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A Tribute to William J. Maier, Jr. , Dean Emeritus John W. Fisher, II

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WEST VIRGINIA LAW REVIEW

A TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM J. MAIER, JR., DEAN EMERITUS JOHN W. FISHER, II

Growing up on the family farm in Moorefield, West Virginia, John W. Fisher, II came to know the value of a hard day's work. But one thing he could not have known was how well his work ethic and intelligence would serve him, the West Virginia University College of Law, and the Mountain State.

Fisher's successful career began when he entered West Virginia University in 1960. After earning a history degree in 1964, Fisher enrolled at the West Virginia University College of Law, graduating first in his class in 1967. During law school, he served as Editor-in-Chief of the West Virginia Law Review and earned a membership in the scholastic honorary society, the Order of the Coif. Fresh from his success in law school, Fisher clerked one year for the Hon. Robert Maxwell of the United States District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia.

After this clerkship, Fisher practiced with the law firm of Farmer & Farmer in Morgantown from 1968-1971. He also returned to the College of Law as a lecturer. A natural teacher and scholar, he was tenured as a full professor in 1977. During his academic career, Fisher held numerous posts within the College of Law and served four years as an executive officer of West Virginia University's President before he was named the fifteenth Dean of the College of Law in 1998. Fisher was the first College of Law graduate to serve in this position. During Fisher's decade as dean, the College of Law's endowment more than tripled, and eleven named professorships and forty-nine scholarships were created.

Fisher retired from the dean's post in 2008 but continues to teach property law at the College of Law. Known for his even temperament and keen fairness, Fisher remains ever diligent. For example, he still takes his first-year law students to the county record room and shows them how to properly trace a title back to the sovereign.

In addition to teaching and writing, Fisher has always made time to help others by serving on numerous state and national boards. During his tenure as Dean, he served as an advisor on Governor Joe Manchin's Committee on Judicial Nominations, the faculty advisor for the WVU Mountain service honorary, and currently serves as the Faculty Athletic Representative to the NCAA. He also holds a permanent seat on the prestigious Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference.

Fisher has worked tirelessly for West Virginia and the College of Law over the past forty years. He has also written some of the most important and influential articles regarding property law in West Virginia. In the words of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, Fisher has become "the state's foremost authority" in the field of property law. The justices of the state Supreme Court have relied on and cited his articles in numerous opinions.

No one can discuss property law in West Virginia without also discussing the evolving scholarship of Dean Emeritus John W. Fisher, II. The members of the *West Virginia Law Review* are pleased that this issue of the journal contains his most recent work, *The Scope of Title Examinations in West Virginia Revisited*. Although he is now retired from the dean's post, Fisher's work ethic, sharp intellect, and property law expertise still inspire the West Virginia legal community. His scholarship continues to define the contours of the field.

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