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## Those Were the Days: A Note of Thanks in Honor of J. Martin Burke

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**THOSE WERE THE DAYS:<sup>1</sup>  
A NOTE OF THANKS IN HONOR OF  
J. MARTIN BURKE**

It is with deep gratitude that we honor Regents Professor and Dean J. Martin Burke's vision and commitment to the *Montana Law Review*. Martin has a long history of dedicated service to the *Review*. As a law student he served on its Editorial Board, as Dean he encouraged and supported its many endeavors, and as faculty advisor for almost 15 years he daily guided and inspired its editors and staff. During his tenure as advisor, the *Montana Law Review* worked to publish a review in keeping with Martin's hallmark for excellence.

Martin's encouragement both as Dean and advisor led the *Review* through a period of positive and important change. With his guidance and leadership, the *Review* achieved the goal of "incit[ing] and inspir[ing] an informed dialogue"<sup>2</sup> on relevant legal issues. During his tenure as faculty advisor, the *Review* instituted an Advisory Board, which now plays a critical role in the support and ongoing mission of the *Review*. As Dean of The University of Montana School of Law, Martin worked with the Editorial Board to institute the first symposium sponsored by the *Review* on the Montana Constitution in 1989. In years following, Martin encouraged the *Review* to institutionalize the sponsoring of symposia and lectures on current issues of importance to Montana. In that regard, he worked with the Editorial Board to create the now popular biennial Browning Symposium and the annual Browning Distinguished Lecture in Law series, both of which are named after The Honorable James R. Browning, former Chief Judge of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and one of the founding editors of the *Review* nearly 75 years ago. Martin's sound advice and foresight has ensured the ability of the *Review* to provide a valuable forum for state and national discourse on important legal issues.

A listing of the achievements of the *Review* under Martin's supervision does not adequately explain why he is a respected professor and advisor. His support and reassurance bring out the best in each student, never directing, but always encouraging and suggesting ways to achieve greater heights. He takes a special interest in our individual goals and actively mentors each of us who seek his guidance. Never one to put himself in the spotlight, Martin uses his skill and friendship to support all of us who ask for his help. His enthusiasm for the law and innate positivity make even the

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1. Mary Hopkin, 7" single, *Those Were the Days* (Apple Records 1968) (written by Boris Fomin & Gene Raskin). A favorite of Martin's, the song was often sung by members of the *Montana Law Review* with Martin's accompaniment on piano during celebrations held at his house.

2. Gordon R. Bennett, *Foreword to the Constitutional Symposium '89*, 51 Mont. L. Rev. 235 (1990).

most impossible goals for legal change and personal betterment seem within reach, as evidenced by the many accomplishments of his students. He has made a distinct difference in the life and direction of his students, his colleagues, and his school.

We all hope to have a mentor who is committed to the highest ethical standards. Martin is such a mentor. As a teacher, he prepares thoroughly for each class, always thinking of new ways to present complicated and intricate concepts. As a scholar, he brings the “wonderful world of tax” within easy understanding of students through his nationally published textbooks. Through his service and leadership, scholarly forums such as the *Montana Law Review* and the Montana Tax Institute have attained nationally prominent reputations for excellence. Most importantly, Martin Burke treats others with respect and kindness. It is because of his honesty, compassion, and charity for others that so many of us have been encouraged to work each day to achieve the high standard that he expects of himself and all of us who work with him. Thank you, Martin.

—*Professor Elaine Gagliardi\**

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\* Elaine Gagliardi is a professor at The University of Montana School of Law and a colleague of Martin Burke.