

## WHY “THE CHILDRESS LECTURE”?\*

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Several months ago, I mentioned to Tim Greaney that I had been one of Dean Childress’s students. In fact, I was a member of the last graduating class during Richard Childress’s tenure as Dean. My class was also the last to graduate before the Dean’s untimely death.<sup>1</sup> As always happens, when someone who knew the Dean, particularly someone who knew the Dean well, talks about him, “the stories” just begin to spill out.

At some point in the conversation, Tim must have decided that if he, the “Master of Ceremonies of the Childress Lecture,” didn’t know “the stories,” it was likely that people in the Law School community also failed to appreciate why Dean Childress was so special, and also likely that they did not comprehend the reasons why this wonderful event is named for him. Presumably on the spur of the moment, Tim asked me if I would preface the lecture with a reminiscence of Dean Childress. Certainly there are people far better qualified for the task, but it seems that I was appointed.<sup>2</sup>

Originally, it seemed like it would be easy to prepare this presentation. Every time you start talking about the Dean, everyone smiles and begins to reminisce about “the stories.” But the task was not easy. It was a lot of fun. However, it wasn’t easy.

Shortly after the Dean died, his good friend and former academic colleague, Judge Joseph Simeone, wrote about the difficulties that would be encountered by anyone trying to capture the Dean in mere words. Writing about the Dean’s impact on the legal community, Judge Simeone said: “Words

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1. Dean Childress always was, and still is, referred to as “the Dean” by everyone who knew him. Any reference to “the Dean” made in the presence of former Law School students and colleagues of a certain age will generate both recognition and a smile.

2. I am extremely grateful to the many people who took time to speak with me about the Dean. Throughout this article, their thoughts, memories, and comments are mingled with my own.

are wholly insufficient to capture his presence in so many areas and his activities in so many endeavors.”<sup>3</sup> Judge Simeone got it right in three respects:

- First, words are going to be inadequate. But, words are what we have.
- Second, Dean Childress, as you may have gathered from the reaction in this room earlier when his name was first mentioned, was a presence. He had the capacity to fill a room, to fully occupy a discussion, and to own an event.
- Third, he did seem to be everywhere, doing everything with everyone.<sup>4</sup>

As Roger Goldman is fond of saying, if you were casting a movie about a law school, Dean Childress is the person central casting would send to fill the role of the dean. He looked like a law school dean. He was over six feet tall and had a mane of white hair that was always combed straight back. He favored gray plaid suits and red ties with white shirts.

He was outgoing and gregarious, and he had a profound interest in people.<sup>5</sup> He was born in Kentucky in 1922, and he neither lost his Southern charm nor the hint of a Southern accent, especially when it served his purposes.<sup>6</sup> He was self-deprecating and optimistic.<sup>7</sup> He never raised his voice.<sup>8</sup> He listened intently. He was kind, gentle and committed.<sup>9</sup> He engaged his audience, talking with his entire body. He loved the limelight and controversy.<sup>10</sup> But, “[a]bove all he liked people. He delighted in working with them and helping them solve their problems.”<sup>11</sup>

Dean Childress received his undergraduate degree from Saint Louis University in 1947.<sup>12</sup> Two years later, he earned his Bachelor of Laws degree (LLB) from the University of Cincinnati.<sup>13</sup> Upon graduation from law school, he was recruited to join the law faculty of Saint Louis University.<sup>14</sup> He arrived

3. Joseph J. Simeone, *Richard J. Childress: His Impact on the Legal Community*, 21 ST. LOUIS U. L.J. 5, 6 (1977).

4. *See generally id.* (describing Dean Childress’s roles as a professor, dean, public servant, arbitrator, and good friend).

5. Vincent C. Immel, *Dick Childress as Dean*, 21 ST. LOUIS U. L.J. 3, 3 (1977); *see also* Simeone, *supra* note 3, at 6.

