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E. Wayne Thode - 1920-1980

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E. WAYNE THODE
1920 - 1980

A Memorial

In September, 1955, Wayne Thode began his teaching career at the University of Texas School of Law. I had the good fortune to be his first student assistant. Through the ensuing years our relationship developed as we became colleagues at the University, co-authors of several publications, and most important of all, good friends. We at Texas Tech University School of Law were also blessed, although we are saddened by a portion of the blessing, to have Wayne Thode teach his final semester here with us.

I will not try to enumerate Wayne's contributions to the jurisprudence of this state and nation. I will mention only one of his writings, one that has had a great impact on the law of Texas. His article, "In Personam Jurisdiction; Article 2031b, the Texas 'Long Arm' Jurisdiction Statute; and the Appearance to Challenge Jurisdiction in Texas and Elsewhere," appeared in the Texas Law Review shortly after Article 2031b and Rule 120a were adopted. It became the prime authority for the courts in construing both the statute and the rule, and continues to be cited and followed in virtually every decision concerning any phase of the problem. It is a shining example of the contribution to the development of the law that can be made by a dedicated law teacher.

Wayne Thode made equal contributions to the development of law students. He was loved and admired by all the students with whom he came into contact and particularly those during his short stay at Texas Tech. Perhaps the best tribute that could be paid to him was by those students, with the establishment on their initiative of the Wayne Thode Memorial Loan Fund at the Texas Tech School of Law. We shall all miss Wayne, but we are all better for having known him.

Frank W. Elliott
Dean
Texas Tech School of Law

