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Roger Williams University School of Law Class of 2022

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Logan Church

Rebekkah Ruth Nardi Stoeckler, Esq.*

If you had the privilege of being a first-year law student in Professor David Logan's Torts class, you likely recall "Logan Church." If you were not so fortunate, please allow this devout parishioner to enlighten you. These gatherings were not for the veneration of Professor Logan; rather, the purpose of Logan Church was to instill a deeper appreciation and understanding of the laws that weave the tapestry of our modern lives.

After each of his classes, Professor Logan would compress his larger-than-life presence into a chair outside of the classroom and warmly invite his students to satisfy the questions that often linger from the likes of Judge Learned Hand. The students stood, crouched, and even lounged around Professor Logan.

On some days, if the students were lucky or persistent enough, a nuanced or outrageous hypothetical could be the catalyst for a fantastic story or memorable limerick from Professor Logan's endless supply. More often, however, for an hour after class, students had the opportunity to lead the discussion outside of the Socratic gauntlet. That is why instead of a sermon, I recall Logan Church being more akin to a seminar.

But if the after-class seminars were Logan Church, then Professor Logan's classes would be Logan Revival. In the classroom, Professor Logan's intensity took up the whole classroom. To drive home a point, he would pound on his chest. If a student gave a thoughtful response to a query, he would rejoice with his whole body. And students could always expect a fist bump or high-five if they survived a cold call intact. His charismatic delivery kept

* Roger Williams University School of Law Class of 2022.

students engaged with the material and excited about tort law's application to justice at large. Professor Logan's revivalist delivery was impressively equal parts performance and pedagogy.

The intensity Professor Logan brought for his students as an educator did not wane outside of the classroom. Be that as it may, Professor Logan was not one to command the spotlight. Instead, he was quick to declare his limitations as a scholar and pass the mic. He regularly invited judges and practitioners so students could see, as Professor Logan said, "where the rubber meets the road." During his time as a Professor and Dean, he nurtured relationships with Rhode Island's bench and bar, ensuring that Roger Williams students like me would have places to learn, and eventually, engage in the practice of law. His students also knew that he was always available to mentor—be it in the form of sharing career advice or directing student's legal research. Even when COVID-19 forced everyone into tiny boxes on computer screens, he still contributed to and provided opportunities to engage with students and the legal community, both in and outside of the "classroom." While Professor Logan has been associated with Roger Williams, either as professor or dean, students and the law school have benefitted from his intense dedication and service.

I am personally grateful for Professor Logan's mentorship and guidance, and so, it is my immense privilege to share a glimpse into what a privilege it is to be a student of Professor David Logan. In the spirit of Professor Logan's longtime dedication to teaching law students and supporting Roger Williams University School of Law, I look forward to spreading the good word about Rhode Island's only law school and the incredible opportunities available to students who adopt the same intensity for the law that Professor Logan aimed to cultivate in Logan Church.

