

# VERMONT LAW REVIEW

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## DEDICATION

### JONATHON BOYD CHASE

*To laugh often, and much,  
To win the respect of intelligent people,  
and the affection of children;  
To earn the appreciation of honest critics,  
and endure the betrayal of false friends;  
To appreciate beauty -  
To find the best in others,  
To leave the world a bit better -  
whether by a garden patch, or  
a redeemed social condition,  
To know that one life has breathed  
easier because you lived —  
This is to have succeeded.*

- Ralph Waldo Emerson -

In 1982, Jonathon Boyd Chase became the third Dean of the Vermont Law School. After spending sixteen years as a teacher, scholar, and legal advocate at the University of Colorado School of Law, Jonathon uprooted himself and his family, settled in Vermont, and took on the challenge of guiding a young law school. Through persistence and initiative, Jonathon achieved many positive results. Some of these include a General Practice Program, Inter-law School student exchange, a Family Week-end and Fall Convocation, a Semester-in-Practice Program, the Alternative Dispute Resolution Project, an enhanced writing program, a Development and Alumni Affairs Office, a strengthened admission effort, Counseling Services, Elderhostel, computers, quadrupling of annual giving, and an expanded and improved physical plant. However, the most important contribution which Jonathon brought to the Vermont Law School community cannot be quantified, for that

was the gift of self.

The real measure of Jonathon's success was that he lived and enjoyed life with passion, a passion which he exhibited in his love of athletics, academics and the law, and, most of all, his love of family and community. Summer or winter, Jonathon's environment was outside in the sun. When snow covered the mountain sides, his passion was skiing. To his friends in the Colorado and New Mexico Rockies, Jonathon was known as "Captain Mogul." Come warm weather, however, Jonathon was running or bicycling. He introduced many out-of-state students to the beauty of the Green Mountains from the vantage point of a touring bicycle. As a member of the Vermont Law School Rugby Team, he played hard and took his share of knocks. Jonathon was a runner whose colorful attire was just another reflection of his zest of life. To the dismay of some faculty members and the delight of many students, Jonathon loved to indulge in conversation while jogging the steep hills surrounding South Royalton. As one colleague remarked: "I remember very vividly going on a run with him one day to discuss business. When he didn't like my arguments, he simply picked up the pace, leaving me silenced by my own panting."

Jonathon was passionate about the law—about studying it, teaching it, and practicing it. As a professor, he took great joy in awakening this same passion in his students. Contracts and constitutional law were his favorites. A friend of his recently commented that Jonathon loved these subjects because to him the Constitution was a contract made by the government and the people guaranteeing rights in exchange for duties. Jonathon was fond of telling his students that "the law is not just a profession, it is a calling." He was true to his own words. He fought for civil rights in Mississippi while working for the Lawyer's Constitutional Defense Committee in the early 1960's. During the summer of 1967, Jonathon spent three weeks living and working as a migrant laborer weeding sugar beet fields. His purpose was to collect materials for a seminar on law and poverty. However, the plight and poverty of the migrant workers touched him so deeply that he won federal funding to found and direct Colorado Legal Services, an organization dedicated to protecting the legal rights of migrant laborers. A deeply committed civil libertarian, Jonathon served as the president of the Colorado chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union and as a board member of the Vermont ACLU. Just two weeks before his death, Jonathon completed the principal legal memorandum on a

first amendment case for which he had been lead counsel.

Jonathon's first love was his family—Nancy, Tamara, Adam, Rebecca, and Eli. However, everyone who met Jonathon became a member of his larger family. He and Nancy welcomed one and all into their home, wherever they settled. To Jonathon, Vermont Law School was more than buildings for teaching and studying, it was a community of people. Jonathon believed that each person—whether faculty, staff, or student—was an important and integral part of that community, deserving of equality, love, and respect.

On May 16, 1987, Jonathon gave his last commencement address, a farewell to the community which he loved:

Although this day is an important day for many of us, it belongs to the Class of 1987 and it is to you I wish to address these brief remarks. In thinking about what I would say to you today, I knew that I wanted it to be personal and yet I also wanted it to be something that would have particular meaning for us both—you the Class of 1987 and me—on this particular day. What we obviously share today is the close of a chapter in our lives. And, at the same time, new beginnings. I would like to talk to you a little bit about new beginnings.

My wish for you, the Class of 1987, is that you have a life filled with new beginnings, that you enjoy fully the adventure of life. By adventure I mean that which is new, that which is unknown, that which tests us and helps us to grow. By adventure I mean to experience life's wonderful surprises.

We, as lawyers, are fortunate in the choice of profession we have made. We, more than most, can look forward to a life of adventure. Each new client, each new case, each new deal will almost certainly unfold in a way we never could fully anticipate. But it is also my hope for you that in addition to the daily surprises you will encounter as an attorney, that you will also make a place in your life for real and substantial changes in what you do. Many of you in the Class of 1987 are here because you have decided to make substantial changes in your lives. Many of you have had other careers and have had the courage and the confidence to make the big change to come to law school and begin a new career in the law.

