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Dedication to Professor Franklin D. Cleckley

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WEST VIRGINIA LAW REVIEW

DEDICATION TO PROFESSOR FRANKLIN D. CLECKLEY

The editors and staff of Volume 115 of the *West Virginia Law Review* dedicate this Issue to West Virginia University College of Law Professor and former West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals Justice Franklin D. Cleckley in honor of his retirement from teaching and for his decades of service to West Virginia as a professor, attorney, and justice. In the course of his career, Professor Cleckley has meaningfully impacted not only his students, colleagues, and clients but has also significantly furthered legal jurisprudence in West Virginia. Two of his publications, the *Handbook on Evidence for West Virginia Lawyers* and the *Handbook on West Virginia Criminal Procedure*, have been called “the bible for West Virginia’s judges and attorneys.”¹

Professor Cleckley grew up in Huntington, West Virginia, as the youngest of eleven children. He received his Juris Doctorate from Indiana University College of Law in 1965. After graduation, he served for three years in the United States Navy Judge Advocate General’s Corps, during which he was “the lawyer most requested by criminal defendants during the Vietnam War.”² Professor Cleckley then attended Harvard University and received an LL.M. After post-graduate studies at Exeter University in England, Professor Cleckley joined the WVU College of Law faculty in 1969. He became the first individual to hold the Arthur B. Hodges Chair of Law. Professor Cleckley was also the first African-American on staff at the WVU College of Law and the first full-time African-American professor at West Virginia University. Professor Cleckley’s students consider him to be an excellent and demanding professor with high expectations, and he has been consistently recognized with West Virginia University’s Outstanding Teacher Award. In 1994, Professor Cleckley was appointed to the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals. During his two years of service, Justice Cleckley wrote over 100 majority opinions in addition to numerous concurring opinions and dissents.

In addition to being a much sought-after professor and highly respected justice, Professor Cleckley is also admired for his dedication to civil rights and

¹ Anna Lafferre, *The Life of a Legal Icon*, W. VA. LAW., Oct.–Dec. 2012, at 16 (internal quotation marks omitted).

² *Id.*

justice as an attorney. He has been called “a one-man legal aid society”³ because he would take cases that other attorneys declined. People would travel for hours across the state and line up outside his office. He earned the respect of his colleagues and the community for his excellence in the courtroom.

Professor Cleckley has also made a meaningful difference in the lives of West Virginians. In 1990, he formed the Franklin D. Cleckley Foundation, a nonprofit organization that assists former convicts with educational and employment opportunities. Along with his friend and colleague Herbert Henderson, Professor Cleckley revived the Mountain State Bar Association, which provides scholarships to minority law students and assists with Civil Rights and Human Rights cases before the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals and the West Virginia Human Rights Commission.

It is our privilege to dedicate this Issue to Professor Franklin D. Cleckley.

Amber M. Moore
Editor-in-Chief
West Virginia Law Review, Volume 115

³ Press Release, West Virginia University, West Virginia’s First African-American Justice Honored with WVU’s Neil S. Bucklew Award for Social Justice (Apr. 10, 2013), *available at* <http://wvutoday.wvu.edu/n/2013/04/10/west-virginia-s-first-african-american-justice-honored-with-wvu-s-neil-s-bucklew-award-for-social-justice>.