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A Tribute to Dean James F. Hogg

Sherman Winthrop[†]

It is with great pleasure that I offer my tribute to Jim Hogg on the occasion of his retirement as Dean and President of the William Mitchell College of Law.

My experiences with Jim Hogg go back a long way. In fact, I suspect that I am one of the first if not the first Minnesotan that Jim met.

I first met Jim in 1953 as a fellow student at the Harvard Law School. Jim, who was then a foreign student from New Zealand, was working towards his LL.M Degree, and I, from Duluth, Minnesota, was working towards my LL.B. Degree. As I recall, towards the end of the school year Jim had received an offer to teach at the University of Minnesota Law School and was very concerned about the winters and general climate of the State of Minnesota. As a native Minnesotan, I tried my best to convince Jim that snowflakes were really like diamonds and that our winters were only about two weeks in duration. Unfortunately, Jim did not heed my advice and instead returned home to New Zealand to practice law.

Fortunately for Minnesota and for all of us who have had the opportunity of knowing and working with Jim over the years, several years later he finally saw the light and decided to accept a position as a professor at the University of Minnesota Law School.

Since Jim's arrival on the Minnesota scene, we have been good friends, and our paths, both socially and professionally, have intertwined in many different ways. We were partners in the private practice of law with the Oppenheimer law firm in St. Paul. We have also been in the relationship of client and counsel, and most recently we served together as members of the Executive Council of the Business Law Section of the Minnesota State Bar Association. I have also had the pleasure of witnessing Jim's pleasant persuasion with respect to the various fund drives of the William Mitchell College of Law.

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As I look back over the years, I like to think that our early discussions had some bearing on Jim's decision to settle in Minnesota. In any event, his decision in that respect has given us all the opportunity to know Jim as the fine person and outstanding lawyer that he is, as well as the opportunity to appreciate his outstanding intellect, his fine wit, and his excellent sense of humor.

I extend my sincerest best wishes to Jim for every continued personal and professional success as he leaves the tumult of Dean and President. The William Mitchell College of Law has indeed been fortunate to have had Jim as Dean and President these many years.