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Robert S. Burk†

I approach the retirement of Jim Hogg from the position of President and Dean of William Mitchell College of Law with mixed emotions. After a decade of hard service to the college, Jim deserves some peace and tranquility. However, his departure from the college’s administration and his return to the classroom will also be the end of an era at William Mitchell College of Law. We no longer will have the benefit of Jim’s unique management skills.

As I have progressed through the various levels of responsibility on the Board of Trustees, I have become abundantly aware of the tensions and conflicts that surround the job of President and Dean. I have no doubt that this crisis management has directly led to the short — less than three years — tenure of law school deans. One can only conclude, therefore, that Jim’s ten years of active leadership is not simply atypical, it is remarkable! Not only has the school prospered during Dean Hogg’s administration, but his leadership has resulted in the addition of the Burger Library — a monument to Jim’s perseverance and to the important role of William Mitchell College of Law in the academic community.

I cannot think of anyone who has done more for the college in the last ten years than Jim Hogg. Jim’s service and dedication is unblemished and he has laid a foundation of excellence upon which the school can build and grow many years into the future. It has been a privilege and pleasure to have worked with Jim, and I look forward to his continued involvement and good counsel as a member of the college’s full-time faculty.

Words alone, however, do not do justice to Dean Hogg’s accomplishments. By the time he reads this piece, he will know about the James F. Hogg merit scholarship fund, which the Board of Trustees created and dedicated to his service. Thus, Jim’s legacy to William Mitchell College of Law is the Burger Chair, Board of Trustees, William Mitchell College of Law.

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Library, the James F. Hogg Scholarship fund, and a very strong and prosperous college of law. As William Mitchell heads toward its 100th birthday, we can all look back on Jim’s contributions with a great deal of pride and sense of accomplishment.

It is my hope that Professor Hogg and Gail can now find the time to enjoy their new home and a less stressful lifestyle. Congratulations!