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A Tribute to Dean Rex Perschbacher

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It is a great honor to join the University of California at Davis Law Review's tribute to Dean Rex Perschbacher on behalf of myself, and the Schwartz/Levi Inn of Court ("Inn of Court" or "Inn"). We want to share the respect and admiration which we have for Dean Perschbacher, and to celebrate his many outstanding contributions to legal education and the legal profession. Our Inn of Court was deeply saddened to learn of his passing. We extend our deepest condolences to the Bassett/Perschbacher family, and hope that they take solace in reflecting on the rich life he led and the many people he helped along the way. Dean Perschbacher will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Dean Perschbacher provided great leadership to the law school during his tenure as Dean from 1998 to 2008, and as a professor teaching in the areas of Civil Procedure (including Civil Litigation and Complex Litigation), Civil Rights, Professional Responsibility, and Law and Popular Culture. He will always serve as a shining example of the very best in teaching these subjects. He was able to explain complex legal concepts to his students, a skill that they will need as future trial advocates to explain highly technical details to a jury. He loved teaching a great deal and he committed so much of his life to

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helping students and others; they all benefitted greatly from his instruction and friendship. He was a great professor and mentor to so many students and young attorneys. We all remember that he was endowed with a keen intellect, an inquisitive mind, a real love of the law, and a warm personality.

Dean Perschbacher devoted his career to the honorable practice of law and to enhancing the law school experience for the students by combining academic rigor with hands on practical experience and instruction. His goal was to focus on integrating the daily practice of law into teaching. The Dean's vision for the law school was that it be a law school whose graduates were "practice-ready." In achieving his vision of a law school that prepared students for the actual practice of law, he vigorously and diligently engaged the law school with the Schwartz/Levi Inn of Court, an organization comprised of judges, lawyers, professors and law students. Dean Perschbacher was a long-time member of the Schwartz/Levi Inn of Court since its beginning, twenty-five (25) years ago. We, at the Inn, were extremely grateful and honored that Dean Perschbacher brought his calm demeanor, enormous talents, energy and stellar reputation to our Inn of Court. By his own example, Dean Perschbacher has shown us all that effective advocacy can easily co-exist with respect, dignity and civility.

Many of us were tapped by Dean Perschbacher in his quest to expose students to our experiences as practitioners in order for the students to obtain real-life lawyering skills. I recall getting a telephone call from (at the time) Assistant Dean Perschbacher when I was still practicing law, asking me if I would consider being a guest lecturer at the law school's research and writing class to first year students. I had never considered teaching in a law school and I was honored to be asked to do so. I agreed to be a guest lecturer and presented on the topic of "How to Write Persuasive and Effective Motions for Summary Judgment." I collected several of my motions for summary judgment that I had prepared and filed on behalf of my clients in state and federal courts and took them with me for my lecture. I really enjoyed meeting and talking to the bright, motivated and energetic students and I have returned several times to the law school as a guest lecturer to teach on other topics such as, Evidence and Practical Tips for Effective Trial Advocacy. I have Dean Perschbacher and his successor, Dean Kevin Johnson, to thank for that. I remember that whenever I came to the law school to teach as a guest lecturer or panelist, Dean Perschbacher always took the time to come to the classroom or program to welcome me and personally introduce me to the students. He truly cared about all of his guest lecturers and his students. Many

of us benefitted from the Dean's efforts to involve us in the law school. I believe the students benefitted as well.

Through his enormous talent as Dean and professor of this great law school, and as a man of impeccable honor, Dean Perschbacher embodies the mission of the American Inns of Court to continue the lessons of professionalism, civility, and excellence in the practice of law with a particular focus on ethics. We take heart in the enduring legacy of his friendship and his long career as a professor, scholar and Dean. Thus, this tribute to Dean Perschbacher is made on behalf of myself and the Schwartz/Levi Inn of Court as an acknowledgment of gratitude, respect and admiration for his remarkable service and contribution to the law school, the judiciary, the legal profession and our Inn of Court. He will be missed.