Tribute to
Richard Crawford Pugh
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For Dick and Nan Pugh, on the occasion of
the inaugural Richard Crawford Pugh Lecture on Tax Law and Policy, with warm
regards and best wishes from friends,
colleagues, associates, and former students.
Photos of Richard C. Pugh, reprinted with permission from the University of San Diego School of Law.

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Foreword

When we first came to San Diego nearly ten years ago, neither of us had met Dick Pugh in person, though of course we knew of his formidable reputation as a leading practitioner, scholar, teacher, and public servant. Upon our arrival, Dick and Nan lost no time in extending a warm welcome and making us feel as if we had been their good friends for many years. In retrospect, this is hardly surprising, for Dick and Nan have a knack for bringing out the best in other people and putting them at ease. Among their wide circle of friends and acquaintances, we discovered more than a few whose paths had already crossed ours in the not-so-distant past. Accordingly, we are delighted to have the opportunity to gather a brief collection of personal reminiscences from Dick’s professional and academic colleagues, associates, and former students. Indeed, the contributors made the task an easy one and their response has been overwhelming and heartfelt.

What emerges most clearly from these reminiscences is the universally high regard and genuine affection that Dick inspires in everyone he meets. His contemporaries in the “class of 1958” at the Cleary firm view him as a “role model” and an example to be followed, as well as a source of stimulating intellectual exchange and sound judgment. His co-authors on the CCH case books applaud his “good judgment and civilized mien” and hold him out as an exemplar of “a gentleman and a scholar.” Former students who sought Dick’s advice at crucial moments in their personal and professional lives recall his kindness and generosity. Colleagues from his time in San Diego echo similar sentiments of “respect, affection, and admiration.” A few anecdotes offer glimpses into Dick’s sparkling wit, his unshakeable personal integrity, and his abiding devotion to Nan. The result is a sort of literary collage made up of fragmentary snapshots, taken at various times from many different vantage points, which nevertheless hang together and provide a coherent and lively portrait of Dick as a person.

We have organized the reminiscences, somewhat arbitrarily, into four groups. Contributors in the first group go back all the way to Dick’s time in New York at the Cleary firm and Columbia Law School. The second group comprises his collaborators on the CCH case books. The third group includes Dick’s former
students, and the fourth group consists of colleagues at the University of San Diego. We are deeply grateful to all the contributors for sharing their reminiscences, and we hope that this collection will provide a source of continuing pride and pleasure for Dick and Nan and their children in years to come.

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