

A Tribute to Dean Frank Beytagh

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Frank Beytagh was a fine teacher, a first-rate scholar, and a strong and capable leader. The Moritz College of Law benefited from these qualities in many measurable and immeasurable ways. A former Supreme Court clerk himself, he worked tirelessly to bring a world-class faculty to Moritz, adding many other former U.S. Supreme Court clerks to the faculty. He almost literally built the present law building, working untold hours to convince the university administration that a new addition (really, a new building given the scope of the project) was needed, and that his vision for the building was the right one. He continually engaged the faculty and staff in the project, sometimes more than some would have preferred. Perhaps most importantly, he persuaded, cajoled, and ultimately convinced the Moritz alumni of the value of the project to the College of Law, the university, and legal education, and gained their unprecedented support in seeing the project to completion.

Frank Beytagh was, as best as I could tell, a born leader. He was a large, strong man whose presence and confidence commanded attention. I rarely, if ever, heard Frank raise his voice, but he never had a problem getting someone's attention or making his position known. Nonetheless, Frank made his points through analysis and argumentation, not intimidation, and actively sought and considered the opinions of all those who had a stake in an issue. Once a decision was made, however, Frank never looked back.

Frank increased both the quantity and quality of faculty scholarship by hiring superb scholars and by doing everything possible to support their work. He encouraged the faculty to interact with law faculty from around the world and with faculty from other disciplines. Under Frank's leadership, Moritz developed a close relationship with the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies at Oxford University and established Moritz's summer program at St Anne's College at Oxford, which continues its extraordinary success to this day. Ahead of his time, Frank recognized the critical importance of quality clinical education and devoted the necessary attention, resources, and status to ensure that it was an integral part of Moritz's curriculum.

While I could go on reciting Frank's innumerable contributions to the College of Law, I remember him primarily as a mentor and a friend. I was his associate dean for academic affairs for three years as well as a faculty member during his entire tenure as dean. Frank highly valued loyalty, and in return he was loyal almost to a fault. Friendship was a bond to Frank, behind family to be sure, but of deep significance nonetheless. Of the many things I gained from my time with Frank, perhaps the most important was the ability to move forward with confidence even in the face of uncertainty. Frank was not prone to self-doubt, which is not to say that he was by any means rash or arrogant. Rather, he realized that absolute certainty was an illusion, and that his

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confident demeanor was an important component of his ability to lead and motivate others.

You cannot talk about Frank Beytagh without talking about golf. To say that he was passionate about the game is an epic understatement. My first real conversation with Frank occurred on a golf course very soon after he arrived at Ohio State. I am sure that his first reaction was disappointment that my golf game paled (in fact, was ghost white) in comparison to his. However, he hid this well, and we (at least I) realized that this would be the first of many rounds of golf we would play together, during which we would talk about everything from Ohio State and Notre Dame football to our respective visions of a life well-lived. It was these times when I learned most from Frank about what it was to be a leader—to be willing to take both risks and responsibility, to motivate, and to care about things larger than oneself.

Frank Beytagh's life was a life well-lived. He lived his life with a passionate commitment to leave the world a better place than he found it. Although not averse to taking an occasional mulligan on the golf course, Frank was a man of unshakable integrity. In all of the years that I knew him, I never once found him to be untruthful or deceptive. He was honest, direct, and forthright—he was not afraid to say what he thought, but never dismissive or disrespectful. He cared deeply about things that a person should care about—his family, his friends, his profession, and his country. I will miss him dearly.