

William Tapley (1890-1950)

St. John's Law Review

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William Tapley

1890 - 1950

In August of this year Professor William Tapley, Chairman of the Faculty Advisory Committee of the Law Review from 1942 to 1949, passed away.

Professor Tapley was educated at Dartmouth College from which he received the B.S. degree in 1915 and New York Law School where he received his LL.B. in 1917. He was admitted to practice in New York State in 1920 and practiced before the trial and appellate courts in New York State and the local Federal jurisdictions.

After graduation from Dartmouth he taught in Framingham Centre, Massachusetts, where he was acting head master and later at Manual Training High School in Brooklyn. In 1925 he joined the Law School faculty and was continuously associated with the school from then on.

During World War I, Professor Tapley served in the United States Navy and after the war was over he was active in veteran affairs, serving as State Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars from 1923 to 1925.

At St. John's Professor Tapley taught Contracts, Evidence, New York Pleading & Practice and Constitutional Law. He contributed scholarly articles to the Law Review including *Vox Clamantis in Deserto*, 17 St. John's L. Rev. 1 (1942); *Is "Full Faith" Divorced from Divorces*, 17 St. John's L. Rev. 87 (1943); and *Jurisdiction Based on Residence or "Open the Door, Richard,"* 21 St. John's L. Rev. 135 (1947). During his service as Chairman of the Faculty Advisory Committee of the Law Review, he did much to add to its stature as a legal periodical particularly during the difficult years of World War II.

Though a distinguished practicing lawyer and scholar, Professor Tapley is best remembered as a teacher. His kindness and quiet demeanor endeared him to his faculty colleagues and students alike, and gave to his classes a simple dignity, thoroughly in keeping with the best traditions of the legal profession. In thousands of students he inculcated a thorough knowledge of the law and more important, a respect for the abiding principles of justice and morality. More than anything else, he was a true teacher, and for that he will long be remembered.



William Tapley