6. John E. Dunsford, *Dick Childress as a Teacher*, 21 ST. LOUIS U. L.J. 1, 1 (1977); In Memoriam, *Richard Jefferson Childress*, 21 ST. LOUIS U. L.J. ix, ix (1977).

7. Dunsford, *supra* note 6, at 1–2.

8. Simeone, *supra* note 3, at 8.

9. *Id.*

10. Immel, *supra* note 5, at 3.

11. *Id.*

12. In Memoriam, *supra* note 6, at ix.

13. *Id.*

14. *Id.*

here in 1949, when the law school was just in the process of reopening after having been closed during the Second World War.<sup>15</sup>

Ten years later, in 1959, Dean Childress was named Professor of Law.<sup>16</sup> To get a sense of the Dean as a teacher, consider this: Within his first ten years, Dean Childress taught fifteen different subjects.<sup>17</sup> Most teachers have a hard time teaching two or more different subjects.

In 1962, he was named Associate Dean.<sup>18</sup> Professor Immel was Dean. Those of you who remember Dean Childress and who also know Professor Immel can imagine what that combination must have been like. In 1969, Richard Childress was named Dean of the Law School, a position he held until 1976.<sup>19</sup> He died in February of 1977.<sup>20</sup>

The Dean had an enormous and lasting impact on this Law School and on the larger community, as well. In the spring of 1949, in his second semester on the faculty, he started the *Saint Louis University Law Journal*.<sup>21</sup> At that time, it wasn't at all clear that the *Journal* was going to survive. It was Dean Childress's personal mission to see that it did. There are cartoons from the period that show him with a butterfly net chasing faculty and students down hallways, trying to coax them to write for the *Journal*.<sup>22</sup> When that didn't work, Dean Childress took matters into his own hands; he wrote for the *Journal*.<sup>23</sup> When even that wasn't enough, he drafted his wife, Mary Ann, who was an instructor in philosophy in the University, but not a lawyer, to write for the *Journal*.<sup>24</sup>

During his tenure as Dean and under his direction, the Law School essentially began the process of reinventing itself and becoming what it is today, turning from a regional law school into a nationally prominent school.<sup>25</sup> That transformation was evident in almost every aspect of the school. It was perhaps most obvious in that the face of the student body changed dramatically. Because of Dean Childress's efforts, the percentage of minorities and women increased greatly.<sup>26</sup> When Dean Childress assumed the

15. See Dunsford, *supra* note 6, at 1; In Memoriam, *supra* note 6; Melody Walker, *The First 100 Years: Women at Saint Louis University*, ST. LOUIS BRIEF, Spring 2008, at 10, 11.

16. See In Memoriam, *supra* note 6.

17. Dunsford, *supra* note 6, at 2.

18. In Memoriam, *supra* note 6.

19. *Id.*

20. *Id.*

21. *Id.*; Simeone, *supra* note 3, at 5.

22. Simeone, *supra* note 3, at 5.

23. See Richard J. Childress, Book Review, 1 INTRAMURAL L. REV. ST. LOUIS U. 354, 354 (1951).

24. See Marianne Miller Childress, Book Review, 3 ST. LOUIS U. L.J. 111 (1954).

25. See Simeone, *supra* note 3, at 6.

26. Immel, *supra* note 5, at 4.

post of law school dean, for example, there were virtually no women in the school.<sup>27</sup> By the end of the 1970s, women constituted almost one-third of the class and now comprise more than half of the student body.<sup>28</sup>

The Dean had a special commitment to women and minorities. That commitment had a big picture aspect, but also manifested itself in the little—or maybe not so little—things that the Dean did. He—as Pete Salsich has told me—prepared special letters that Pete sent, as Chair of the Admissions Committee, to women and minorities accepted into the Law School. The letter emphasized the role that the prospective student could play in the legal community, and the hope that the student would come to Saint Louis University to start his or her legal career. Similarly, in 1975, a brochure designed to encourage women to attend the Law School was published.

