

Denver Journal of International Law & Policy

Volume 28
Number 1 *Winter*

Article 3

January 1999

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Recommended Citation

Ved P. Nanda, A Tribute to Myres S. McDougal, 28 Denv. J. Int'l L. & Pol'y [v] (1999).

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A Tribute to Myres S. McDougal

Keywords

International Law: History, Biography

A TRIBUTE TO MYRES S. MCDOUGAL

VED P. NANDA

The first issue of this Journal was dedicated to my teacher, Myres S. McDougal. He was and remains the most influential person in my professional career, who not only taught me the majesty of international law but also gave me an insight into human relationships. No matter how busy he was and no matter how many commitments he had, he always had time for his students.

There is no dearth of brilliant minds in our profession. As a revered teacher, as a most creative and prolific scholar, and as one of the most influential international lawyers of his time, Professor Myres McDougal stands as a giant. But it is that human touch that really matters, and set him apart from others.

My study at Yale was not coincidental. As a student at the University of Delhi Faculty of Law, I was familiar with Professor McDougal's work and was hoping one day to study with him. It was, however, at Northwestern University, where I was completing my L.L.M., when I finally made up my mind. My advisor, Professor Brunson MacChesney, was most gracious in wanting me to pursue my J.S.D. at Northwestern University and offered me a handsome fellowship to do so. But when I asked him about Yale and Professor McDougal, he was most generous with McDougal's praise and said that he would not mind my going to Yale. And I vividly recall the first day I was at Yale and visited with Professor McDougal, and I especially remember the warmth with which he welcomed me. It was not just me. With all his students, he made them feel very special. I hope that I have learned from his example.

As I started teaching at the University of Denver, Professor McDougal's imprint was clear. The Denver journal was named the *Denver Journal of International Law and Policy*. The curriculum at the University of Denver was heavily influenced by his teaching. I know that the most fitting tribute to him is his students' commitment and scholarship in the pursuit of the goals he so elegantly articulated and lived by—the establishment of an international order based on human dignity.

