Stanley V. Kinyon

William B. Lockhart
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Stanley V. Kinyon's qualities as teacher, scholar, colleague, and friend are reflected in several eulogies he produced at my request for departed colleagues of his and mine during the past two decades. Stanley was always the natural choice for author of these eulogies because of his gregarious nature which brought him close to his colleagues, his sympathetic understanding of and concern for others and their interests, his meticulous and scholarly attention to detail in anything he undertook, and his ready willingness to shoulder more than his share of the load that falls on faculty members. Never did he fail in these eulogies to communicate effectively the spirit and special qualities of his deceased colleagues, as well as to do justice to their professional achievements.

Professor Kinyon never forgot that his principal function was to teach, which he did with meticulous clarity and endless patience. With marked success, he made every effort in class to clarify the problems discussed so as to leave no fuzzy corners; but he was always available to students for further clarification after class, in the halls, and in his office. The overwhelmingly favorable student reaction to his teaching over the years reflects both his success and their appreciation. In recent years, he developed and used more and more of his own unique teaching materials, to which the student response was most favorable.

Stanley Kinyon's personal interest in others extended well beyond his colleagues and students. He was openly and proudly an active and "dry" member of Alcoholics Anonymous during the 28 years we were both members of the University of Minnesota Law School faculty. For many of those years he devoted much of his evening and weekend time, as well as his brilliant intellectual capacity, to presenting to groups and individuals the highly successful method which Alcoholics Anonymous uses in dealing with the critical problem of alcoholism. Much of the counseling was based upon his own total success in solving that problem. Few people are aware of how much of Stanley's personal time was devoted to counseling and encouraging those struggling with the problem—students, lawyers, persons from every walk and level of life. For many years I have constantly encountered persons throughout the state who spoke to me with deep respect, admiration, and affection for Stanley because of their experience with this side of his life.

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That was only one aspect of Stanley Kinyon’s unselfish nature. He accepted more than his share of University committee assignments, and always gave freely of his time when consulted by colleagues in both the law school and the rest of the University. He never seemed too busy to give first priority to my concerns whenever I turned to him for counsel, whether in my capacity as dean, fellow lawyer, or law teacher. Never did he intimate by word or gesture that he was too busy with his own concerns to give careful attention to mine. This unselfish outlook toward all who knocked on his door exacted a price in lowered scholarly production in his later years when he was working long hours on his new teaching materials. But Stanley would not, indeed could not, put his own interests first.

Finally, Stanley Kinyon was an important link with the past for the University of Minnesota Law School as I knew it, starting in 1946. His law school connections went back to 1930, when he had started as a student, a role which was quickly followed by an appointment to the faculty in 1934. For most of my years at Minnesota, he was Treasurer of the Law Alumni Association, and was well and affectionately known as “Stan” by nearly all the alumni. For newcomers like myself, Stan was a living bridge to the alumni of earlier days. In that capacity, as in all others, his contributions to the Minnesota Law School were invaluable.

It is with the highest respect and affection that I offer an appropriately “dry” toast to Stanley V. Kinyon as teacher, scholar, alumnus, colleague, and most of all, as a friend of all.

WILLIAM B. LOCKHART*

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* Professor of Law, Arizona State University College of Law; former dean, University of Minnesota Law School.