But at the same time that I wish adventure for you, I also must confess to worrying that some of you are making life choices that may well foreclose your opportunities for adven-

ture. In my experience important and exciting life changes can only occur if you are able to retain your mobility. The greatest mobility you will ever have in your life you have at this very moment. You have chosen a profession which has prepared you for virtually anything you wish to undertake in life. You have the skills of a problem-solver and people will turn to you for advice in a multitude of settings. But I worry that many of you, instead of steering a course that maximizes your opportunities for adventure, look, instead, to security. I recognize that many of you, unfortunately, graduate with debts that you will need to pay and I understand for you the need to be concerned about compensation. But others of you appear to be preoccupied more by the promise of economic well being in your old age of retirement benefits, of economic security, than the concern for professional and personal fulfillment.

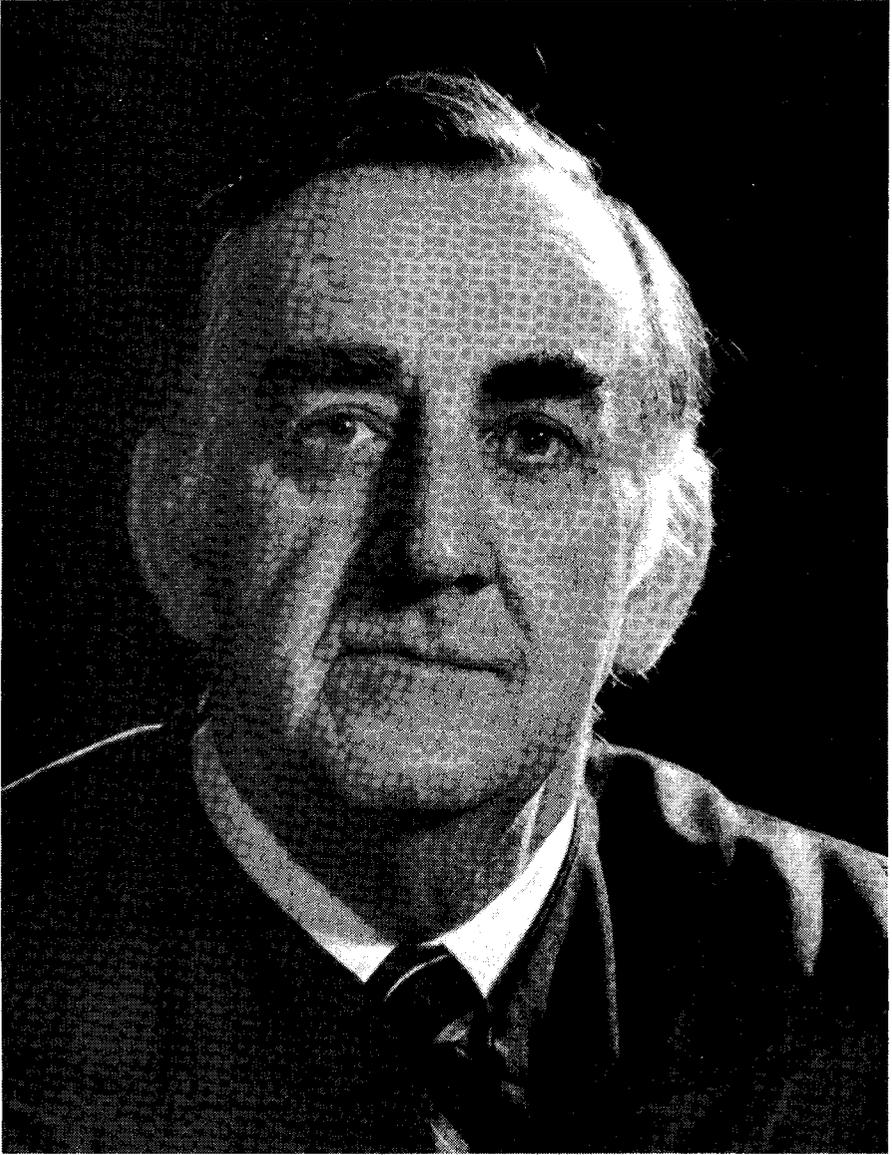
I have observed that very few people have the strength to shift to a lower standard of living, given the choice. Consequently, right now, when you are probably as poor as you will ever be, you have the most options. Do not squander them. It is now when you can work for legal services, an environmental organization, or other public interest work that, unfortunately, pays relatively little. It is now when you can try living in a part of the country you find appealing. Because if you don't do it now, you never will. As odd as it may sound, the more money you make, the fewer choices you will have and the fewer opportunities for adventure in your professional lives. Use these years well.

Finally, you must have trust. Trust yourself and trust others. I have found that my time is too precious to waste it with cynics, those who perceive the world as a place in which people try to do each other in. That has certainly not been my experience. Trust life. Have confidence that you will deal with new experiences well and that you will enjoy and grow from them. We learn and we grow from all of it.

So, to you, the Class of 1987, retain your mobility, trust in life, and be open and enjoy the wonderful adventure of it all. I hope for us all many more new beginnings.

To Jonathon Boyd Chase, our dean, our professor, and our friend, we dedicate this issue of the *Vermont Law Review*.





Thomas L. Hayes — 1926-1987