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**Morris L. Shafer**

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## Morris L. Shafer\*

Dean Morris Shafer had an inbred interest in scholarly excellence and devoted a large portion of his life energies to its achievement. Somewhat late in his academic life he turned this devotion to a passionate study of law. At the institution over which he presided as Dean, he pursued his goal with the same quiet determination, absorption and unyieldingness which marked all facets of his endeavors.

Whether as Dean of a law school or as an airplane pilot in a day when that pursuit was both novel and hazardous, he kept his own counsel and worked tirelessly and effectively to bring his dreams to fruition. Yet, his unexpected flashes of dry humor, his loyalty and his honesty made him a friend and companion well worth having.

Born on August 8, 1903, in Weatherly, Pennsylvania, Morris Shafer attended Temple University and then Muhlenberg College from which institution he graduated in 1925 with the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy. He then undertook graduate work at Lafayette College and received the degree of Master of Arts therefrom in 1929. He also did some graduate work in history at Lehigh University and in economics at the University of Pennsylvania, but did not receive degrees therefor. In 1935 he did graduate work at New York University, receiving the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, and twelve years later, in June 1947, he received the degree of Bachelor of Laws from the law school of the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Shafer's experience in the administration of educational institutions began while he was doing his graduate work at New York University. He had a part time instructorship in economics in the School of Education and had been responsible for the reorganization and supervision of off-campus courses of the University in several cities in Pennsylvania. He later became Administrative Assistant to the Dean of the University's School of Education.

When Dean Shafer entered the Law School of the University of Pennsylvania in 1945, he lectured for one term in the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce of the University. He thereafter lectured at Rutgers University until he began to practice law when he had to stop for business reasons.

Among the many honors bestowed upon Dean Shafer were the degrees of LL.D. given by Muhlenberg College, Dickinson College, and Dickinson School of Law. Elizabethtown College gave him the degree of LL.D. in 1960.

Dean Shafer retired in the summer of 1965. During his tenure the Dickinson library-research-center building was constructed.

The ecstasy of Morris Shafer's life was never sullied. The mantle of charity hung lightly about his shoulders, and measured by spiritual, intellectual and societal standards, he was ten feet tall. To know the growth of Dickinson School of Law under his hand is to know his worth. Truly, as recorded in Proverbs, "The memory of the just is blessed."

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\* Written by Burton R. Laub, Dean, Dickinson School of Law.