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## In Memoriam

J. Willard O'Brien

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Villanova University School of Law  
 In Memoriam  
 Joseph R. Wenk  
 1944 - 1979

**I**t is with great sorrow and a sense of loss that the faculty of Villanova University School of Law mourns the passing of a colleague and friend, Professor Joseph R. Wenk. Professor Wenk was associated with the Law School for more than a third of his short life. He entered the Law School in 1966 and received the degree of Juris Doctor, *summa cum laude*, in 1969. Upon his graduation, Professor Wenk received the Reverend Joseph Ullman Award, the James Rinaldi Award, the Roman Catholic High School Alumni Association Award, the Vincent A. Carroll Award, the Saint Ives Medal, the Saint Thomas More Society Award, the Rose B. Rinaldi Award and the Fife Insurance Corporation Award. He was also a member of the Moot Court Board.

After leaving the Law School, Professor Wenk was awarded a fellowship to study at the University of Freiburg in Germany for a year. He then returned to serve with Philadelphia Community Legal Services where he not only was a lawyer for individual clients, but contributed his ideas to the development of historic and significant class action suits. He brought the analytic ability he so brilliantly displayed as an undergraduate and the concern and practical understanding of the needs of the poor which he manifested at the Community Legal Services to his teaching at the Law School.

In 1973 he was appointed Assistant Professor of Law. He was promoted to Associate Professor of Law in 1974 and to Professor of Law in 1976. In addition to teaching traditional subjects, he developed an innovative clinical program in connection with his course in Law and Poverty and with Delaware County Community Legal Services.

His life ended, all too soon, at a student gathering on May 15, 1979 among those whom he loved and who loved him. A life cannot be measured solely by months or years. It can also be measured by caring and service. By that measure Professor Wenk led a rich and meaningful life. We shall miss him, but we are grateful for the time we had together.

The faculty extends its deepest sympathy to Professor Wenk's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Wenk, and to his sisters, Mary Jane and Nancy.

  
 J. Willard O'Brien  
 Dean

Faculty Resolution  
 Approved September 4, 1979