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In Memoriam-Austin Vincent Clifford 1896-1975

Nat U. Hill
Monroe Circuit Court

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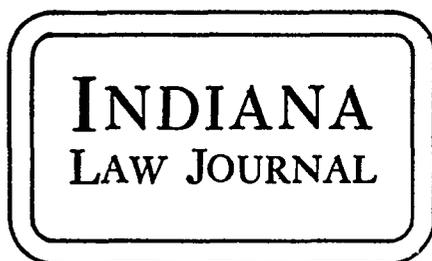
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The Board of Editors dedicates this, the Fiftieth Anniversary volume of the Indiana Law Journal to the Emeritus Faculty of the Indiana University School of Law.

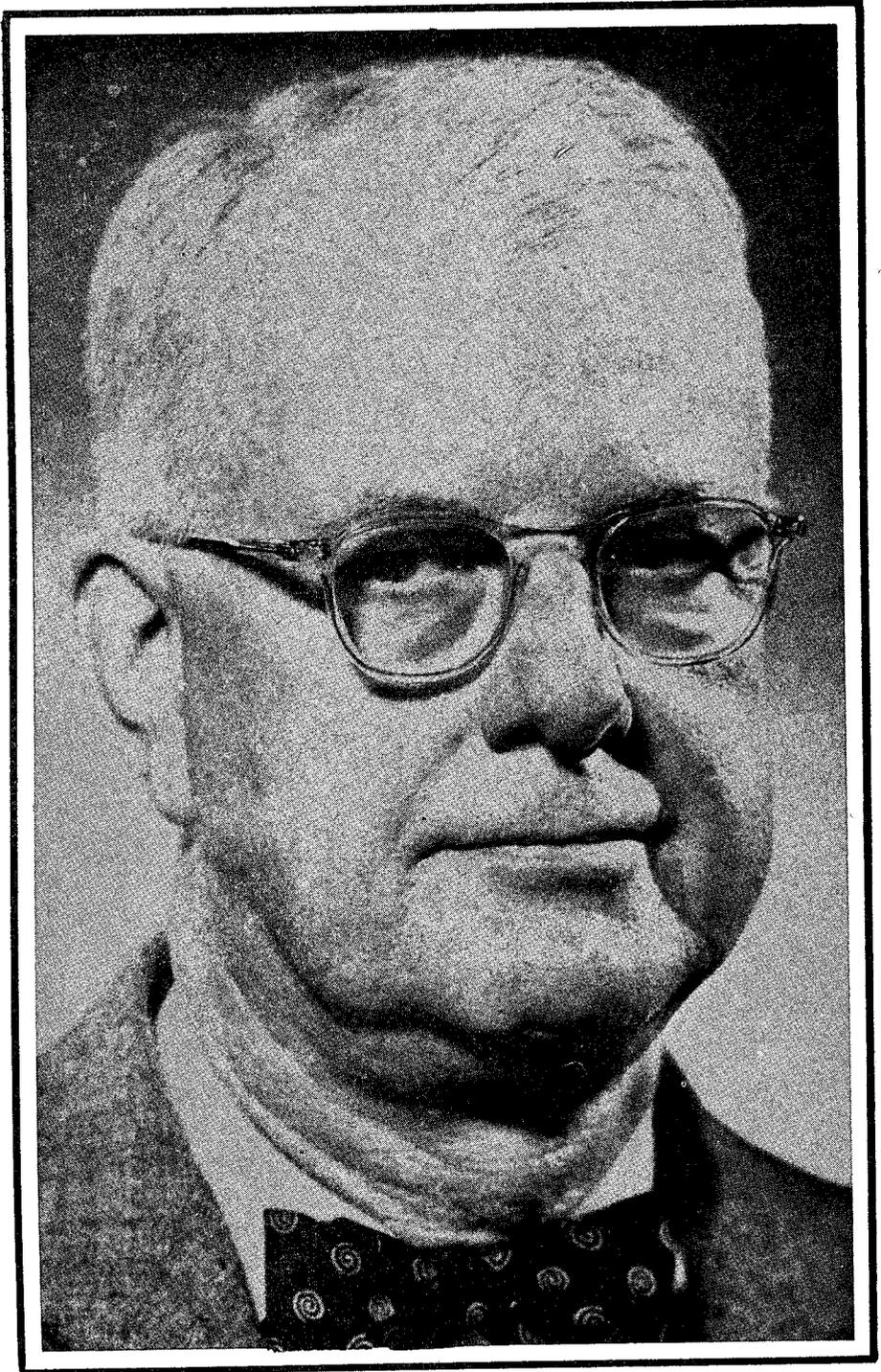
We dedicate this issue to the memory of the late Professor Emeritus Austin V. Clifford.

In Memoriam—Austin Vincent Clifford

1896–1975

The legal profession can be no better than its members—its best and its worst. Our worst have been amply publicized. It is my pleasure to say that Austin V. Clifford, throughout his service as practitioner and teacher, was clearly among our best.

Most of the readers of this Volume are acquainted with Austin through his distinguished tenure as Professor of Torts, Evidence and International Law at Indiana University from 1946 to 1967. A significant percentage of the attorneys now practicing in Indiana were introduced to the tenets of civil law by his rigorous instruction. Although some may occasionally fall short of the standard of excellence which he set in the classroom, it was not for lack of his efforts. He demanded that his students aspire to the same norms of intellect and integrity which he established for himself.



AUSTIN V. CLIFFORD

December 2, 1896–May 17, 1975

Austin Clifford started his teaching career at Indiana University after notable professional achievements. When he received his law degree from Harvard Law School in 1922, he became associated with an Indianapolis law firm, in which he was later a partner for the next seventeen years. At the time of his departure, this firm was known as Matson, Ross, McCord and Clifford. At that point, in 1939, he became associated with the Chicago law firm of Lord, Bissell and Kadyk. In 1942, he re-entered the United States Army, and after serving briefly in this country, he served in Europe, in military government in the Low Countries and in West Germany, until he was discharged from active military duties in 1946, and joined the faculty of Indiana University School of Law, Bloomington.

Although I was acquainted with Austin for many years through his involvement in civic and university affairs, my contacts with him increased when he assumed a counsel position with a Bloomington firm after leaving the law faculty. At a time when many men would have retreated into richly deserved retirement, Austin chose to resume the daily practice of law with undiminished enthusiasm. I always enjoyed my personal association with him and benefited from my professional association with him. Austin, as a practitioner in my Court, was always engaged in the practice of law in a manner particularly calculated to bring the highest of ability, respect and admiration to our profession, something in which some of us may be lacking. He was always punctual, courteous, prepared, understanding, and extremely able in all his presentations, but above all that, his integrity was always a constant anchor, one you could tie to. When Austin Clifford told you something, it was not necessary to ask someone else, or peep in the file, or do anything else by way of precaution before accepting it as fact. A man of this kind seldom comes down the road, and I am truly grateful to have been at the side of the road and rubbed elbows with him in a most pleasant association. It is an honor to join with the JOURNAL editors, his hundreds of former students, and past and present colleagues in dedicating this issue to the memory of Austin Vincent Clifford.

Nat U. Hill, Judge
Monroe Circuit Court
Bloomington, Indiana