

In Memoriam: John William Curran 1896-1959

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JOHN WILLIAM CURRAN

1896-1959

Professor John W. Curran, to the sorrow of those having association with the College of Law, died on July 25, 1959.

Professor Curran, having received his A.B. degree from St. Norbert's College, West De Pere, Wisconsin, attended Northwestern University which granted him an LL.B. in 1922. Thereafter, he did graduate studies and received an LL.M. from Georgetown University School of Law in 1923 and an A.M., also from Georgetown University, in 1924. He taught law at Catholic University of America from 1922 to 1927, at which time he became a member of the faculty of the College of Law.

Though he taught in many areas of the law during this long career he is best remembered for courses conducted in Equity and Trusts. Students so closely associated Professor Curran with Equity that he was known with affection to hundreds of the alumni as "Chancellor."

He served from 1943 to 1947 as a commissioner of the War Production Board. He was active in the Chicago, Illinois and American Bar Associations. Professor Curran was a member of the American Arbitration Association and also performed services for the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. His fraternities were Gamma Eta Gamma and Nu Beta Epsilon.

The area of his intellectual interest was large. Law reviews were enriched by his articles on many subjects. He served on the Board of Editors of the Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology from 1942 until his death. Professor Curran was a member of the Civil War Round Table and was known to scholars as an authority on Lincoln and, particularly, on the trial of Mrs. Surratt and the other conspirators. Last spring Lincoln College conferred on him its Diploma of Merit in recognition of important contributions to studies of Lincoln. A bibliophile, he was well known to readers of the American Book Collector.

Professor Curran is survived by his widow, Mary, a son, Reverend John Curran, a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago, a daughter, Mary Patricia, and two grandchildren. His son-in-law, Martin Culhane, is a student of the College of Law.

As a teacher he stimulated a deep and abiding interest in the law. Professor Curran possessed a talent in a measure rarely found to communicate learning and develop the inquiring minds of students. The College of Law has lost a learned and articulate member of its faculty but we have consolation in knowing that the influence of his gentle, scholarly spirit shall long remain here and in the profession he loved and served so well.

Requiescat in pace.

DEAN DANIEL P. WARD