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## Dedication: Professor D. Fenton Adams

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## DEDICATION

The Editorial Board of the UALR Law Journal has wisely dedicated this issue of the Journal to Professor D. Fenton Adams who reached mandatory retirement in May and has taken emeritus status. I am honored to have been asked to write this dedication.

By any measure, the UALR School of Law has been a success in its less than thirty year history. Many people have provided "explanations" for the success of our program, but one need look no further than Fenton Adams and his colleagues who were founding members of our faculty. Although it is probably true that Fenton has not written the definitive treatise on some area of the law, he has been a consistent scholar with a broad range of publications. More importantly, he has been an outstanding teacher who has taught a generation of Arkansas and Mississippi lawyers commercial law and related areas. The thing that has made the UALR School of Law so unusual is our primary commitment to exceptional teaching, and no one typifies that commitment more than Fenton.

Additionally, Fenton has undertaken the thankless task of law school administration. For four years he assumed the role of the chief administrator of the Little Rock division of the University of Arkansas Law School, which required frequent trips to Fayetteville as well as an uneasy marriage between the Little Rock and the Fayetteville faculties. More recently, Fenton has served two terms as Acting Dean of the UALR School of Law, in 1980 and again in the two years prior to my selection as Dean. From my personal experience, I know the outstanding stewardship Fenton provided during these interim periods.

Fenton's value goes well beyond the fact that he is an outstanding teacher, scholar, and administrator. It even goes beyond the fact that Fenton has literally dedicated his entire professional life to legal education, much of it in Little Rock. The fact of the matter is that Fenton Adams has not only achieved all this, but he is a genuine colleague and friend to everyone who has ever had contact with him. No one has ever uttered a negative word about Fenton Adams, which is really saying something for someone who has been a law school administrator for almost ten years.

The law school has been frequently honored by the gracious hospitality of Fenton and Eloise Adams, and they have deep roots in the law school community and in our hearts.

There is a terrible irony in the fact that Fenton is the last member of our faculty who will be required to retire because of age. The exemption from the coverage of the Age Discrimination

in Employment Act for tenured university faculty ends this year, so that henceforth, age cannot be a basis for mandatory retirement. Many people half Fenton's age do not have the energy, zeal, and commitment that he does to legal education, our profession, or to this law school nor the skills as a teacher and scholar.

Speaking on behalf of the entire faculty, we will miss Fenton Adams. We wish him and Eloise good health, much happiness, and God Speed.

*Howard B. Eisenberg*  
Dean and Professor of Law