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## Tribute to Coleman Karesh, Professor Emeritus of Law

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## COLEMAN KARESH

The bench and bar of South Carolina could not have been surprised at the announcement that the library in our new Law Center was being named in honor of the man who in South Carolina personifies legal scholarship and distinguished teaching. Coleman Karesh taught at the Law School for 35 years and the overwhelming majority of South Carolina's present day jurists and practitioners are his former students. Lawyers and judges trained at other law schools are familiar with his work by reason of his definitive articles expounding substantial segments of the South Carolina law. For them, as well as for alumni of this Law School, therefore, the naming of the law library is appropriate recognition of a distinguished educator who has profoundly influenced the careers of so many of the State's present day leaders.

Professor Karesh came from the practice to the Law School in 1937 at a time when its faculty numbered six and its student body less than 100. In contrast, when he retired in 1972 the full and part-time faculty numbered 40 and the student body over 700. Over the years he taught a wide variety of subjects. His intellectual powers and diligence applied to these subjects have made him a recognized authority in South Carolina, in the fields of wills, trusts and estate administration, contracts, mortgages, partnership, and suretyship. Professor Karesh was by nature a perfectionist, and any course which he taught was first the subject of his own exhaustive research and study. In addition he has served the legal profession in many ways, particularly as one of the State's Commissioners on Uniform State Laws and as adviser to various legislative committees.

In 1957 Coleman Karesh was announced as the first recipient of the Russell Award for distinguished teaching, a well deserved recognition. A Shakespearean actor of note, Professor Karesh brought to the lecture room a stage presence, voice and sense of timing which displayed to advantage his mastery of subject matter. Enthusiasm for his subject combined with the desire always to give his best unfailingly assured the artistry of his presentation.

Invariably remembered is his matchless wit and repartee with students both in and out of the classroom. Always kindly and in good taste, the Karesh intellectual bouts with members of

the class were a joy to behold, and over the years his *bon mots* have become legendary.

The respect and affection with which Professor Karesh is regarded depend not alone on his scholarship and the artistry of his classroom performance. Coleman Karesh the man is warm, sensitive to the feelings of others, a generous and loyal friend with good will for all. These traits and the sense of integrity which he radiates endear him to students and colleagues alike.

DAVID H. MEANS