

# Campbell Law Review

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Volume 28

Spring 2006

Number 2

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## A DEDICATION TO DEAN WILLIS P. WHICHARD

In retiring after seven years as Dean of the Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law at Campbell University, Willis Whichard has added yet another significant achievement to a most remarkable career in public service. Dean Whichard has acquired many notable titles in his distinguished career, including: Representative, Senator, Judge, Justice, and now Dean. He is also appropriately designated as Doctor of Juridical Science, Author, and Professor of Law by virtue of his scholarship and dedication to teaching.

Dean Whichard has served in both the legislative and judicial branches of our government, and in so doing, he has the distinction of being the only person to serve in both the House of Representatives and the Senate in the North Carolina General Assembly and on both of our appellate courts, the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court of North Carolina. In each of these significant areas of service, Willis Whichard has established records of lasting import.

Dean Whichard served two terms in the House of Representatives (1970-1974) and three terms in the Senate (1974-1980), and in each Chamber, he quickly rose to positions of trust and leadership. He was recognized as one who took his responsibilities as a legislator seriously, as one willing to work hard and with all his colleagues, and as one determined to properly represent the people of his district and the state. In 1975, he was named Outstanding Legislator by the North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers. As such a legislator, Willis Whichard worked closely with the Speaker and leadership of the House, the President Pro Tempore and leadership of the Senate, and with the Governor, and he successfully sponsored numerous items of legislation which are still part of our statutory law and still serve the people of North Carolina.

As a judge and justice on our appellate courts, Willis Whichard quickly established himself as a hard working jurist, as one most knowledgeable in the law, as one dedicated to the proper role of judicial restraint and protecting legal precedent, the rule of law, and our

Constitutions. On both appellate courts, he was a collegial member and one quite willing to give considerable time in helping his colleagues, particularly those junior to him. He was recognized on the Supreme Court as perhaps its premier legal scholar and grammarian. His record on both courts reflects numerous opinions under his name which stand today as precedential hallmarks in our jurisprudence. In 1983, he was named Outstanding Appellate Judge by the North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers. While on our appellate courts, Justice Whichard also found time to obtain his LL.M. and S.J.D. degrees from the University of Virginia, authoring in the process the biography of Justice James Iredell, North Carolina's most notable member of the United States Supreme Court.

During the past seven years, Dean Whichard has followed in the footsteps of his predecessors, Dean Leary Davis and Dean Pat Hetrick, in giving exceptional representation and service to the Law School and to the University. He has provided the needed leadership within the faculty and to the students, while at the same time maintaining and expanding the contacts and outreach required by a vital and growing institution. As but one example, Dean Whichard has rendered most valuable advice and service as a member of the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism, thereby enhancing professionalism within the legal community. Throughout, he has been a students' Dean and accessible to all, as evidenced by the respect and loyalty of all within the Law School and beyond. Dean Whichard has substantially advanced the interests and objectives of the Law School in all areas, consistent with its mission statement and goals as established by its founder, Dr. Norman Adrian Wiggins.

In sum, the State of North Carolina has benefited greatly from the career of Willis Whichard.

*I. Beverly Lake, Jr.  
Chief Justice (Retired)  
Supreme Court of North Carolina*