PAUL BRUTON—AN APPRECIATION

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Twenty-eight years of shared endeavor and deepening friendship. In the early, uncertain years of teaching—encouragement and counsel. Later, a generous invitation to share his alluring, inscrutable mistress—constitutional law. Then, years of close collaboration shaping teaching materials, getting them into print and carrying them through revised editions. At life's turning points, concerned, honest advice. All this, I trust, qualifies me to say a few words about Paul Bruton.

The clarity and power of his intellect and the depth of his scholarship are well known. A friend and colleague can best add to this record with some words, however inadequate, of appreciation for qualities of mind and spirit that help to explain the value of his scholarship and our personal attachment to him.

One of these is a fine sense of proportion—a quality as central to law as to art. What is the source of this strength that leads on to something we all recognize as "judgment"? Wouldn't one like to know! Part of the explanation may be his fastidious distaste for rhetoric and for abstractions that conceal the full scope of the problem. And part of the explanation may be that detachment and inner calm which permit him to view a problem steadily and as a whole.

Closely related is the intellectual and spiritual strength to accept difference of opinion as a natural condition of the meeting of minds. (On this, a personal memoir: In the multitude, probably thousands, of instances during joint authorship when we had to share decisions, I can recall not one occasion when Paul gave any sign of impatience with my views—even though many of them, of course, were demonstrably wrong.) This essential quality cannot safely be taken for granted in view of the recurrent proclivity of our species for destructive intolerance.

I do not presume to offer a catalogue of the qualities that endear Paul Bruton to his friends and colleagues. So I shall simply note that one of the special attractions for the return to Pennsylvania of this prodigal is the opportunity to take further strength and refreshment from this fine mind and noble spirit. To recall words written to Milton: Paul! Your friends, your School "hath need of thee."

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