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In Memoriam



STOJAN ALBERT BAYITCH
1901 - 1974

In this issue the *Lawyer of the Americas* regretfully notes the passing of one of its Contributing Editors — Stojan A. Bayitch. Thus he appears listed in the *Lawyer*, but how inappropriate to gauge by a mere descriptive title the measure of the man and his contributions to our publication.

Six years ago, in February 1969, the first issue of the *Lawyer* was mailed out from the School of Law of the University of Miami. Thus, dreams were realized and ambitions fulfilled. Dreams . . . ambitions? Understandable perhaps in one of younger years yet to carve his place in academia, but not in a man from whom the years had exacted their toll and whose distinguished academic achievements were already amply recorded in many books, national and foreign legal periodicals and in the classroom.

Stojan Bayitch's self-imposed burden was awesome, yet he never failed to meet his obligation. When the press of time, other commitments and unexplainable sundry reasons forced others out of the race his unflinching spirit and indomitable will never faltered. Yes, even to the end when his fifteenth and last Report must have called for a superhuman effort. A review of his contributions to the *Lawyer*, now spread before me, reflects the quality of his work, his dedication and unswerving commitment to the task he voluntarily undertook. A task, I am sure, not assumed for the recognition it could bring him, but as further proof of devotion to the profession he both loved and honored.

As Editor-in-Chief I am indebted to Dr. Bayitch for his scholarly contributions, but on a personal note I also trace in his work for the *Lawyer* the unselfish love of a friend; the affection of a teacher for his former student; the understanding and patient attitude of a wise and honorable man.

The *Lawyer of the Americas* can never repay its debt to Stojan Bayitch; neither can its present Editor-in-Chief. Unpretentious and self-effacing as he was I do not believe he ever sought material recompense for that which he felt he should do, or wanted to do. But yet I am sure he would have understood, if prior to his passing, I would have quoted to him:

This, I suppose, is the way people help each other — perhaps the only way they can ultimately help each other — in the lonely, rarefied life of the mind. It constitutes the reason why those who are conscious of having been well and generously taught have an obligation, at some time and in some way, to teach.¹

It is with heartfelt sorrow and a deep sense of personal loss that we mourn the death of our friend, colleague and teacher — STOJAN A. BAYITCH — to whom this issue is dedicated.

RAFAEL C. BENITEZ
Editor-in-Chief

¹George F. Kennan, *Memoirs 1950-1963*