oh no!” and yet we loved it. I recall him unfolding the Bayeux tapestry and explaining the history. The zeal that was quietly flowing from him was contagious. But justice and fairness were always the underlying meaning.

I hoped one day that I would be able to hear him say, “Call me David or Dave.”

In closing, although justice and fairness—those things I remember as most important about Professor Gregory—happen, I sense no justice or fairness in his passing so soon and I miss him immensely.

* J.D., University of Maine School of Law, 1998.