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## **Richard A. Hausler — A Dedicated Man for All Seasons**

BY DANIEL E. MURRAY, *Professor Emeritus of Law*

I was a friend of Professor Hausler for over fifty years, and I truly miss him.

Professor Richard A. Hausler was educated in Minnesota German Parochial Grammar School and at Cretin Hall Military High School. He attended the University of Minnesota and graduated in 1946 with a B.S.L., and in 1947 earned his LL.B. from its Law School. He later achieved a Master's Degree in Law from New York University in 1948 and, within the same year, joined the faculty at the University of Miami School of law.

In Professor Hausler's personal life, he was totally dedicated to his church, his wife and his children. In his professional life, he was a totally dedicated Socratic law teacher. During his scholarly years, he was fortunate to have some of the leading law teachers in the nation, many of whom taught by the Socratic Method—a technique of teaching designed to stretch the minds of students to the ultimate heights of learning by questioning everything without limits. Occasionally, I would ask him what the time was, and he would answer, "Why do you want to know?" I remember that when he stepped into the classroom, he always had every step of the fifty-minute class mapped out in his mind. Further, I knew that if any student tried to "detour" his steps, he would unerringly come back to the path in his mind. He truly desired that each student would think for him or herself in order to solve a question, never forgetting that the lawyer's true stock in trade is "the solving of questions."

Sometimes Professor Hausler would appear to be austere or uncaring to students. This was most unfortunate, because he was terribly concerned about their welfare. He would often tell me (without naming names) about the tribulations facing certain students and ask me how to help them. I was very touched by these conversations, and I tried to suggest remedies.

Professor Hausler could have retired anytime during the final twelve years of his life, but he could not bear to do so. I used to tease him about his supposed desire to die while teaching in class. He would smile and never deny that I was accurate.

It is perhaps fitting that the last day of his life (Saturday, March 18,

2000) he spent at school helping his wife wax the furniture in her office. Totally dedicated till the end, I am sure that he died in a happy frame of mind.