

AUSTIN V. CLIFFORD

Austin V. Clifford, lawyer, scholar, teacher, banker, soldier—man of many successful careers—will shortly retire from the University faculty, inevitably to pursue these interests in other ways.

Born and reared in Indianapolis, he received his A.B. from Butler University in 1917. He immediately entered the United States Army, in which he served as an officer until his discharge in 1919. The next three years he studied at the Harvard Law School and received the LL.B. in 1922. After graduation he joined the Indianapolis law firm of Matson, Ross, Carter, and McCord and soon became a partner. From 1930 to 1939 the firm name was Matson, Ross, McCord, and Clifford. In 1939 he accepted a partnership in the Chicago law firm of Lord, Bissell, and Kadyk, where he continued until he re-entered the Army in 1942.

In both Indianapolis and Chicago he established a reputation as an expert in the field of corporate law, especially in the area of corporate reorganization. In Chicago his expertise in the field of tort law matured, and he defended many cases for such clients as Lloyds of London. He also had a keen interest in banking and early in his career was appointed a Director of the Fletcher Trust Company, later the American Fletcher National Bank and Trust Company; he also was a member of its trust investment committee.

After re-entering the armed services Colonel Clifford was assigned to military government and served in this branch after the British and American Armies moved forward through the Low Countries and France and into Germany. After the end of hostilities he continued to serve in the administration of the occupied lands, working in the management of 140 displaced persons encampments in Kurkessen and assisting in the repatriation of many refugees who had been uprooted from their homes and countries by the relentless scourge of World War II.

In 1946, shortly after his discharge from the Army, he was invited to join the law faculty of Indiana University at Bloomington, and here he entered a new career, the teaching of law. At this time Austin and his wife Harriet brought to this country two young women refugees with whom he had worked in the headquarters in Germany. The two lived with the Cliffords for some time, and one of them completed her graduate education at Indiana University. Later the Cliffords were instrumental in bringing the parents of one of these young women to this country and in assisting them in establishing new lives in the United States.

For the past twenty-one years Austin has taught courses in torts and evidence and has been chairman of the program to bring to law students an understanding of the techniques which they must employ in applying the legal theory which they have learned. He has brought to the classroom the integrity and sense of responsibility which distinguishes the top-flight lawyer of keen, analytical, and realistic mind.

During all these years he has been an active member of the American, Indiana State, and Indianapolis Bar Associations and has administered the distinguished lectures program of the School of Law. At one time he served on the Indiana Commission of Governmental Economy and as a Trustee of the Chicago College of Osteopathy. He served as President of the Indiana Family Service Association and on the National Board of the Family Service Association of America. He also furnished leadership in the local chapter of the American Association of University Professors and has served on the Faculty Council.

Professor Clifford has been an inspiration, a counselor, and a continuing friend to the graduates of the School of Law for more than two decades. It is a reasonable assumption that upon his retirement Austin Clifford will continue to contribute to the leadership of the Bloomington community and of the state as well.

Leon H. Wallace

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Review for retiring faculty