

On The Front Cover

George Frederick Curtis, Q.C., B.A., LL.B., B.C.L., D.C.L., LL.D., Order of the COIF; has this year retired from teaching. As the founding Dean of the Faculty of Law at U.B.C. (1945) George Curtis has devoted his life to legal education and the legal community of this province and Canada.

He came from England to Canada in early youth and is a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan and of Oxford University where he was a Rhodes Scholar. He taught at the Law Faculty of Dalhousie University where he held the Viscount Bennett Chair for a decade before moving to Vancouver to set up the Law Faculty here. His career reflects honour and commitment to public service. He served on various boards and committees, all concerned with advancing the social well-being of Canadians, and was recognised internationally as a scholar and pedagogue. He represented Canada as a delegate to the United Nations Conferences on the Law of the Sea in 1958 and 1960 and was a prime mover for the creation of a new learned society, the Canadian Association of Law Teachers.

Despite his active public life George Curtis devoted his first and complete attention to the welfare of the Law Faculty and legal education in this province. In the early years he attracted a cadre of outstanding and committed scholars to join the school and marshalled the support of the legal profession, the judiciary and government to the enterprise. He retired in 1971 having served as Professor and Dean for some 26 years. But his retirement was only in form. From that date to this George Curtis has continued to teach as an Adjunct Professor and has continued to make himself available to his colleagues and students when wise counsel and a ready wit were needed.

His life-long contribution to the legal community of this province was properly recognised when the Law Society presented him with the first Law Society of British Columbia Award, for outstanding contribution to the province or public service, at a ceremony on November 6, 1986. George Curtis will maintain an office in the Faculty of Law — the building which bears his name — where he will continue to engage in research and, of course, counsel students, friends and colleagues.

Peter Burns
Dean
8 April 1987

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