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Vincent L. McKusick

William H. Rehnquist

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VINCENT L. McKUSICK

*Honorable William H. Rehnquist**

Vincent McKusick and I first became acquainted with one another in February, 1952, when we were both law clerks at the Supreme Court of the United States. He clerked for Felix Frankfurter, and I clerked for Robert H. Jackson; these two Justices were good friends, their chambers were close to one another, and as a result their respective law clerks naturally became acquainted.

Vincent and I became friends then, and we have remained friends ever since. We were both members of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws in the late 1960's. We have seen a good deal of one another since we have both become Chief Justices, in connection with the activities of the Conference of State Chief Justices. One of the most pleasant side benefits of my present job has been the opportunity to keep up with such old friends.

Vincent McKusick has had a remarkable career. He distinguished himself both as an undergraduate at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and at Harvard Law School. He was a law clerk first to Judge Learned Hand, Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals of the Second Circuit, and then to Justice Felix Frankfurter of the Supreme Court. I think Vincent managed to absorb the best of each from these two very different mentors, and has carried it with him in a remarkable legal career which has spanned nearly forty years. He was a respected and successful private practitioner for twenty-five years, but throughout this time, in the best traditions of the legal profession, he gave unstintingly of his time to bar activities on both the state and national levels. During his fourteen years as Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of Maine, he has added luster both to his office and to that court.

Vincent has undoubtedly grown in stature and reputation during the time since I first knew him, but in some ways he has changed very little. Notwithstanding his forays on the national and international legal scenes, he still remains very much of a Maine man, frank and unpretentious. I join the many others who salute him on the occasion of his retirement as Chief Justice.

* Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the United States.

