MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

F. THOMAS SCHORNHORST

(November 18, 1934 — March 30, 2015)

Professor F. Thomas Schornhorst was a true legend of the Indiana University Maurer School of Law. He was known as tough – but fair – in the classroom, with a fire-in-the-belly style of teaching that students came to appreciate as they began careers around the world. His sharp humor was appreciated by colleagues, students, and staff alike.

Even though he retired in 1998, Schornhorst was often in the law school's faculty study years later, working to help someone who was either wronged by the criminal justice system, or worse yet, had never had a true advocate in the first place. Not long before his death in March 2015, a visiting alumnus found him writing a brief in Baier Hall on a sunny fall Friday afternoon. As he described his work to his visitor, his passion for teaching and advocacy — his own fire in the belly — was a strong as ever, despite his physical infirmities. He has left behind devoted friends, family, colleagues, and a legacy of deep commitment to those most in need of help.

After a stint as a pilot in the U.S. Navy and earning a degree at George Washington University Law School, Schornhorst joined the Law School faculty in 1966, teaching countless students criminal law and procedure, evidence, torts, and admiralty. He was legendary in the 1970s and 1980s for his rigorous questioning in torts and criminal law, and he loved nothing more than sparring with a well-prepared, engaged student.

"He was a great and revered teacher who instilled a deep sense of professionalism and compassion in students," said Fred Aman, Roscoe C. O'Byrne Professor of Law and former dean. "He knew there were lots of people who needed representation who might not get it at a high level. He was a strict taskmaster. Students knew they really had to be on their best game with him."

Although Schornhorst could be tough on students, he did so for a reason. Many faculty members can quote his explanation verbatim: "I don't want the first SOB a student encounters to be in the courtroom!" Other students and faculty remember him for the saying posted on his office door: "The floggings will continue until morale improves."

Professor Sarah Jane Hughes said Schornhorst treated everyone with respect. "His heart was made of stuff more valuable than gold or precious gems – it was made of love for humankind and a desire that the balance of justice be maintained. We will never forget him."

In his years at Indiana Law, Schornhorst developed several initiatives that exist today, including the Inmate Legal Assistance Project, a hands-on experience for law students who assist federal prisoners with post-conviction claims. He was an inspiration to students for his

tireless commitment to the representation of indigent clients in death penalty cases. When his client Tommie Smith was put to death in 1996, Schornhorst was present at the execution at Smith's request, literally standing by him to the very end. Because of his extraordinary record of public service, Indiana University presented Schornhorst with the W. George Pinnell Award for Outstanding Service in 1992.

Schornhorst was a fearsome rugby player, serving as the Indiana Rugby Club's faculty advisor from the mid-1970s through the early 1980s. He also enjoyed sailing, sailboarding, softball, and rollerblading until well into his seventies — faculty even caught an occasional glimpse of him blading down the third floor of Baier Hall. He was also a devoted fan of a good story and a good pint or two at Nick's.

Above all, Tom Schornhorst was a passionate and superb attorney. When a young Bloomington student was arrested during a Vietnam War protest, Schornhorst and the late Pat Baude — another legend from the Law School faculty — took up the case. It went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, and Schornhorst and Baude won the reversal of their client's conviction. That case – *Hess v. Indiana* – is still taught in law schools today, including ours. It's hard to imagine a better legacy for a professor of law.