May 2012

In Memorium: Henry J. Miller

Janice C. Griffith

Follow this and additional works at: https://readingroom.law.gsu.edu/gsulr

Part of the Law Commons

Recommended Citation

Available at: https://readingroom.law.gsu.edu/gsulr/vol16/iss2/8

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Publications at Reading Room. It has been accepted for inclusion in Georgia State University Law Review by an authorized editor of Reading Room. For more information, please contact mbutler@gsu.edu.
IN MEMORIAM: HENRY J. MILLER

The editors of the *Georgia State University Law Review* have respectfully dedicated this issue to one of the College of Law's longtime friends, Henry J. Miller. Because Henry Miller's intellect, integrity, and humor flowed together so seamlessly, he won the attention and respect of those who met him. All who had the pleasure to know him quickly grasped his commitment to excellence. As his granddaughter, Catherine Hays Reed Miller, so beautifully put it, “he was the one [she] most wanted to please.”

Henry Miller practiced law for seventy years, but he never forgot the law professors who taught and challenged him. In my last conversation with him, he talked about his days at Harvard Law School as if they were yesterday. After graduation, he did not leave the world of legal scholarship or teaching far behind. For over fifty years, he was known as the resident scholar of his Atlanta law firm, Alston & Bird. Lawyers who worked with Henry Miller still praise his willingness to serve as a mentor for his colleagues. Known as an exhaustive researcher who was curious about everything, he insisted upon meticulous and thorough attention to detail. All law students and lawyers should aspire to attain the values that Henry Miller honored and instilled in others—integrity, excellence, professional and civic commitment, fairness, good humor, and collegiality.

Henry Miller's genuine consideration for other people made a lasting impression upon me. Shortly after coming to Georgia State, I met Mr. Miller at a reception following the nineteenth Henry J. Miller Distinguished Lecture, given by United States Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy. He approached me—not to talk about himself—but to point out the instrumental role that Dean Emeritus Ben F. Johnson, Jr. had played in the formation of our law school. It was therefore no surprise—and perfectly in keeping with Henry Miller’s character—that he endowed an eminent scholar chair at our law school in Dean Johnson’s name rather than his own.

This College of Law is indeed fortunate and proud that Henry Miller cared so deeply about its success. The Henry J. Miller Distinguished Lectures have achieved national distinction and acclaim for their breadth and quality. His endowment of the Ben F. Johnson Jr., Chair in Law demonstrated great confidence
in our institution and its future. We should not forget his faith in us as we begin this millennium. We are stronger today, in part, because of the steadfast support of a remarkable man who made such a positive impact upon his society and profession.

***

Dean Anthony T. Kronman delivered the twenty-fifth Henry J. Miller Distinguished Lecture entitled “Is Poetry Undemocratic?” The Georgia State University Law Review publishes his remarks in this issue. We believe Henry Miller would have enjoyed this Article because Catherine Hays Reed Miller recently reminded us of her grandfather’s love of poetry.

Dean Janice C. Griffith
February 2000
IN MEMORIAM

HENRY J. MILLER

1906 - 2000