Celebrating the Life of William Catron Jones

Scholar, Teacher, Colleague and Friend
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Charles Nagel Professor of International and Comparative Law Emeritus
Washington University School of Law
1926-2005

*Some (of many) Tributes*

Bill Jones helped to build the foundations for the study of comparative and international law at Washington University. In so doing, he was instrumental in making possible the Whitney R. Harris Institute for Global Studies. All who knew him will remember and miss his intellect, his wit, and his kindness.

John O. Haley
Wiley B. Rutledge Professor of Law
Director, Whitney R. Harris Institute for Global Legal Studies

Words are inadequate to express my debt and my grief. Over the past eighteen years, Bill touched my life in so many ways – as my mentor, friend, and faculty colleague. His innovative approach to comparative law and his unfailing kindness inspired me and countless others to become better scholars, teachers, and human beings. It was an honor and an utter joy to know and work with Bill.

Frances H. Foster
Edward T. Foote Professor of Law

Throughout his academic career, Bill was an exemplar and mentor to younger scholars, a gifted and dedicated teacher and a beloved colleague....we shall miss him

Dorsey D. Ellis, Jr.
William R. Orthwein Distinguished Professor of Law

Bill Jones was my colleague for over a decade at Washington University, and he was a dear friend for a quarter century... Indeed he was one of the colleagues who recruited me to Washington University, and he did so with his customary and infectious warmth and wit. We were partners there in building programs in Law and Asian Studies, though it was Bill, with his effortless navigation of diverse disciplines and Faculties, who led the way...I recently had the honor of publishing what may have been his last essay, on “Chinese Law and Liberty in Comparative Historical Perspective.” It is an essay that reads like Bill: deeply learned, elegantly brash, and utterly unpretentious. Bill Jones was one of the most wise and generous spirits I have known, and I will miss him greatly.

William C. Kirby
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Harvard University

Bill: The thought of the twinkle in your eye and your kind manner will always make your friends smile.... We will continue to be guided by your spirit.

R. Randle Edwards
Walter Gellhorn Professor of Law Emeritus
Columbia University

William Jones was a true mentor while I was a student at Washington University School of Law. He was a scholar whose impact on the field of Chinese legal studies in the United
States and all over the world will be felt for many more years to come.

**John C. Balzano**
WU JD ’04 Postdoctoral Fellow
Yale Law School

My lasting memory of him will be as a highly accomplished senior scholar who was genuinely interested in the work of younger scholars, and who retained a real sense of modesty about our ability to understand the place of law in the wider world in which we live.

**John Ohnesorge**
Assistant Professor of Law
University of Wisconsin Law School

Prof. Jones was also a great human being to be around. He was always very kind, gentle and had a sense of humor. He was a great mentor to me and many other Chinese who had been around him... a great scholar who was wise and humble [dazhi yongrong]. His death is a great loss to us but his kindness and scholarship will live within us forever.

**Wei Luo**
Director of Technical Services
and Lecturer in Law
Washington University School of Law

I first met Bill Jones in the early 1980s when he was teaching at Wuhan University, and greatly admired his open, generous and pioneering spirit. He made wonderful contributions to the study of Chinese law and U.S.-China relations over the years, and his legacy will long be remembered by his Chinese and American students and colleagues.

**Terrill E. Lautz**
Vice President and Secretary
Henry Luce Foundation

In his apparently relaxed and genuinely humorous way, Bill made a profound and lasting impression on all who were privileged to share his interests in China, past and present.

**Jerome Cohen**
Professor of Law
New York University

Bill Jones was both well-liked and well-respected. His work was what comparative law should be — combining knowledge of Chinese law with other legal systems, and insight with wisdom. He will be sorely missed, but fondly remembered...

**Randy Peerenboom**
Professor of Law
UCLA

Not only did Bill enrich our understanding of everything from the criminal law of the Qing Dynasty to sales contracts in the PRC, he shared generously with his friends and colleagues his fine appreciation of the ridiculous both inside and outside the field.

**Donald C. Clarke**
Professor of Law
George Washington University

Bill Jones’ precise, elegant translation of the statutes of the Qing Code is perhaps his greatest contribution to Chinese legal history. By treating the Code as “one of the major products of the Chinese intellectual tradition” and making it accessible, he accomplished his goal of giving legal history, and, more generally, law a major role in Chinese studies.

**Jonathan K. Ocko**
Professor and the Head Department of History
North Carolina State University