

## **James Rogers Retirement Remarks**

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What an honor to talk about Jim! There are so many aspects to his career: teacher, scholar, interim dean, and family man supreme. First, I think of him as a mythical creature, like a unicorn, for Jim won the legendary Fay Diploma at Harvard Law School for the highest cumulative GPA in his class. All Fay diploma winners are legendary, creatures of awe and supernatural respect. When students come to me to complain about getting a “B+,” I tell them, “everybody gets a B sometime in law school.” Then my eye falls on Jim’s office, and I realize I have told a lie.

Generations of students have loved Jim’s teaching. His use of Bugs Bunny and Elmer Fudd to entertain and enlighten thousands of otherwise baffled 1L contracts students is a miracle of modern pedagogy. “Quasi Contract, Quasi Rabbit!” Jim would explain.

This was combined with a career of exemplary scholarship that made Jim an international name in the history of commercial law. For that matter, being Reporter to the Drafting Committee to revise UCC Article 8 would be enough, designing our modern system of electronic central depositories, but Jim’s books, particularly the acclaimed *Early History of the Law of Bills and Notes* at Cambridge University Press and *The End of Negotiable Instruments: Bringing Payment Systems Law Out of the Past*, at Oxford University Press, have established his reputation as the foremost historian of commercial law in the world.

Then there is Jim the Dean. If you go to Google, you will see two law schools named after him, The James Rogers School of Law at the University of Arizona, and this law school, which should be named after him. It is one thing to choose to be a law school dean, that’s close to insanity, but Jim belongs to a small group of devoted humans who did not choose to be a dean, but stepped forward in an emergency for the sake of the school. George Brown, of course, is another such hero. It was a true act of devotion, and during his administration he not only ran the school with skill and compassion, but made major developmental gains, such as assisting in bringing a chair to the school. We owe them both, Jim and George, a great debt.

Finally, there is Jim the husband of Dorothy, father of Emma, and grandfather of Eleanor—the devoted family man. If you really want to get in good with Jim, you need a sick horse to deliver to Emma’s growing veterinarian practice!

So Jim, I am so glad you are going to stay in touch, and always feel free to attend faculty meetings, which are hours and hours of fun. We, and the School, owe you so much!