

Dalhousie Law Journal

Volume 35
Issue 2 35:2 (2012) *Special Issue: Hugh M.
Kindred: A Tribute*

Article 1

10-1-2012

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Recommended Citation

Robert J. Currie and Phillip Saunders, "Hugh M. Kindred: A Tribute" (2012) 35:2 Dal LJ i.

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Hugh M. Kindred: A Tribute

Robert J. Currie & Phillip Saunders*

We are pleased to introduce this special issue of the *Dalhousie Law Journal*, which is essentially a mini-*estschrift* in honour of Professor Hugh Kindred. Hugh began teaching at what was then Dalhousie Law School in 1971 and retired from full-time teaching in 2008, with a well-deserved Professor Emeritus status bestowed on him in 2010. In between Hugh provided wisdom, quiet counsel and gracious generosity to generations of students and faculty at what is now called the Schulich School of Law, and became a pillar of the Canadian legal academic community. His legacy is enormous and ongoing, as Hugh has continued to be active in both teaching and research since his “retirement.”

Part of the privilege of being guest editors of this issue is that it allows each of us to acknowledge Hugh’s contributions to our own careers. Both of us were students, in different years, in Hugh’s International Law course and the International Advocacy seminar that he developed and ran. Hugh was the coach of Dalhousie’s 1984 Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition team, of which Phillip was a member. As colleagues at the law school we each co-taught courses with him at various times and have collaborated on a number of written projects—including the honour of being co-authors and co-editors of perhaps his most influential work, *International Law: Chieftly as Interpreted and Applied in Canada*,¹ more popularly (and appropriately) known as “the Kindred book.” While Hugh’s formal classroom teaching may have ended, he continues to instruct and inspire. His academic and professional influence on each of us runs through our teaching and research, and the same is true of many colleagues throughout Canada and around the world.

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¹ H Kindred & P Saunders, eds, *International Law: Chieftly as Interpreted and Applied in Canada*, 7th ed (Toronto: Emond Montgomery, 2006); 8th ed (H Kindred, P Saunders & R Currie, eds) forthcoming 2014.

The pages of this issue demonstrate this fact, as among our authors can be found other former students (Ted McDorman, Ikechi Mgbeoji²) and current and former Dalhousie Law colleagues (Aldo Chircop, Stéphane Beaulac, also both former students). We are especially pleased to be publishing an article by Dr. Mary Brooks of the Dalhousie Faculty of Management, who has actively collaborated on a number of interdisciplinary projects with Hugh in the past. The collection is rounded out by contributions from two other Canadian deans of international law, Don McRae and Armand de Mestral, both moved by their longstanding association with and affection for Hugh to take part in this effort.

As will be apparent from the selection of articles herein, Hugh's most well-known academic contributions have been to the areas of public international law and maritime law and transportation. Indeed, his involvement in these fields goes far beyond his considerable written work.³ By way of example only: during 1978-1979 Hugh was a Butterworths (UK) Overseas Legal Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Legal Studies in London, and from 1985-1986 he worked as a Senior Legal Officer in the Shipping Division of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva. During 1996-1997 and again in 2001 he was the Director of the Marine and Environmental Law Programme⁴ at Dalhousie Law School. In 1998 he was a Parsons Scholar and visiting professor in Maritime Law at the University of Sydney, Australia, and in 2001 he chaired an Ad Hoc Expert Meeting on the regulation of multimodal transport for UNCTAD at Geneva. In 1982 he was the project coordinator and co-author of a study for Transport Canada on *The Future of the Canadian Carriage of Goods by Water Law*⁵ and subsequently he assisted the Department in the preparation of the *Canadian Carriage of Goods by Water Act 1993*.⁶

Yet Hugh has been active in many other matters outside the fields covered in this issue. He was a founding director of the Public Legal Education Society of Nova Scotia (now the Legal Information Society of NS) and Coordinator of the Nova Scotia Project in High Schools for the NS Department of Education in 1976. He has long worked in the commercial law area, teaching the subject at the law school over the course of many years,

2 Professor Mgbeoji, currently a member of the faculty at Osgoode Hall Law School, was a doctoral supervisee of Hugh's more than a decade ago. We feel it worth mentioning that he was so moved by Hugh's academic mentorship that he recently founded the *Hugh Kindred Fund for International Law* at Dalhousie to support study of and research in international law at the Schulich School of Law.

3 A small sample: Max Ganado & Hugh M Kindred, *Marine Cargo Delays: The Law of Delay in the General Carriage of Cargo by Sea* (London: Lloyd's of London Press, 1990); Hugh M Kindred & Mary Brooks, *Multimodal Transport Rules* (Boston: Kluwer Law International, 1997); Edgar Gold, Aldo E Chircop & Hugh M Kindred, *Maritime Law* (Toronto: Irwin Law, 2003).

4 Now the Marine and Environmental Law Institute.

5 (Halifax: Dalhousie Ocean Studies Programme, 1982).

6 SC 1993, c 21 (repealed).

advising the government of Nova Scotia on several matters and participating in several Working Groups of the Uniform Law Conference of Canada. In 1995 he collaborated in developing and delivering the initial course on the Legal Framework of Modern Peacekeeping at the Lester B. Pearson Canadian International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Cornwallis, NS. This all illustrates, we feel, that Hugh's intellectual curiosity in the overall field of law knows no bounds, and he truly has illustrated by example Seneca's maxim that "even while they teach, men learn."⁷ His students and his colleagues have been the net beneficiaries of this, and it is worthwhile to honour him even in this small way.

In the end, it is difficult properly to quantify or describe the impact Hugh Kindred has had on so many students, professors and practitioners of law, both in Canada and elsewhere. This is in no small part because, as a friend expressed it, Hugh is probably the person about whom the phrase "modest to a fault" was coined. Indeed, when we undertook this project we made sure to keep it a secret from Hugh until the authors were lined up and the paper-writing begun, knowing as we did that Hugh would most certainly (and sternly) tell us to cease and desist. Our skullduggery, ably assisted by Hugh's wife, Professor Sheila Kindred, was successful and resulted in this collection, which we hope the readers of this journal will enjoy reading as much as we enjoyed assembling it.

7 Seneca (The Younger), *Epistulae Morales*.