In the early 1970s, the Dean recruited Jesse Goldner to come to Saint Louis University to start the clinical programs. The Lawyering Process—the first clinical program—was instituted, and it was a mandatory requirement for all students.<sup>29</sup> Shortly thereafter, Dean Childress recruited Roger Goldman to start an EEOC clinic.<sup>30</sup> Three years later, in 1976, he asked Jesse Goldner and Gene Schultz to start a criminal practice clinic.<sup>31</sup>

There is no exaggeration in saying that Dean Childress created the foundation for the Law School's extensive clinical programs. This was no small thing. Emphasizing clinical education was a radical departure from the standard approach to legal education at the time. Clinical programs in law schools were almost unknown. In fact, only one other law school—Harvard—offered clinical education at that time.<sup>32</sup>

In my second year as a law student, the Law School became one of the original test sites for this newfangled computer research tool called LEXIS. In all of my wisdom, I explained to the Dean, there was no way it was going to find a market, because legal research just wasn't linear. This was one of those moments when he justifiably could have raised his voice, but did not. He very patiently and carefully explained why I was wrong.

Once again, Dean Childress was helping to push the Law School into the future. To get some idea of the significance of his foresight, consider this: Professor Sandra Johnson, who was then a law student at NYU, took a summer

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27. Walker, *supra* note 15, at 10, 11; *Women of the Seventies*, SAINT LOUIS BRIEF, Fall 2004, at 16, 16 (noting that in 1971, men outnumbered women ten to one).

28. Walker, *supra* note 15, at 11–12.

29. See Stefanie Ellis, *Firm Foundation*, SAINT LOUIS BRIEF, Fall 2003, at 6.

30. *Id.*

31. *Id.*

32. *Id.*

course in this Law School in 1975 and was stunned at the widespread availability of computers in the law library.<sup>33</sup>

Dean Childress started the partnerships with the Schools of Public Health, Medicine, and Business that led to the joint degree programs.<sup>34</sup> Three joint degree programs were started during his tenure as Dean.<sup>35</sup> "[T]he National Juvenile Law Center and the Mid America Equal Employment Rights Project also became adjuncts to the School of Law."<sup>36</sup>

One of his proudest accomplishments also had a tinge of disappointment. After many false starts, he oversaw the construction of the Omer Poos Law Library.<sup>37</sup> Let me put that into perspective. Professor Salsich described one scene in the old Law School building before the law library was opened. Eileen Searls—a great mentor in her own right and a great law librarian<sup>38</sup>—had the law books packed in beer crates in the hallways of the old law school. One student who was being recruited to come to Saint Louis University happened to visit at the time. He just could not get by the idea that he would be going to a law school where there were beer crates with books in the hallways. He went to Washington University. Rumor has it, however, that he came to his senses and transferred the following year.

Dean Childress's disappointment lay in the fact that he desperately wanted to construct a new law school, too. But that task awaited another dean.

Dean Childress's impact was felt well beyond the Law School community. In the 1950s, he was a public advocate for minority housing, for equal employment rights, for equal access to public restaurants and to places of public accommodation.<sup>39</sup> The Dean was director of the St. Louis Urban League for over ten years, a member of the St. Louis Conference on Religion and Race, as well as a member of the Missouri Bar Committee on the Bill of Rights.<sup>40</sup> He was a member of, and twice chairman of, the St. Louis Archdiocese Commission on Human Rights in the 1960s and the 1970s.<sup>41</sup>

Unless you lived through those periods, you cannot imagine the emotional tumult and the tensions that tore people—even well-meaning people—apart. It was a time of public rent strikes in St. Louis and of widespread civil unrest

33. Sandra H. Johnson, *Tribute to Eileen Searls*, 44 ST. LOUIS U. L.J. 795, 795 (2000).

34. Immel, *supra* note 5, at 3–4.

35. *Id.*

36. *Id.* at 3.

37. *Id.* at 4.

