

TRIBUTE TO NORMAN WILLIAMS FROM DEAN MAXIMILIAN KEMPNER

Some three years ago on a warm Vermont fall day, Norman Williams led my wife Paige and me on a hike to his family farm outside Woodstock. As we walked slowly along the path he had played on as a boy, he talked of law and lawyers, cases on which he had worked, and his love for the land. He named the trees on the way. And with the customary generosity of a Vermonter, Norman shared his view—in both senses—of the surrounding distant mountains. That afternoon gave us a view into his heart, too.

Norman Williams was an adviser to governors, legislatures, and courts. He played a major role in shaping the legal principles that govern land use, and, more, he was a forceful activist for sound land-use planning. Motivating him were his concerns for social justice, quality of life, and the landscape. The monumental accomplishments of Norman Williams were based on the power of this reason and the passion of his heart.

In the tradition of the great older scholars and teachers, he gave Vermont Law School his ripest years. Along with Tom Debevoise, he conceived of and developed the idea for the Environmental Law Center. He engaged in important scholarship here: *Readings in Historic Preservation*, *Vermont Townscapes*, and the revised edition of *American Land Planning Law: Land Use and the Police Power*, to say nothing of his many articles and briefs. As a teacher, he was demanding and popular. He inspired thousands of students over the years.

His legacies are many. His most precious legacy to us is the example of his life.