MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS STUART G. GULLICKSON

Stuart Gullickson served as a member of the University of Wisconsin Law School faculty for 22 years, retiring in 1990.

Stu was born in 1924 and spent his early years in West Allis. He served in the US Army in World War II and, while stationed in Germany, attended the main Nuremberg Trial on two occasions, a formative experience in his life. He graduated from the UW Law School in 1950 and went on to be a successful general practitioner and litigator in Merrill and then Wausau.

In 1967, Stu was invited by Law School Dean George Young to join the UW Law School faculty and asked to create and direct the General Practice Skills Course, now known as the Lawyering Skills Course. This innovative course provided an in-class introduction to the practical aspects of being a lawyer by training and engaging practicing lawyers in direct classroom teaching of law students.

His contribution to academia extended well beyond his practice-infused teaching. He wrote extensively on legal education and authored two books, one on developing a program of practice-based legal education and another on civil practice in the federal district court for the Western District of Wisconsin. He lectured at Duke University and consulted and lectured on the development of practical legal education at the College of Law in Sydney, Australia and Chuo University in Tokyo, Japan.

Stu served the University of Wisconsin as associate dean of the Law School, as chair of the UW-Extension Department of Law, as senior legal counsel to Chancellor Edwin Young and as vice-chancellor for legal affairs for Chancellor Donna Shalala.

Stu was actively involved in the political scene from the post-war period when he managed the campaign of a candidate attempting to unseat Senator Joseph McCarthy. A lifelong liberal from parts of Wisconsin where liberalism was not pervasive, he was influenced by the anti-war and civil rights movements of the 1960s. He continued to remain involved in public affairs and, in the 1970s, even attended the trial of the Watergate conspirators in Washington DC.

To focus solely on Stu’s professional accomplishments and outside interests presents a myopic picture of his life. Stu was fiercely dedicated to his family; to his wife, Janet, his three daughters and his seven grandchildren. Evidencing the same zeal towards his family as he brought to his work, when Janet became ill with Alzheimer’s disease, Stu not only attended to her with complete devotion and intensity, but he also became active in the local Alzheimer’s community. He was a charter member of the Advisory Board to the Wisconsin Alzheimer’s Institute of the UW Medical School and regularly spoke to UW medical students on Alzheimer’s disease and care for its patients.

A full picture of Stu’s breadth requires an even broader perspective. In his seventies, Stu took an extended tour of the United States in what appeared to his neighbors, at least, to be the biggest recreational vehicle in America. With his characteristic zest and enthusiasm, he later trekked in the Everest Region of Nepal. He also fulfilled a longstanding dream by circumnavigating the world as the sole commercial passenger on a tramp steamer. He was captivated and invigorated by the experience, as was the crew who came to treat him as one of their own. Always a boy from Wisconsin, he became a distinguished man of the world.

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He led a full life, dedicated to family, to service, and to knowledge. He did it all so gladly, true to his deep Wisconsin roots, and as a model to the Law School’s graduates and to those who teach them.

Stuart Gullickson died at age 82 on January 18, 2007.

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