38. See generally Vincent G. Immel, *A Tribute to Eileen Haughey Searls*, 44 ST. LOUIS U. L.J. 791 (2000); Johnson, *supra* note 33.

39. John A. Shocklee, *Richard J. Childress: His Commitment to Human Rights*, 21 ST. LOUIS U. L.J. 10, 10–11 (1977).

40. About Richard J. Childress Memorial Lecture, <http://law.slu.edu/conf/childress/childress.html> (last visited Apr. 5, 2009) [hereinafter Childress Lecture].

41. *Id.*; Shocklee, *supra* note 39, at 11.

throughout the entire country. It was the crest of the civil rights movement, the time of the deaths of Dr. King, John Kennedy, and Robert Kennedy. Riots were not uncommon in our cities.<sup>42</sup>

The Dean, however, was never afraid to stand up on the side of right. On the monitors spread around the court room, you'll see a photograph.<sup>43</sup> The Dean is in the middle of that photograph.

That photograph shows the Dean participating in one of the most momentous events in the civil rights movement, an event that was a watershed moment in which the death knell of legal segregation began to sound. The photograph shows the Dean participating in the civil rights march, led by Dr. King, from Selma, Alabama to Montgomery, Alabama. When the march began, there were widespread and well-founded fears for the physical safety of the marchers,<sup>44</sup> but those concerns did not deter the Dean. At the end of the march, Alabama Governor George Wallace denied the marchers access to the State Capitol Building. The Dean is the tall, white haired gentleman right in the middle of the marchers.<sup>45</sup> Professor Immel, by the way, accused the Dean of standing between two nuns for protection.

Judge Simeone described the Dean's role as an advocate in the civil and human rights movements as one that was characterized by "gentle persuasion" and calm logic so that in the upset and the disruption of the 1960s, his was "a voice of understanding and cooperation," and, in many ways, he "served as the conscience of the community."<sup>46</sup> Others have said that the Dean was "a spark of light in times of social and racial shadows, a center of love, when cities were torn with hatred."<sup>47</sup>

The Dean not only taught; he also was an active lawyer. At that time, courts appointed counsel to serve without compensation for individuals who were indigent and charged with crimes. And, as Judge Simeone said, "Dick took his share" of cases.<sup>48</sup> At one point, he was appointed Assistant Circuit

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42. See generally Shocklee, *supra* note 39, at 11.

43. The photograph is pictured in the background of Dean Childress's official portrait which hangs in the Law School's courtroom [hereinafter Childress Photo]. It was re-published a few years ago in the November 19, 2004 edition of the *St. Louis Review*. See Jean M. Schildz, *Nuns Recall Fateful Trip for Justice*, ST. LOUIS REV., Nov. 19, 2004, at 6. I am indebted to Professor Immel for providing me with a copy.

44. See, e.g., *Johnson Calls Up Troops, Deplores Wallace's Acts; Alabama March on Today*, N.Y. TIMES, Mar. 21, 1965, at 1; *25,000 Go to Alabama's Capitol; Wallace Rebuffs Petitioners; White Rights Worker Is Slain*, N.Y. TIMES, Mar. 26, 1965, at 1.

45. See Childress Photo, *supra* note 43.

46. Simeone, *supra* note 3, at 8. The Dean brought his "gentle persuasion" approach to bear on a variety of issues. An example of his "calm logic" is found in John E. Dunsford & Richard J. Childress, *Attacks on the Supreme Court*, 4 CATH. LAW. 57 (1958).

47. Shocklee, *supra* note 39, at 10.

48. Simeone, *supra* note 3, at 7; see, e.g., *State v. Owens*, 391 S.W.2d 248, 250 (Mo. 1965).

Attorney.<sup>49</sup> He also served as an arbitrator in labor disputes.<sup>50</sup> In the 1960s and the 1970s, he and his wife, Mary Ann, were ardent supporters of the Equal Rights Amendment, and vocal advocates for women’s rights.<sup>51</sup> The Dean, it seemed, never missed the opportunity to publicly make the case for human dignity.

