Tribute to Professor Welsh S. White

Professor Welsh S. White, one of the nation’s pre-eminent authorities on the death penalty and interrogation law, and holder of the Bessie McKee Walthour Endowed Chair at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, died on December 31, 2005. He was sixty-five years old.

The Ohio State Journal of Criminal Law never had the opportunity to publish any of Professor White’s influential scholarship, although well before his diagnosis of cancer we made plans to review his most recent book, Litigating in the Shadow of Death, published posthumously by the University of Michigan Press. That review, written by Professor Al Alschuler, is found in the Review section of this volume on page 223.

For this Tribute, we asked Andrew Taslitz to provide a former student’s perspective of Welsh White. We sought out John Burkoff and John Parry to write about Welsh White, their colleague, and we requested James Tomkovicz to write about Welsh White, his scholarly partner. Although these authors provide their different perspectives, what will be evident to readers is what everyone who knew Welsh White realized: He was a remarkable man, of tremendous decency, respected and loved by many.

Professor Welsh White’s Scholarship

Books

Pennsylvania Interrogations and Confessions (1985)
The Death Penalty in the Nineties: An Examination of the Modern System of Capital Punishment (1991)
Miranda’s Waning Protections: Police Interrogation Practices After Dickerson (2001)
Articles


*Federal Habeas Corpus: The Impact of the Failure to Assert a Constitutional Claim at Trial*, 58 Va. L. Rev. 67 (1972)

*The Constitutional Invalidity of Convictions Imposed by Death-Qualified Juries*, 58 Cornell L. Rev. 1176 (1973)


*Disproportionality and the Death Penalty: Death as a Punishment for Rape*, 38 U. Pitt. L. Rev. 145 (1976)


*Rhode Island v. Innis: The Significance of a Suspect’s Assertion of his Right to Counsel*, 17 Am. Crim. L. Rev. 53 (1979)


Effective Assistance in Capital Cases: The Evolving Standard of Care, 1993 U. ILL. L. REV. 323


Confessions Induced by Broken Government Promises, 43 DUKE L.J. 947 (1994)


Accomplices’ Confessions and the Confrontation Clause, 4 WM. & MARY BILL RTS. J. 753 (1996)


Adapting to Miranda: Modern Interrogators’ Strategies for Dealing with the Obstacles Posed by Miranda, 84 MINN. L. REV. 397 (1999) (with Professor Richard Leo)


Interrogating Suspected Terrorists: Should Torture be an Option?, 63 U. PITT. L. REV. 743 (2003) (with Professor John Parry)

Confessions in Capital Cases, 2003 U. ILL. L. REV. 979
