DEDICATION
PROFESSOR RONALD R. VOLKMER

I am very pleased and honored to be able to share in this tribute to Ron Volkmer for his many years of service as a Professor at Creighton Law School and as a long-time Faculty Advisor to the Creighton Law Review. I have had the privilege of sitting as a student in Ron's class, working on the law review under his guidance, and over the many years intervening since then, enjoying his friendship.

Ron was the very first Editor-in-Chief of the Creighton Law Review, serving in that capacity during the 1967-68 school year. After a year away for a teaching fellowship at the University of Illinois, he returned to Creighton to begin his career as a law professor, teaching Property in the fall semester of 1969. At 25, Ron was not much older than his students (in fact, I'm confident he was younger than many), and one can only imagine how he must have felt when he first faced the 1L students (including myself) assembled in the classroom. We were a bit of a “rag-tag” group, products of the 1960's and the political upheaval that came with the civil rights movement and the war in Vietnam, and it is fair to say that many of us were there because we still had not decided what we wanted to be when we grew up. But if Ron was frightened by the challenge of turning us into accomplished lawyers, he certainly did not show it, and his confident, studious, and calm demeanor quickly proved that he excelled at teaching. As generations of law students since then have come to know, Creighton was fortunate indeed to have him in its ranks.

The law review in those days was in its infancy. Our offices were in cramped quarters on the ground floor of the old law school building (now the Hitchcock Communication Arts building), and we often used a window on the east side of the building to enter and exit. It was searching for its identity, endeavoring to find quality lead articles (very difficult for such a new publication) and to be relevant for practitioners in Nebraska and neighboring states. Of course, that was made doubly difficult because it was led by students who did not really know the first thing about publishing. In the midst of that chaotic situation, Ron was consistently a steady, calming influence. He would mentor without managing, suggest without stepping on toes, and was always a source of encouragement. In short, he was all we could have hoped for in a faculty advisor.

Ron has had an incredible career, virtually all of it at Creighton. It is hard to believe, but he has taught Creighton law students and served as the Faculty Advisor to the law review in six separate de-
cades. No one has had a more lasting impact on the Law School or the law review, and the impressive qualities of the School and the law review today are due in no small part to his years of dedicated service. Equally important, his impact has not just been limited to the Law School, but is also felt through his long-standing service to the broader community. His roles with the Legal Aid Society, the Concord Center for Community Mediation, annual trips to the Dominican Republic, and so many other acts of kindness and service are a testament to his character and a reflection of the values that he holds so deeply.

Ron once wrote an article for the law review dealing with the Nebraska statute of frauds. He sent me a copy of the article when it was published in 1973, which much to my surprise I recently found on a bookshelf at my home. I smiled when I saw that he had written “forsan et haec olim meminisse juvabit” on my copy. That is a line from the Aeneid which, roughly translated, means “perhaps this too will be a pleasure to look back on one day.” While that was likely a joke about the rigors of parsing through the statute of frauds, the words apply equally as well to the rigors of law school, law review, and instruction from Professor Volkmer. So, on behalf of the thousands of law students you have taught and mentored, Ron, you should know that it is indeed a pleasure to look back on those years and on the positive influence you have had in our lives. Thank you so much.

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