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Roger J. Traynor Professorship: John E. Noyes

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ROGER J. TRAYNOR PROFESSORSHIP[†]

JOHN E. NOYES

INTRODUCTION BY WILLIAM J. ACEVES*

There is a pleasure in the pathless woods,
There is a rapture on the lonely shore,
There is society where none intrudes,
By the deep Sea, and music in its roar:
I love not Man the less, but Nature more,
From these our interviews, in which I steal
From all I may be, or have been before,
To mingle with the Universe, and feel
What I can ne'er express, yet cannot all conceal.
Roll on, thou deep and dark blue Ocean-roll!¹

The ocean is an apt metaphor to describe the work of John Noyes. The breadth of the ocean, the depth of the sea—these images symbolize the extent of John's contributions to legal scholarship. And, of course, the ocean itself is the primary subject of John's work. He is one of the country's most respected scholars on the law of the sea.

John's contributions to the study of international law are extraordinary. He is the author of ten books, including leading textbooks on international law and the law of the sea. He has authored over forty articles and book chapters. John has written on many important issues: he has studied the history of the celebrated *Caroline*

[†] Accepted by John E. Noyes on April 2, 2009, at California Western School of Law.

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1. Lord Byron, *There Is a Pleasure in the Pathless Woods*, in FAVORITE POEMS: SELECTED FROM ENGLISH AND AMERICAN AUTHORS 122 (John H. Head ed., 1894).

case, which enunciated limits on the resort to force in international law; he has examined the role of international law in recent U.S. foreign policy; he has explored the role of Christianity in British conceptions of international law; he has reviewed the historical development of the International Criminal Court; and he has considered many aspects of the Law of the Sea Convention.

This scholarship arises from John's interest in the law and his deep respect for the rule of law. His scholarship combines rigor, elegance, and thoughtful reflection. But there is also humility in his work—an understanding that not all things can be explained by law or science.

The sea awoke at midnight from its sleep,
 And round the pebbly beaches far and wide
 I heard the first wave of the rising tide
 Rush onward with uninterrupted sweep;
 A voice out of the silence of the deep,
 A sound mysteriously multiplied
 As of a cataract from the mountain's side,
 Or roar of winds upon a wooded steep.
 So comes to us at times, from the unknown
 And inaccessible solitudes of being,
 The rushing of the sea-tides of the soul;
 And inspirations, that we deem our own,
 Are some divine of foreshadowing and foreseeing
 Of things beyond our reason or control.²

John's contributions extend beyond his scholarship. He is a vital member in the academy of international lawyers. John was the Chair of the Section on International Law for the American Association of Law Schools. He served as the Chair of the Law of the Sea Committee for the American Bar Association. John is currently serving as the President of the American Branch of the International Law Association, an organization established in 1922 to promote

2. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, *The Sound of the Sea*, in HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW, *THE MASQUE OF PANDORA: AND OTHER POEMS* 145 (James R. Osgood and Company 1875).

awareness and respect for international law in the United States.

John is also a gifted teacher who has shared his knowledge with a generation of students. In the classroom, his passion for the law is evident and his students soon share his enthusiasm for *The Paquete Habana*, the *Lotus* case, and *The Rainbow Warrior* arbitration. These students represent a living legacy that carries John's influence far beyond the pages of his scholarship.

John's distinguished career serves as an inspiration to his colleagues—a reminder of what it means to be a scholar. His scholarship also reminds us of the essential role law plays in promoting peace and security in our world.

When the storm is over and night falls and the moon is out in all its glory and all you're left with is the rhythm of the sea, of the waves, you know what God intended for the human race, you know what paradise is.³

John is a worthy recipient of the inaugural Roger Traynor Professorship. His colleagues are humbled by his accomplishments, and we celebrate his achievement.

3. HAROLD PINTER, *PARTY TIME* 27 (Grove Press 1993).