

2001

## Dedication Joseph A. Doran - Professor Extraordinaire

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### Recommended Citation

Joseph W. McGovern, *Dedication Joseph A. Doran - Professor Extraordinaire*, 69 Fordham L. Rev. 1231 (2001).  
Available at: <http://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/flr/vol69/iss4/1>

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## **DEDICATION**

### **JOSEPH A. DORAN—PROFESSOR EXTRAORDINAIRE**

It is a privilege to pay tribute to Professor Joseph A. Doran on the occasion of the dedication of this issue of the Fordham Law Review to his memory. Professor Doran and I enjoyed a long-term friendship which began in 1922 as students in Regis High School and ended on September 12, 2000, when at age 92 he was called to his eternal home.

Our careers have paralleled. Each of us is an only child. We were classmates at Regis High School, Fordham University (College and Law School), teachers at Regis High School and at the Law School, each the father of six children (competition often ends in a tie), each the “best man” at important ceremonies in our lives as each in turn married a graduate of the College of Mount Saint Vincent.

There was, however, one important difference. Professor Doran was orphaned at eight years of age. Following the death of his parents, he was cared for by two valiant and devoted aunts, Kate Cody and Anne Cody, who played a large part in his extraordinary career.

Joe Doran was destined to be a scholar and teacher. Academically he was consistently in the top of his class, evidenced by his Regis excellence medals and his Cum Laude Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1930 from Fordham College. 1930 was not a desirable year for graduation. The great depression had arrived.

Joe promptly entered the Fordham Law School and received his law degree in 1933. At that time, the Law School offered a full time evening schedule of classes at the Rose Hill campus. The classes were modest in size, but it should be noted that three of its number in the course of time became members of the Law School faculty and went on to emulate their teachers who included Professors Bacon, Finn, Kennedy, Meagher and O’Shea.

After admission to the bar, Professor Doran conducted a broad based private practice of law for over ten years, an act of extreme courage in the depression years. In the time that followed, he served as law secretary to Justices conducting trials in the New York Supreme Court, then as law secretary to Justices hearing appeals in the Appellate Division. Later he served as counsel to the Moreland Act Commission to Study Workmen’s Compensation Administration

and Costs. With his customary preparation and skill, he served as appeals counsel to the City of New York, arguing important cases in the highest courts of the State.

In 1946, he joined the Fordham Law School faculty as an Assistant Professor and between 1946 and 1963 he taught the law of sales, contracts and mortgages. In the period from 1963 until his retirement in 1968, he concentrated on the subject of Domestic Relations.

In January, 1963, in recognition of his training and experience and outstanding personal qualifications, he was appointed a Judge of the Family Court of the City of New York where he served with distinction until his retirement in 1979. His teaching the law of Domestic Relations was a resource in a sensitive area of controversy where a judge's skill and patience are essential to the restoration of peace and harmony among family members. Judge Doran had those qualifications in the highest measure.

In 1966, when Professor Doran was awarded the University's Bene Merenti medal in appreciation of his twenty years of service on the law faculty, his citation included the following: "Since joining the law faculty in 1946, Professor Doran had made his students the beneficiaries of his analytical mind, keen Gaelic wit and rounded professional experience." No better summation could be made.

Professor Doran was endowed with a charming partner, his wife Claire Griffin, and by his loyal and grateful family. With their assistance and encouragement, he has earned widespread respect and friendship.

*Joseph W. McGovern '33*