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## Tribute to Dean Robert McC. Figg, Jr.

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## **DEAN ROBERT McC. FIGG, Jr.**

The road toward excellence in legal education on which we are now travelling at the University of South Carolina Law Center in the decade of the seventies was paved by Dean Robert McC. Figg, Jr., in the decade of the sixties. In 1959, he brought to our school and conveyed to our students the ideal of true professionalism and profound intellectual insight which he developed and exhibited during the previous 37 years as an outstanding leader of the South Carolina Bar. His rare combination of scholarship, advocacy skills, and knowledge of the legal process, and its relationship to government, made him a lawyer's lawyer and constant advisor to policymakers during much of his professional career. Above all, the intangible sense of professionalism that carries with it the uncompromising commitment and devotion to the highest level of ethical conduct made him a model to be emulated by those who aspire to the highest traditions of the bench and bar.

Plans for the magnificent new Law Center building, which was finally completed and dedicated this year, were first conceived by Dean Figg, and it was during his tenure that these plans were finalized and the funding provided. It is most appropriate that Dean Figg's portrait will be ever present in this building as a tribute to his contribution to the improvement of legal education in South Carolina and as an inspiration to future lawyers and a constant reminder of our gratitude for his service.

DEAN ROBERT W. FOSTER

