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In Memoriam: Frank J. Trelease

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IN MEMORIAM
FRANK J. TRELEASE

GEORGE A. GOULD[†]

I am pleased that the editors are dedicating this issue of the University of Denver Water Law Review to Dean and Professor Frank J. Trelease. It has been nearly 18 years since his death in 1986, and while his ideas continue to have a strong influence, the origin of those ideas is sometimes obscured by the passage of time. A dedication in a publication focused on water law seems a particularly appropriate reminder of his contributions to water law and policy.

For over four decades, Professor Trelease was the preeminent water law scholar. His writings on the subject are extensive. Some six books, over fifty articles, and scores of papers and reports cover nearly every aspect of the topic. Other water law scholars sometimes complain that Frank Trelease has "appropriated" all the good ideas, leaving little new to be said. He was the consummate scholar; at his death he was working on yet another article, which was published posthumously.

His expertise was in great demand. He was a consultant to national and international commissions, to various states, and to several foreign governments. He was an Associate Reporter for the America Law Institute's Restatement (Second) of Torts on the subjects of riparian rights and groundwater. His writings are frequently cited by state and federal courts, including multiple citations by the United States Supreme Court. For many years, an invitation to Frank Trelease to participate was almost automatic for those planning programs and conferences on water law.

Professor Trelease's contributions to water law are too numerous to recount here. However, his ability to cut through layers of opaque legal theory to expose the true nature of problems and the clarity and eloquence of his writing are notable characteristics of his scholarship. He anticipated many developments in the law and legal thought. For example, he applied economic principles to legal problems long before "law and economics" was recognized as a "movement." He held strong views which he advocated with energy, skill, and great intelligence but never with acrimony.

Frank Trelease was a Professor at the University of Wyoming College of Law for much of his professional life. He was Dean of that school for eleven years. The last years of his career and his life were spent as Professor of Law at the University of the Pacific, McGeorge

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School of Law. He was also a visiting faculty member at a number of law schools. His teaching and scholarship directly influenced several generations of judges, lawyers, lawmakers, and public officials.

George A. C. U.D.
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to participate as a member of those planning programs and
conferences on water law.
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to recount here. However, his ability to cut through layers of complex
legal theory to expose the true nature of problems and the clarity and
eloquence of his writing are notable characteristics of his scholarship.
He anticipated many developments in the law and legal thought. For
example, he applied economic principles to legal problems long
before "law and economics" was recognized as a movement. He has
views which he advocated with energy, skill, and great
intelligence but never with arrogance.
Frank Lynch was a professor at the University of Wyoming
College of Law for much of his professional life. He was Dean of that
school for eleven years. The last year of his career, and the year
spent as Professor of Law at the University of the Pacific, Berkeley.