

Reflections on Professor Stanley K. Laughlin

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As with many alumni of The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, my first encounter with Professor Laughlin was as a first-year student assigned to his Constitutional Law section. Finding his teaching and the subject matter to be both informative and interesting, I enrolled in a number of his other courses, including Foreign Relations and interprofessional seminars. After becoming a member of the *Ohio State Law Journal*, our interactions continued.

When my attention inevitably turned to job-seeking, Professor Laughlin was there to make suggestions and provide guidance. At Professor Laughlin's suggestion, I interviewed to become a judicial law clerk for the High Court of American Samoa. After arriving in the fall of 1992, I found that American Samoa was quite different than Ohio, but working there was indeed a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I still remember watching The Ohio State University v. University of Michigan football game. Through the Armed Forces Network satellite, I was able to watch the game that started around 6:00 A.M., local time. I believe that Professor Laughlin appreciated the fact that someone took his advice to experience a clerkship there.

After my American Samoa clerkship ended, I continued to stay in close contact with Professor Laughlin. As an adjunct, legal-writing instructor, I was assigned to assist with his Constitutional Law section and helped convey that material to a new group of first-year students. On a somber note, on one occasion, I had just finished having breakfast with Professor Laughlin at one of his favorite restaurants, Paul's Pantry on Fifth Avenue, when he learned of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

In an era of legal specialization, Professor Laughlin recognized the interrelationship between the law and other disciplines and policy areas, including health care and the social sciences. Along with these interests, his love for the law and people of the South Pacific was never far from his mind. He was an expert on the law in the nations and territories of the South Pacific, having written a textbook and a number of articles on that subject. Indeed, some speculated that if President Jimmy Carter had been re-elected, Professor Laughlin might have been appointed to the High Court as an Associate Justice.

Sadly, his wife's health declined in their later years. Professor Laughlin exhibited the same dedication and commitment in taking of his family as he did to educate law students before his retirement. In reflecting on his passing, I am honored to have known Professor Laughlin and appreciate the opportunity to interact with him in a number of contexts. The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law and the legal profession has lost a respected scholar and a decent man. He will be missed by his family and so many others.

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