

Harrop A. Freeman

November 7, 1907 — October 28, 1993

Harrop A. Freeman, Emeritus Professor of Law since 1974, died shortly before his 86th birthday at his retirement home in Port St. Lucie, Florida. Freeman was an active member of the University Faculty for 29 years (1945-74). His writing on social issues, especially those relating to peace and civil rights, led to national and international recognition. He was a peace activist, a life-long crusader for good causes and a familiar presence at Cornell.

Freeman was born in Elyria, Ohio, on November 7, 1907. His early years were spent at Kalispell, Montana in the foothills of the Rockies. In 1916, his family moved to Cortland, New York, where he received his elementary and secondary education. In 1925, he was valedictorian of his class at Cortland Central High School.

Freeman earned three degrees from Cornell University: an A.B. degree from the Arts College in 1929 (Phi Beta Kappa); an LL.B. from the Law School in 1930; and a J.S.D. (doctor of juridical science) degree in 1945.

He was admitted to the New York bar in 1930 and practiced law in Niagara Falls and Buffalo until the early 1940s. A dedicated conscientious objector, he then moved to Philadelphia to work for the Pacifist Research Bureau of the Society of Friends (Quakers). Here he directed and conducted extensive research on peace and post-war problems, and served as the Bureau's Executive Director, a position he continued to hold on a part-time basis until 1948.

Freeman began his academic career in 1943 with an appointment as Acting Professor of Law at the Marshall-Wythe School of Law of the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. In Williamsburg, the Freemans lived in quarters occupied at an earlier time by Thomas Jefferson.

In 1945, Freeman joined the Cornell faculty as an Associate Professor of Law, winning rapid promotion to Professor of Law in 1948. In addition to teaching and research, he served for a period as Secretary of the Law School, a position which included responsibility for admissions and other administrative assignments from the dean. An able and productive legal scholar, Freeman was a tireless worker with an inquiring mind.

Freeman taught and wrote in a number of legal fields: Administrative Law, Constitutional Law, International Law, Federal Taxation, Jurisprudence, and Interviewing and Counseling. He was an innovative teacher. In 1945, he designed an Administrative Law course for first-year students, a development subsequently copied in a number of other law schools. Toward the end of his career he was a forerunner in the teaching of lawyer skills in law school. His publications and teaching materials on *Interviewing and Counseling*, especially a book written with Henry

Dean Erwin N. Griswold of the Harvard Law School wrote a foreword to Freeman's initial book of teaching materials on *Interviewing and Counseling* (1964). Griswold said in part:

Preparing this book has been a novel task. It required great imagination, great energy, and much capacity to persuade the persons involved to make their material available. In a very real sense, this is almost as much a pioneering book as was Dean Langdell's Cases on Contracts...Many people will have occasion to be grateful to Professor Freeman, for the concept which is embodied in this book, and for the skill and imagination with which it has been carried out.

Freeman's writing on First Amendment issues stressed the theme that a free society depends upon citizens exercising the responsibilities of stating dissenting opinions. Only by the expression of dissent would public authority be checked and citizen control ensured. In a series of books and articles on peace issues, he advanced concerns relating to the third world that have become a commonplace of subsequent writing: The real issues of foreign policy in the future, Freeman argued, would be between the Northern and Southern hemispheres, the haves and have nots of the world. Freeman argued that it was wrong and dangerous to conceive of foreign policy solely in terms of East versus West (U.S. v. U.S.S.R.).

Freeman was an activist committed to international peace, civil liberties and other causes. As a peace activist, he helped found the Emergency Peace Campaign, the Pacifist Research Bureau, the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors and the War Resisters League. Throughout his life he was active in the Society of Friends (Quakers) both in Ithaca and nationally.

Freeman represented students at Cornell and other colleges protesting university policies such as those dealing with military research, investments in South African businesses, closed meetings of the Board of Trustees, and similar issues. Outside the Cornell community, he represented Japanese-American evacuees from the West Coast, a professor who refused to name names before the McCarthy Committee, certain tribes of American Indians, and a number of well-known peace figures. During later years he was attorney for the People of Micronesia in their effort to gain independence.

In 1962, Freeman ran unsuccessfully for Congress from the district including Ithaca (then New York's 33rd Congressional district) as the Liberal Party candidate. Freeman was a Senior Fellow and Consultant at the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, then headed by Robert Hutchins, in Santa Barbara, California from 1964-71.

On Freeman's retirement in 1974, former President Deane W. Malott expressed the following in a letter to Freeman:

You and I have often been poles apart in our thinking but I have always respected your forthright sense of justice and certainly you have contributed a point of view of importance in a free university.

President Dale R. Corson wrote on the same occasion:

I am writing just to express my personal appreciation for your service to Cornell. The University has benefitted especially, I think, from your efforts to provide legal counsel for those for whom it has not traditionally been readily available. Your work on behalf of those about whom society has cared very little has enhanced Cornell's reputation as an institution where the human side of learning is also important.

Freeman remained active in university and national affairs for many years after becoming an Emeritus Professor. He and his family established the Freeman Award for Civil Human Rights, an annual prize of \$500 given to the law student "who has made the greatest contribution during his or her law school career to civil-human rights."

Freeman's life-time companion was Ruth St. John Freeman, whom he married in 1930. Both were active members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). They were a distinctive Cornell family. Ruth Freeman held two Cornell degrees and was the first woman instructor in the Cornell Arts College (Geology); Harrop held three Cornell degrees; and their son, Norman, two.

Harrop and Ruth Freeman travelled widely, attended many international conferences, and taught and lectured throughout the world. They visited a great many countries in the world in one capacity or another. They continued this activity after Freeman became Emeritus Professor in 1974.

Freeman was predeceased by his wife, Ruth St. John Freeman. Survivors include a son, Norman D. Freeman of Stuart, Florida; a brother, La Verne Freeman of Elmira, New York; two grandchildren, Cheryl Baker of Ithaca, New York and N. Douglas Freeman of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida; and three great-grandchildren, William J. Rich, Samantha Baker and Caitlen Baker, all of Ithaca.

W. David Curtiss, Gray Thoron, Roger C. Cramton