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A TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR JOHN F. MURPHY

It is a great pleasure to have this opportunity to express my admiration
and affection for John Murphy on the occasion of this symposium at
Villanova honoring his many years of outstanding teaching, scholarship,
and public service.

I first met John over four decades ago when we briefly served together
as colleagues at the State Department’s Office of the Legal Advisor. Since
then I have had the very good fortune of often seeing and sometimes
working with him as his career blossomed and his life became ever
enriched.

There is no need for me to recount here the very long list of John’s
scholarly, professional, and public service accomplishments—his long and
honored teaching at Villanova, Kansas, and many other university’s law
schools; his many significant and thoughtful books and articles, always of
the highest quality; his recognition and many leadership positions in the
American Bar Association, the American Society of International Law and
the American Branch of the International Law Association; his wise coun-
sel to the State Department, the United Nations, the Naval War College,
and other government and intergovernmental organizations.

Suffice it to say that I can think of few people as respected and ad-
mired as John or who can match the enormous contribution and commit-
ment he has made to our field of international law. In particular, he has
brought to our discipline a refreshing and much needed sense of prag-
matic realism—most recently in his fine 2007 book on The United States and
the Role of Law in International Affairs and especially in his important new
book on the Evolving Dimensions of International Law, which will have the
lead book review in the forthcoming October 2010 issue of the American
Journal of International Law. Moreover, despite John’s clear-headed recog-
nition of the problems and limitations of international law, he has never
wavered in his faith in and commitment to our common enterprise of
seeking to create an international order based on respect for law and
human dignity.

Most of all, however, I would like to pay tribute to John as a person—
his decency, his integrity and his kindness. It has been a great privilege to
have been his friend for these many years—and I look forward to our
friendship continuing for many years to come.

Professor Richard B. Bilder
400  

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[Vol. 56: p. 399]