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In Memoriam

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In Memoriam

JAMES F. DREHER
1910 1972

JAMES FRANKLIN DREHER

James Franklin Dreher, Professor of Law, died unexpectedly on August 12, 1972. To him this issue of the South Carolina Law Review is dedicated.

A dedication can be only a symbol of respect or affection or gratitude. It can never express one's innermost feelings of those who offer it. It is, nonetheless, particularly appropriate that the Review be selected as a medium for dedication, because it is a repository of legal learning—learning to which Professor Dreher himself was so profoundly and earnestly dedicated.

Professor Dreher's association with the School of Law was a long one. He served as a part-time instructor from 1946 to 1949 and as a part-time lecturer in law from 1961 to 1966, when he became a full-time member of the faculty in the capacity of Associate Professor and later of Professor of Law. Before and during the periods of his part-time services, he was a member of a prominent Columbia law firm and attained the deserved reputation of an able and successful practitioner. His wide and varied experience in the practice was the source of much of the solid material on which his teaching was based. His zest for learning and teaching took him away from the practice to seek a greater satisfaction in the academic life.

Professor Dreher was a masterful teacher, an assiduous researcher, and a prolific writer. Most noteworthy of his writings is his "A Guide to Evidence Law in South Carolina," which has become a standard text for the bench and bar of the state. His legal interests extended beyond his duties at the School of Law: he was reporter to the Special Judicial Council Committee on Bar Reform, 1967, a special consultant to the Institute of Judicial Administration in the current study of the South Carolina Judicial system, and author of a preliminary report issued by the Institute on judicial reforms possible under constitutional change proposals.

The narration of these activities—only a small portion of the many—cannot truly or completely portray James Dreher as a person. To his students he was not merely their teacher, but a sympathetic listener, a wise counsellor, and a

patient and understanding older friend. To his faculty colleagues he was the good comrade, the promoter of their common interests, the sharer of their common concerns. To the larger, non-academic community he was a vital spirit and participant in many bases of its civic, cultural and philanthropic life.

James Dreher was indeed “a man for all seasons,” and for all people. His life was well-lived. For that life and for his work, so suddenly cut short, we are grateful.