

Harry George Henn

October 8, 1919 — October 11, 1994

Harry G. Henn, the Edward Cornell Professor of Law Emeritus, died of a blood disorder in Jacksonville, Florida, at the age of 75. His home since retirement had been in Naples, Florida.

A popular teacher and a productive legal scholar, Harry Henn was a nationally recognized authority in two important fields of law: corporate and copyright law. His books, articles, and teaching materials on corporations, agencies, and partnerships were widely used by law teachers and students as well as by practicing lawyers throughout the country. In 1963, he published his basic text on corporate law, the third and current edition of which was co-authored by John R. Alexander, a former student of Harry's. For many years, Harry contributed commentaries on the New York Business Corporation Law and served as a research and drafting consultant when that legislation was revised in 1963. He was co-author, again with John Alexander, of the Bureau of National Affairs Portfolio on New York corporations and acted as a consultant to the American Law Foundation on issues related to the Model Business Corporation Act.

Harry was also a leading figure in the field of copyright law and was highly respected as an expert in both American and international copyright matters. He was president of the Copyright Society of the U.S.A. and was a member of the Internationale Gesellschaft für Urheberrecht EV, and the Association Littéraire et Artistique Internationale (ALAI). He served as consultant to the Library of Congress in connection with the Universal Copyright Convention and the Copyright Revision Act of 1976 and contributed articles on copyright law to the Encyclopedia Britannica. His *Copyright Law—A Practitioner's Guide*, published by the Practising Law Institute, was widely used and relied on by copyright lawyers through the country. In 1986, he received the annual award of the Copyright Society for his contributions and leadership in the field.

Active in the work of the organized Bar, Harry's professional memberships included the American Bar Association, New York State Bar Association, Association of the Bar of the City of New York, New York County Lawyers Association, Westchester County Bar Association, and Tompkins County Bar Association.

Born in New Rochelle, New York, Harry retained a strong attachment to his hometown. He attended New York University at University Heights, graduating *summa cum laude* in political science in 1941. He was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

Harry pursued his legal education at Cornell, earning his LL.B. degree in 1943. He served as Editor-in-Chief of the *Cornell Law Quarterly*, was elected to the Order of the Coif, and graduated first in his class, with distinction.

Following law school, Harry became associated with the New York City firm of Whitman, Ransom and Coulson, whose clients included many publishers with copyright, trademark, libel, and corporate law problems. Meanwhile, he pursued graduate study in law at New York University, earning the degree of Doctor of Juridical Science.

Harry returned to Cornell as an Assistant Professor of Law in 1953. At the time of his retirement in 1985, he was the Edward Cornell Professor of Law, the first occupant of that Chair to which he was named in 1970. During his Cornell years, he also taught as a Visiting Professor of Law at Hastings College of Law, the University of California and New York University.

Harry was an individual with a broad range of diverse interests. At Cornell, he participated actively in campus affairs chairing the University Faculty Committee on Music, serving on the Cornell Library Board, and the Board of Directors of the *Cornell Daily Sun*, including a term as president. In the larger Ithaca community, he was president of the Ithaca Opera Association, and for seven years he was Acting Village Justice of Cayuga Heights.

Two of Harry's main outside interests were foreign travel and birding. A prominent feature in Harry's apartment was a wall map of the world whereon the places he visited were marked by pins and the routes taken to get to them lined by red ribbon. It is hard to believe that there were places worth visiting that he had not taken in, or that there was an ocean-going tour or safari across land in search of bird sightings that he had not accompanied. Memorabilia acquired from these expeditions filled his apartment to nearly overflowing, leaving little room for his excellent collection of bird books.

Harry's sense of humor was one of the most memorable personal qualities for which he will long be remembered. He enjoyed people, loved to entertain friends and students in his home, and enriched any conversation whether in a one-on-one or group situation. Harry was a prodigious worker and he held himself to the same high standard of performance he expected of others.

Harry is survived by his brother, Robert A. Henn of New Bern, North Carolina; a nephew; two nieces; and four great-nephews. A service in memory of Harry was held on October 29, 1994 at the Larchmont Avenue Presbyterian Church in Larchmont, New York. On November 4, 1994, a group of Harry's associates and friends drawn from both the Law School and Ithaca communities gathered in the faculty lounge in Myron Taylor Hall to commemorate his life.