Those things hardly begin to describe the Dean, however. There are many people who can play a role on a public stage, but don’t really understand how to translate their public convictions into personal relationships with individual people, but the Dean did.

John Noonan, now a judge on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, in his book *Persons and Masks of the Law*,<sup>52</sup> among other things, argues that the law’s use of labels like “plaintiff” and “defendant” masks the humanity of the individuals whose lives are at stake.<sup>53</sup> Dean Childress never had that problem. He understood that causes and cases were about real people.<sup>54</sup> In a 1957 speech, for example, Dean Childress said this about the *Dred Scott* decision:

In viewing *Dred Scott*’s place in history as a constitutional landmark, we must not forget that Dred Scott was a real person. Constitutional cases do not solve mathematical problems; their outcomes affect fellow human beings. It is true that *Dred Scott v. Sanford* was a test case, but it is equally true that he was a slave. If our moral sense is offended by the Supreme Court’s decision, we should ask ourselves whether there are modern counterparts of Dred Scott who still seek justice.<sup>55</sup>

Even the passage of 100 years and Dred Scott’s status as a historical icon did not prevent the Dean from seeing—and reminding us—that, first and foremost, Dred Scott was a man.

I do not wish to deify the Dean. You would never understand him and you would never appreciate him if that were done. Professor Immel said to me the other day that the Dean was the paradigm of the person whom you loved because of his faults, not in spite of them.

Roger Goldman is certainly right—central casting would send Richard Childress to play the law school dean. But central casting would also send him to play the “Absent-minded Professor.” Organization was not a word in his vocabulary. One of my classmates, Mark Hassakis, remains convinced that we only covered one-third of the required material in our Constitutional Law class.

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49. Simeone, *supra* note 3, at 7.

50. *Id.*

51. *Id.*; Childress Lecture, *supra* note 40.

52. JOHN T. NOONAN, JR., *PERSONS AND MASKS OF THE LAW: CARDOZO, HOLMES, JEFFERSON AND WYTHE AS MAKERS OF THE MASKS* (1976).

53. *Id.* at 20.

54. *See generally* Shocklee, *supra* note 39.

55. *Id.* (recollecting Dean Childress’s comments about the *Dred Scott* case) (internal quotation marks omitted).

The Dean was so disorganized, and he was so in love with ideas, that he could never abandon one idea for another. Professor Dunsford has said that Dean Childress's love of ideas bordered on idolatry.<sup>56</sup>

Mark Hassakis is probably right. But what we did cover, we knew better than anybody else.

Dean Childress was a procrastinator beyond which nothing can be conceived.<sup>57</sup> Last night, Mike Wolff told me that he once walked into the Dean's office on the day when his Constitutional Law exam was to be administered. It was noon and the Dean was dictating his exam. The exam was to be given at one o'clock that day.

The Dean never, ever submitted the grades for his Constitutional Law class within anything that remotely resembled a reasonable time. The story is told about a group of students who were waiting for their grades and periodically checking the bulletin board in the Law School where the grades used to be posted, but to no avail. One day as they were checking, the Dean happened to walk by. One of the students asked the Dean if the exam was going to be graded on the law as it existed at the time he took the exam, or at the time he graded the exams.

The Dean was a complete klutz. He never walked. He bounced and bounded.<sup>58</sup> When he bounced up steps, it wasn't uncommon for him to bounce into the top of the door jam and hit his head.<sup>59</sup> Not that he noticed.

He always had a cigarette in his hand. When he was lighting his cigarettes, students used to bet whether or not he was going to put the match out before he burned his fingers.<sup>60</sup> Dean Childress regularly tossed cigarettes out the Law School windows. Sometimes, the windows were even open, and sometimes, the cigarettes were out.<sup>61</sup>

I once saw him walk down Lindell Boulevard from the old Law School in a rainstorm with a bag over his head with two holes cut out for his eyes. He walked back that way, too. When I later asked one of the secretaries what was going on, I was informed that I didn't know how bad it was. The Dean was in his office interviewing a secretarial candidate. His wet shirt and jacket were draped over the air conditioner. He was conducting the interview in his T-shirt and tie.

