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## In Memoriam Hugh L. Sowards

On May 10, 1982, Hugh L. Sowards passed away after a distinguished career of scholarship and teaching that spanned thirty-four years at the University of Miami School of Law. He was educated at Williams College, Trinity College, and Yale Law School. Professor Sowards began his career in legal education shortly after being discharged from the Navy as an officer at the end of World War II when he joined the faculty at Vanderbilt University School of Law. In 1948 he came to Miami, where he wrote prolifically and taught enthusiastically until his retirement shortly before his death. Early in his career, he served as faculty adviser to the *University of Miami Law Review* and later, he counseled various other student societies and organizations. He was always a kind and friendly person upon whom students and colleagues could call at any time. His legacy to legal education and the University of Miami School of Law consists of a legion of students who are imprinted with the stamp of his excellence and a body of scholarship that significantly impacted the fields of corporation law and securities regulation.

He wrote two major treatises on securities regulation that are used widely in law firms throughout the country.<sup>1</sup> I have always felt particularly proud when, on a visit to a law firm in Washington, Chicago, Atlanta, or elsewhere, I have seen these books prominently positioned in the libraries of leading practitioners. These books did not merely reside on shelves gathering dust. Lawyers knew that the books could be used, because they knew that Hugh was a meticulous man. They knew that his annual supplements would appear on schedule and that every case and administrative ruling would be researched thoroughly. They also knew that Hugh's commentary would be the model of clarity and practical precision.

Hugh also edited four casebooks that, from time-to-time, were adopted for use at some of the country's leading law schools.<sup>2</sup> And

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1. H. SOWARDS, *BLUE SKY REGULATION* (1977); H. SOWARDS, *THE FEDERAL SECURITIES ACT* (1965).

2. Professor Sowards's casebooks include *COMMENTS, CASES AND MATERIALS ON CORPORATE FINANCE* (1950); *COMMENTS, CASES AND MATERIALS ON CORPORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS* (1958); *COMMENTS, CASES AND MATERIALS ON SECURITIES REGULATION* (1966); and *CORPORATION LAW: CASES AND MATERIALS* (1978).

he wrote numerous articles and book reviews that appeared in scholarly and professional journals. These writings, like his books, always bore the mark of his unique craftsmanship. And, like his books, they always brought distinction to the University of Miami and an important presence for its law school in the national legal community. The capital value of Hugh's lifetime production represents no small part of the University of Miami's permanent endowment.

As a major part of his estate, Hugh has left thousands of students to whom he was a counselor and friend. He was a dedicated and superb teacher, preparing even at the end of his career as if the next class were his first. When it came to meeting his teaching obligations, Hugh was no doubt head and shoulders above many of us on the Law School's faculty. I, for one, will not forget the great burden he, and his devoted wife, Sylvia, bore in meeting every one of Hugh's classes during the last semester he taught, even as the illness that ultimately took his life turned each additional class into an agonizing experience for him. Hugh's continuing presence will surely be felt through the knowledge, skill, insight, and high values he imparted to his students.

Hugh Sowards was a beautiful person who was intelligent, talented, and learned. He was also fragile, shy, dignified, and private. And he had a wonderful sense of humor that—because he was so private—was not shared with many of the persons who knew him. But I was privileged to benefit from his humor, and I think my vocabulary will always include things he said that, to me, were memorable because they were quaint and slightly old-fashioned. In referring to a stranger, I think I will, like Hugh, always say, "I don't know him from Adam's housecat." And in commenting on the improbable success of business ventures presented for his consideration, he would compare their outcome to selling deck chairs on the Titanic.

For all of us at the University of Miami School of Law, he was a warm, thoughtful, and devoted colleague who through the example of his commitment to professional excellence and highest personal integrity always brought honor to the faculty and the University. He will be missed especially by the future students who will not have the privilege of studying with this thoroughly decent person.

JAMES S. MOFSKY