



THE HONORABLE RICHARD J. HUGHES



THE HONORABLE WORRALL F. MOUNTAIN

PREFACE

This symposium, words about the life and work of Chief Justice Hughes and Justice Mountain from their fellow justices, judges and lawyers, strikes the richest vein of American law and life.

Thomas Aquinas tells us that law is the chief moral instrument of humanity, because it is the organizing principle of human political and social life. The enterprise of law, as Lon Fuller calls it, is the most difficult of tasks. Being human, it has inherent limitations. Yet law seeks justice, the highest moral good.

That is why law needs more than good men and women. It needs highly skilled professionals, persons who spring from a long tradition of bench and bar. It needs wisdom, a deep knowledge of society's principles, prudence, compassion, and perhaps in our time especially, the ability to distinguish what law can do from an urge to assume the powers of the gods.

In this symposium, the accounts of Richard J. Hughes' and Worrall F. Mountain's work at its most technical, improving New Jersey's court system or changing the law governing the interpretation of wills, speak of moral meaning. Moral meaning is found in the arduous, technical work of professionals seeking justice in the form of the common good, the goal of law.

The editors of the Seton Hall Law Review are to be congratulated for arranging this symposium. Its contributors have our gratitude. The two men who are honored, one need only add, have found their principles in the best of a common law tradition that reaches back into Medieval England, to Rome, Athens, and Jerusalem.

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