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56. Dunsford, *supra* note 6, at 1.

57. Simeone, *supra* note 3, at 8.; *see also* John E. Dunsford, *Memories of Sandy*, 29 ST. LOUIS U. L.J. 881, 881 (1985) (noting that the Dean had a "world class reputation" for missing deadlines).

58. Simeone, *supra* note 3, at 5.

59. *Id.* at 5-6.

60. *See id.* at 6.

61. *Id.*



Mike Wolff is fond of telling stories about the Dean's driving. As he drove, the Dean always looked directly at the passenger to whom he was speaking. He never looked forward. It didn't matter how fast he was going.

The Dean was known to crawl in windows at the Law School to get out of the rain. He often sat, if only briefly, on the very lip of a desk when teaching.<sup>62</sup> We had a pool in one of our classes about when he was going to fall off the edge of the desk, because he couldn't possibly be sitting that far out on the edge.

In the old Law School, the teachers taught from elevated platforms. The Dean, however, could not remain stationary for long, especially when particularly entranced by an idea. He would pace back and forth across the platform. Some students report that during one class, elaborating on a point that he found especially intriguing, the Dean stepped off the platform into the trash can. Not missing a word in lecture, he continued to walk, trash can and all.

Like many of "the stories" about the Dean, you have to wonder if they are completely true or if they are apocryphal. It seems to me, however, that the most important thing about "the stories" is not whether they are true, but that those who knew Dean Childress are prepared to believe that the stories are true.

It would be the most grievous omission if I failed to mention "THE STORY." When you ask people to share recollections of Dean Childress, remarkably, virtually everyone begins by mentioning one or another variant of the same story. Unfortunately, despite spending a lot of time trying to determine how it could be done, I must concede that my classmate, Rick Watters, has the right of it: there is no way "THE STORY" can be told in a forum like this one.

As a result, I adopted an alternate approach: I have been telling people one-on-one. The people in the room who can't look at you and who are struggling unsuccessfully to hold in the laughter are familiar with the tale. I am certain that they will be happy to share. For now, those in the dark will just have to be satisfied to know that the story illustrates the truth of the principle that it's always better to be on the giving end of a good soaking, rather than on the receiving end.<sup>63</sup>

Those of you who are of a certain age remember President Gerald Ford. President Ford must have been related to the Dean. He once showed up to greet the Emperor of Japan in formal attire with pants that were about four inches too short. He would regularly fall down the steps of Air Force One. Saturday Night Live had a field day with Gerald Ford parodies. In short, many

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62. *Id.*

63. For the benefit of those familiar with "THE STORY," Professor Immel confirmed that it actually occurred.

stories like those told about Dean Childress were also told about President Ford. But there was an enormous difference.

The stories about President Ford's misadventures were told in a demeaning and deprecating way. In contrast, the stories about the Dean are always told with the greatest affection and respect, and even love.<sup>64</sup> The stories are told with respect and affection, because we students knew that whatever else he might be involved with, the Dean was passionately committed to us. In fact, many will tell you that his greatest strength was also his greatest weakness: specifically, he always had time for us.<sup>65</sup> He just did not know how to tell a student "no." For all of his stature in the community, he was always our enthusiastic friend and advisor, a mentor who listened and guided, but never dictated, as well as a confidante who could be trusted.<sup>66</sup>

His interaction with the people who went to law school here, and I speak as his former student now, was characterized by "little kindnesses." Let me illustrate. One of my classmates tore his Achilles tendon during our second year and was hospitalized. When he came back to school, the Dean—who really didn't know my classmate very well—had, without being asked and without saying anything, moved his classes from the third floor of the old Law School, which had no elevator, to the ground floor so that he did not have to negotiate the steps on crutches. The Dean never said anything about it to my classmate. He saw a need and responded.

