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## Carl M. Selinger Dedication

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# CARL M. SELINGER DEDICATION

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*John W. Fisher, II*

I applaud the Board of Editors of Volume 104 of the West Virginia Law Review for their decision to dedicate this issue of the West Virginia Law Review to the memory of Carl M. Selinger. A memoriam in the West Virginia Law Review is an appropriate forum to recognize and express our appreciation for Carl's many contributions to the West Virginia University College of Law, the legal community, and the global community in which he was such an active member.

Carl M. Selinger joined the West Virginia University College of Law faculty in 1982 as the twelfth dean of our College of Law. He served as our dean until 1989 when he resigned his administrative responsibilities to devote full time to his teaching, scholarship, and service activities. Prior to his appointment as our dean, he served as the dean and professor of University of Detroit School of Law, as a professor of law and associate dean at the University of Hawaii, as the dean of academic affairs for Bard College, on the faculties of the University of New Mexico Law School, Albany Law School, Union University, and as a teaching fellow at Harvard Law School.

The range of Carl's intellectual and academic interests is reflected in his teaching and scholarship. Carl taught courses ranging from the legal profession to comparative law, torts to jurisprudence. At varying times during his professional career, he taught evidence, family law, commercial law, antitrust law, and remedies. As a member of our faculty, his interests focused mainly on the subject areas of torts, the legal profession and ethics, and comparative law. His interest in comparative law led to his international travel, and his interest in human rights led to his involvement in the Human Rights Committee of the Inter-American Bar Association. As an active member and as president of this organization, he served as an international observer to the 1997 elections in Mexico. Shortly before his death, he received the highest award, the Diploma de Honor, presented by the Human Rights Committee of the Inter-American Bar Association.

While Professor Selinger was actively involved in and made many contributions to the University community, the Morgantown community, and the legal profession, perhaps his most enduring contribution to the citizens of West Virginia involves the creation of the West Virginia Law Institute and his ten years of service as its secretary and guiding hand. Professor Selinger conceived of the idea of the West Virginia Law Institute and drafted the legislation, which was passed in 1988, creating the West Virginia Law Institute as the official law reform agency for the State of West Virginia. For the next 10 years as its secretary, Carl served as the de facto director in helping to identify projects and then shepherding the projects through careful research and analysis ultimately culminating in the drafting of legislation to be submitted to the West Virginia legislature. During the ten years that Carl served as its secretary, the West Virginia

Law Institute projects led to the revision of the law of intestate succession and a spouse's elective share, the revision of the procedure to return forfeited and delinquent tax properties to the active tax roles of the state, and the reform of West Virginia adoption laws. In addition, the Law Institute drafted legislation to address the problems of property tax appeals in our state. Carl was also active in the American Law Institute.

Professor Selinger loved the mentoring of law students. He loved the law and the study of law. He loved sharing of his knowledge of the law both in the classroom and through his scholarship. He believed in the rule of law and the importance of law reform. He believed in the importance of lifetime learning and the pursuit of new ideas and interests. It is, therefore, fitting and appropriate that a publication dedicated to the very ideals that inspired Professor Selinger should choose to recognize his service to our College of Law, to the legal profession, and to the international community by dedicating this issue of the West Virginia Law Review in his memory.