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Foreword to Tributes

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FOREWORD

*Robert E. Scott**

SELDOM does an institution experience the jolt of four revered and beloved members of the faculty choosing to retire at the same time. When it does occur, as it has this year at the University of Virginia, the sense of loss can be overwhelming. John Hetherington, John McCoid, Dan Meador and Cal Woodard have been members of this Law Faculty for a combined period of 123 years. They embody a collective source of talent, energy, wisdom, and skill as teachers and scholars that is, quite literally, irreplaceable.

In the pages that follow, others describe, with eloquence that I cannot command, the individual strengths and contributions of each of these remarkable people. My purpose is to acknowledge what they have meant to this institution as a group. All retirements of beloved colleagues are bittersweet occasions, but this one is especially so. All four of our retiring colleagues would be uncomfortable to know (and much more uncomfortable to have acknowledged in public) how much we are going to miss them.

What gives the rest of us pause is that all four colleagues—in unique and quite different ways—have been role models for the rest of us. They have been models of dedication: dedication to the classroom, to scholarship and the life of the mind, to the welfare of the institution, and to the well-being of those of us who have been fortunate to travel part of the journey with them. In commitment and caring and unselfishness, there are no equals to Hetherington, McCoid, Meador, and Woodard. That we shall miss them goes without saying. That we will endeavor to shape the institution in

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ways that honor what they taught us about the value of a professional life well lived is a minimal repayment of our debt to their service. Perhaps most of all, we will seek to remember: to remember that the University of Virginia School of Law is a better place because of four scholars who dedicated their professional lives to its well-being.