A Remarkable Legacy

“Norman Adrian Wiggins was a model of leadership and service at Campbell University,” said Dean Melissa Essary. “He founded our Law School during a time when Chapel Hill, Wake Forest, and Duke dominated the state’s legal education sector, but it took very little time for Campbell to develop an outstanding reputation for academic integrity, ethics education, and professional preparation for the practice of law. Dr. Wiggins had a keen awareness for opportunities that would raise Campbell’s visibility as a model for results-oriented legal education, and we look forward to continuing his legacy.”

While the passing of Dr. Wiggins is a time for grieving, the legacy that he leaves at the School of Law is remarkable. When the School of Law was created in 1976, it was the first new law school in North Carolina since 1940. Thanks to outstanding teaching faculty and an enthusiastic student base, Campbell Law quickly established itself as one of the state’s premier institutions of legal education. With bar passage rates that have on average led all North Carolina law schools for the past 15 years, Campbell Law has indeed earned its place among the region’s most elite programs.

Former Campbell Law Dean and current Campbell Professor of Law, Pat Hetrick, expressed his sadness about the loss of Dr. Wiggins. “Dr. Wiggins was a great man and a great friend. His heart was always devoted to the success of the Law School and our students, and he focused on goals that would enhance our academic reputation, faculty development, and student success.”

A Lifetime of Accomplishments

A native of Burlington, North Carolina, Dr. Wiggins was a veteran of World War II, where he served in the United States Marine Corps. After returning from his service to our nation, Wiggins began his educational pilgrimage and earned the Associate of Arts degree from Campbell Junior College, the Bachelor of Arts degree from Wake Forest College, the Bachelor of Laws degree from the Wake Forest College School of Law, and the Master of Law and Doctor of the Science of Law from Columbia University School of Law.

Following a brief career with Planters Bank and Trust, Dr. Wiggins taught law and served as General Counsel at Wake Forest College. On June 6, 1967, Wiggins assumed the presidency of Campbell College and immediately began charting a course for the institution that would lead to the establishment of one of the outstanding trust management programs in the nation, an award-winning and nationally recognized Army Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC), and the establishment of five professional schools, including the School of Law, the Lundy-Fetterman School of Business, the School of Education, the School of Pharmacy, and the Divinity School. He also led in the College’s move to university status in 1979.

In May 2003, following a thirty-six year tenure as president of Campbell University, Dr. Wiggins retired. In recognition of his exemplary service, the Board of Trustees named him Chancellor of the University.

Dr. Wiggins is survived by his beloved wife of more than 50 years, Millie. The Campbell University law program was formally named the Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law in 1990.

Dr. Wiggins—Chancellor, Former President of Campbell University, and the namesake of our law school—died Wednesday, August 1, 2007 at a Winston-Salem hospital. He was 83.

The faculty, staff, and students of the Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law join the entire Campbell University community in mourning the loss of Dr. Wiggins. Speaking about Dr. Wiggins, Campbell University President Jerry Wallace said,

“This great man’s influence and legacy will survive as long as Campbell University endures.”

REMEmBERING DR. WIGGINS

Memorial contributions in honor of Dr. Wiggins’ service to Campbell University and the School of Law may be made to:

Mildred Harmon and Norman Adrian Wiggins Law Scholarship

C/o Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law

Campbell University

Post Office Box 158

Buies Creek, NC 27506

Donate securely online at: https://www.alumni.law.campbell.edu/efr/index.asp

NOTE: Under the “Gift Details” section, fill in a contribution amount, then select “Please direct my gift to” and choose “Scholarships” from the drop down menu. Within the list of scholarships, choose “Mildred Harmon and Norman Adrian Wiggins Law Scholarship.”
“Dr. Wiggins’ contributions can’t be understood by reviewing his resume. Just ask anyone who knew him; he moved with purpose, his passion for Christian higher education was infectious. He was determined not just to see Campbell grow, but to well prepare young men and women to be leaders in their professional, community and church life.”

From the Editors Desk
Durham Daily Record
August 2, 2007

Dr. Wiggins receiving the Campbell Law James Iredell Award, October 2006

“There is no doubt about Dr. Wiggins’ legacy. That was stressed to me as an incoming law student from him and from others, and it continues to be the legacy here. We should remember that legacy forever. For all of the incoming students that Campbell will ever teach, that Christian emphasis on excellence is just so vital. It’s something that’s missing in our world, and so we’ve lost a great individual here, a great leader.”

Elaine Marshall (Campbell Law, ‘81)
North Carolina Secretary of State

“I remember well the situation of one of my fellow law students back in 1987-88 when I was a 3L. She was renting a place to live in Buies Creek that was apparently owned by Dr. and Mrs. Wiggins. One cold day she realized that her furnace was not working. She called Dr. Wiggins to let him know that she had no heat, and he assured her he would get it taken care of. She assumed he would send a repairman. Early that evening, not long after dinnertime, there was a knock on her door. There stood Dr. Wiggins, in work clothes with his toolbox. He had come to fix her furnace. He was about 60 years old or so at the time, but he got to work, getting his hands and clothes dirty, and in an hour or so he got it working again.

She thanked him profusely, but he was very gracious and acted as if it was “no big deal.” But she and I both thought that the President of the University coming to personally fix a student’s furnace with his hands dirty was a big deal. And I still think so. That little anecdote tells you something important about the man’s character and humility.”

Bobby L. Bellinger, Jr. (Campbell Law, ‘88)
Bellinger & Pietmonte, PC, Charlotte, NC

“My Uncle Adrian was a shining example of the very best of our Country’s Greatest Generation. He served his Country, sought and obtained higher education, married his one and only true love, and devoted his life to his God, his family, our State, Country and to Campbell University. Never have I known a man blessed with more talents and more committed to multipling them to serve the purposes of Christ and his sense of duty to his State and Country.

Uncle Adrian is widely known and respected for his many accomplishments in education, the law, and the Baptist Church. However, I assure you he was also a wonderfully successful and loved family man.

Those close to him knew he never expected more of us than he would do himself and never asked more of us than he knew we could do. He just always gave his best and quietly, but assuredly expected the same from us. We were expected to see and multiply our talents.

He had and still has high expectations of us all.

My family, this extended family, will miss Uncle Adrian. But we must always find comfort in the memories and example of his life and his living contributions throughout our State, Nation, and World.”

David Talt Coutie (Campbell, ‘93 & Campbell Law, ‘97)
Great Nephew of Norman Adrian Wiggins
Beaver, Holt, Slumtick, Coutie, P.A., Fayetteville, NC

“Dr. Wiggins was quite fond of an old Mark Twain quote; ‘If you ever see a turtle sitting on top of a fencepost, you know he did not get there by himself.’

Dr. Wiggins was a generous mentor and friend to all graduates of the Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law. He helped elevate many ‘turtles’ to the top of the fencepost. We all miss Dr. Wiggins and see the fulfillment of his dream throughout the law school that is honored to bear his name.”

The Honorable Janson A. Kauser (Campbell Law, ‘82)
Municipal Court Judge, Goose Creek, SC

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“I shall never forget Dr. Wiggins and his philosophy which enabled a former law enforcement officer to attain the lofty ideal and dreams of becoming a lawyer. What’s more, I was privileged to be allowed to become a CAMPBELL lawyer.

His idea for the instruction of the practical application of law along with the theoretical has been proven in court rooms across the country. The legacy Dr. Wiggins leaves is that graduates of the Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law are trained for service to humanity and the noble profession of the law, above service to self.”

The Honorable Janson A. Kauser (Campbell Law, ‘82)
Municipal Court Judge, Goose Creek, SC