Similarly, in the 1970s, there was a young nun who came here to law school, and the Dean befriended her. She tells a story about the Dean seeking her out in the first week of school. Basically, the Dean told her, "If you have any problems, come see me." He also advised her about which professors to stay away from, because they didn't want women in their classes.<sup>67</sup>

Sandra Johnson shared a story about an incident that, in the grand scheme of things, does not amount to much, but it illustrates well the Dean's "little kindnesses." After she took her summer course here, Professor Johnson needed a form from the Dean's office for the New York State Bar, but she was having difficulty completing it. As Professor Johnson tells it, the Dean emerged from his office, sat down at the typewriter, took the form, and completed it himself.

Dean Childress had a great gift of infectious optimism coupled with curiosity that seemed limitless. He made us, as students, believe in ourselves, and as all great teachers do, he somehow convinced us that we could be better, and we could do more, than we believed ourselves capable of.

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64. Simeone, *supra* note 3, at 6.

65. Immel, *supra* note 5, at 3.

66. Simeone, *supra* note 3, at 6.

67. Betty A. Berger, in *Women of the Seventies*, *supra* note 27, at 18.

And, more than that. He was a man of principle. There was no moral relativism here. It drove the students in his Constitutional Law classes crazy because we were all used to seeing cases and issues in isolation, on a stand-alone basis. He was more interested in the broad principles that ran through and unified the cases.<sup>68</sup> Dean Childress believed that, if you searched thoughtfully, the single guiding principle of God-given human dignity provided the answer to all controversies from women’s rights to the death penalty to civil rights to disputes about abortion.<sup>69</sup>

As is inevitable, with all great and principled lawyers, Dean Childress has often been compared to Thomas More.<sup>70</sup> There is even a portrait of Thomas More in the background of the formal portrait of the Dean that hangs in the Law School courtroom. But, I disagree with that comparison. I don’t think that Dean Childress was a latter-day Thomas More, at least not the *A Man for All Seasons* version of Thomas More that is familiar to many of us.<sup>71</sup>

Thomas More pursued justice for himself. It has been rightly said that, as a lawyer, Dean Childress “was burdened with the constant search for justice for all.”<sup>72</sup> In his address to my graduating class, the last one that he gave before he died, he told us that the practice of law was not just about representing clients; it was about affecting society, and causing society to address its problems in a way that benefited all, but especially those who have no voice.<sup>73</sup>

I say that—rather than Thomas More—Dean Childress was the quintessential, unordained Jesuit. He lived a life that was characterized by the Jesuit values. By the *Magis*—always seeking to do more, for the greater good. *Cura personalis*—care of the whole person. And, of course, he was a man with and for others.

Father Pedro Arrupe, the Former Superior General of the Jesuits, best describes the way that the Dean lived. Father Arrupe said:

Nothing is more practical than finding God, that is, than falling in love in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you will do with your evenings, how you will spend your weekends, what you read, who you know, what breaks your heart, and what

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68. See Dunsford, *supra* note 6, at 2.

69. See Shocklee, *supra* note 39, at 10.

70. *Id.* at 11.

71. See ROBERT BOLT, *A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS* (Vintage Int’l 1990) (1962).

72. Shocklee, *supra* note 39, at 10.

73. Simeone, *supra* note 3, at 9.

amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in love, stay in love and it will decide everything.<sup>74</sup>

Dean Childress was passionately in love with the law; with this school; with the students. And for him, it decided everything.

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74. Essay by Pedro Arrupe, Former Superior General of the Society of Jesus, *Rooted and Grounded in Love* (1981), reprinted in Kevin F. Burke, *Love Will Decide Everything*, AMERICA, Nov. 12, 2007, at 18, 21.