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Robert A.J. Barry 1929-1986

Donald W. Dowd

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In Memoriam

ROBERT A. J. BARRY

1929-1986

To

ROBERT A. J. BARRY

The Board of Editors of

THE VILLANOVA LAW REVIEW

humbly dedicate this volume.

ROBERT A. J. BARRY

1929-1986

BOB Barry came to Villanova Law School with a rich and varied background. He was born in the small town of Kingston in the coal country of Pennsylvania and as a boy was taken by his father, a mining engineer, from town to town throughout the state, graduating in 1947 from Johnstown High School, first in his class. Like many bright boys, he was attracted by the wonders of science, and encouraged by a teacher, he left Johnstown for the very strange and undoubtedly daunting city of Cambridge, Massachusetts. At Harvard he majored in physics and graduated with honors in 1951. But at college he learned a good deal more than a narrow discipline; a gregarious, open young man, he learned about people. He decided it might be even more valuable to concentrate on learning how to solve problems of man dealing with man rather than to continue studying how to solve problems of

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man dealing with nature, and therefore resolved to go to law school.

At the Harvard Law School, from which he graduated in 1954, he first became aware of the vast, complicated world of law in business, antitrust, sales, corporations—a world far removed from the study of physics. He determined to try his skill in the challenging legal milieu of New York, but first, two important decisions had to be taken care of. The first one was made for him. He was drafted into the Army. The other, he willingly made for himself. He married his college sweetheart, Harriet Clarke.

His commitment to the Army was brief. His commitment to Harriet endured until they were parted by death.

After his short military career, he was a law clerk to Judge Rozell C. Thomsen of the United States District Court for Maryland and then he became an associate with the large New York firm of Cahill, Gordon, Reindel & Ohl. He specialized in corporate matters and later went on to become a partner in Valicente, Leighton, Reed and Pine, and finally to form his own partnership of Katz, Barry, Nicol and Wallach and the business firm of McGrath Services.

Professor Giannella of this law school had tried to lure Bob early in his career into teaching here but it was only after long years of practice that he finally succumbed and came to Villanova in 1973. At the law school he brought his considerable legal experience, his business judgment and knowledge of the world and his extraordinary common sense to bear on his teaching in corporations, business planning, tax and professional responsibility.

Perhaps his most valuable contribution was not his “know-how” but his demonstrating to our students convincingly that one could work and succeed in the highly competitive world of practice and retain one’s integrity, warmth and concern for people.

Bob, as a boy, was an Eagle Scout, and to a remarkable degree, he kept true to the scout litany of virtues throughout his career as a lawyer and teacher. No one could doubt his loyalty, honesty and purity, but he was also humorous, self-deprecating and generous.

Bob was a loving man. He loved the law and he continued to love science. He loved teaching, he loved his students. He loved all those who worked with him, teachers, administrators, secretaries and staff. He loved Villanova and he loved Harvard. He loved his neighbors both in Villanova and at his summer home in Massachusetts. He loved ideas and he loved gadgets. He loved read-

ing, music, sailing and swimming, but most of all he loved his mother, his wife, his daughter, Toni, his sons, Bob and Justin, and his God. And he was loved.

He will be sorely missed. The halls will not ring with his mock growls and his very genuine laughter. His door will not be open to anyone, colleague or student, who wishes to come in to disturb him (his nose in an advance sheet and papers all around) to ask a tricky question, or to get thoughtful advice, or just to receive sympathy or understanding.

Our students have lost a dedicated teacher, our faculty has lost a warm and dear colleague, his neighbors have lost a leading member of their community, his business associates have lost a wise and honest partner, but most tragically his family has lost the kindest and most devoted son, husband and father. I have lost a friend.

But, we are all richer, far richer for his having been with us.

*Donald W. Dowd**

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