IN MEMORIAM

RICHARD V. BARNDT

Richard V. Barndt was born in Roosevelt, Utah, on January 18, 1931, and passed away in Austin, Texas, on May 18, 2019. Friends, family, neighbors, and colleagues remember him for his glorious garden, his handyman skills, his “agile mind,” and his admirable work ethic.\(^1\) During over thirty years of academic service, Professor Barndt enriched The University of Texas at Austin with his dedication to students and his research on law school pedagogy.

After graduating from Cyprus High School in Magna, Utah, Richard Barndt received his undergraduate and Law degrees from the University of Utah. He married Dorothy Bezzant in 1950, and they had five children by the time Professor Barndt attained his Law degree in 1960. From 1961 to 1962, he was an assistant professor at Montana State University, moving to the University of Houston (1962-63) and then to the University of Washington in Seattle (1963-64) before joining the School of Law at The University of Texas as an associate professor in 1964. He became a full professor in 1967, and earned the title professor emeritus when he retired in 1996.

Professor Barndt’s teaching areas included legislation, local government, and marital property rights. In the 1970s, he engaged in undergraduate grade analysis and developed computerized tutorials using exciting new tools. Professor Barndt was interested in expanding the applications of computers to the law in areas other than data retrieval. This interest in innovation complemented his willingness to critically re-examine established legal instruction and grading.

\(^1\) Testimonials and obituary from Richard V. Barndt’s Dignity Memorial website page: https://www.dignymemorial.com/obituaries/austin-tx/richard-barndt-8716753
methods. Professor Barndt strove to bolster the quality of legal education offered by the School of Law, and he did so by meticulously designing a computerized project for grade data analysis.

His focus on university concerns did not prevent him from energetically participating in broader issues. For example, he served as academic advisor for the Ford State Legislative Internship Program, which was locally administered by the Legislative Council at the Texas State Capitol. Additionally, he worked as a legislative consultant with a law firm attempting to apply Texas election codes to presidential campaigns. He also represented UT Austin abroad when he taught and worked at the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law of the University of Liberia from 1968 to 1969 as a Visiting Fulbright Professor.

Professor Barndt is survived by his sister Evelyn Turnbow Clark, five children: Linda Anderson, Patricia Castelli, Barbara Petti, RJ Barndt, and Luann Snyder, eighteen grandchildren, forty-seven great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild. His zest for life and critical acumen will be sorely missed at the University and at all of the communities fortunate enough to have counted him as a member.

Gregory L. Fenves, President
The University of Texas at Austin

Alan W. Friedman, Secretary
The General Faculty

This memorial resolution was prepared by Casey Sloan in the Office of the General Faculty.