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Remarks by Dean Lewis M. Collens at the Lawrence F. Doppelt Memorial Program IIT/Chicago-Kent College of Law - August 30, 1979

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REMARKS BY DEAN LEWIS M. COLLENS
AT THE LAWRENCE F. DOPPELT MEMORIAL PROGRAM
IIT/CHICAGO-KENT COLLEGE OF LAW
AUGUST 30, 1979

This afternoon we gather to celebrate the life of Larry Doppelt. Larry's career was diverse and distinguished. He had great success as an attorney, as an arbitrator, and as a law professor.

Larry was a member of our faculty for eight years—a relatively short period in the ninety-two year history of Chicago-Kent College of Law. But during this brief time, he contributed a great deal. As I look back on what he accomplished, it is truly impressive. He was first, and foremost, a gifted teacher. Since Larry's death, I have heard from many of his former students who felt that he had personally made a difference in their education and their careers. One of his former students, now a member of the Illinois House of Representatives, recently introduced a special resolution which was passed by the legislature honoring Larry. Another student was instrumental in having Governor Thompson issue an official proclamation recognizing Larry's accomplishments. Many others have written letters or sent contributions to the school in Larry's memory. This tremendous, unsolicited response from former students is eloquent testimony to the high regard for Larry Doppelt.

Larry Doppelt's contributions as a teacher, by themselves, would give him a special place in the history of this school, but he contributed much more. He was a scholar. He had numerous publications and was working on more. Larry had plans for a book that we talked about many times before illness forced him to curtail his research.

From an institutional perspective, Larry contributed a great deal beyond his writing and teaching. He was the adviser to the Chicago-Kent Law Review for several years, and he and his wife Adrienne were gracious hosts for the annual Law Review parties.

Larry played an important role in helping the Legal Services Center in its early days. He introduced his friend Howard Naft to the law school, and the result was the establishment of a unique, prepaid legal insurance program—the first of its kind to be affiliated with a law school.

During the last few years, Larry worked very hard to establish the
graduate program in labor law. He assembled a group of the leading labor law attorneys in the city to teach in the program and everyone associated with it has been impressed with its quality. He organized the first Kenneth M. Piper lecture this past year at which time the Honorable John Fanning, Chairman of the National Labor Relations Board, gave a speech and participated in a panel discussion of which Larry Doppelt served as moderator. Sometime before that program was held, Larry came to me and told me he was not sure whether his health would permit him to act as moderator of the program. But he also made it quite clear that while he had some doubts, he was determined to be the moderator—and he was. It took a tremendous act of will for him to carry through with that program. It also took tremendous inner strength for him to finish his classes this past semester. But he did both, and he did them well. The determination that he displayed this past semester was characteristic of the way he approached his professional responsibilities.

Isaiah Dorfman, of Dorfman, Cohen, Laner & Muchin, Larry Doppelt’s law firm, recently sent me a letter which I think is as eloquent a tribute to Larry as any that could be written. Mr. Dorfman wrote:

I regret that due to commitments made months ago I shall be out of the country on the day the Law School holds its memorial service for my friend, partner, and distinguished lawyer, Larry Doppelt. Teaching at the Law School and acting as an arbitrator, probably more than private practice, epitomized Larry’s philosophic conception of the lawyer’s ideal role in society. Money held no special attraction for Larry, apart from the modest comforts it brought to his beloved Adrienne, and to his sons Roy, Joel and Carl. His love for his fellow man, regardless of status, can best be described as biblical in essence. Justice to him was not a term to be conjured up only when it suits one’s purpose. Larry lived the life of a just and fair man. He was respected and loved both by his clients and by the unions he dealt with. As an arbitrator he held the scales even, his awards being honest, conscientious, scholarly and, above all, equitable.

Bacon said, “They are happy men whose natures sort with their vocations.” In that sense, among others, Larry certainly must have been happy. His equable temperament, his modulated voice, and his tranquil, unruffled, convincing manner charmed all who had the good fortune to know him.

We, his colleagues in the firm, will sorely miss his erudite opinions and comments, and his wisdom in evaluating human behavior. Larry gave of himself freely, both in a personal and in a professional sense, with never a reluctance to undertake the most difficult assign-
ments. His accomplishments might seem a fitting epitaph, but they were far outstripped by the affection and admiration he inspired. His memory will ever serve to set the standard and to summon us to excel professionally and as human beings.

Mr. Dorfman and the members of his firm have made a significant gift to the school to establish the Lawrence Doppelt Memorial Fund. It will be used to provide an award each year to a senior student who, in the opinion of the faculty, shows the greatest potential for distinction in the field of labor law.

Larry's colleagues on the faculty are particularly pleased to be able to make this annual award which will help us remember a gifted teacher, a thoughtful scholar, a stimulating colleague and, most of all, a friend.