

The Richard S. L. Roddis and Family Law Library Fund

Established in 1999, the Richard S. L. Roddis and Family Law Library Fund is dedicated to improving collections and resources of the Marian Gould Gallagher Law Library of the University of Washington School of Law. As Dean of the law school, Richard S.L. Roddis always recognized the significant role of the Law Library in the intellectual life of students and faculty.

Richard S. L. Roddis joined the faculty of the University of Washington School of Law in 1968 after serving as Insurance Commissioner for the State of California. Professor Roddis was chosen to lead the School as Dean from 1970-1978, a very tumultuous time locally and nationally. He served with complete integrity and concern for all members of the law school community during this time of economic adversity and political unrest.

In his "Recollections as Dean," perhaps Richard S. L. Roddis said it best: "In present day terms, it is a little hard to convey the feeling of a job where on many days the main decision to be made was whether to send the non-academic staff home for their safety or to call for campus police for some incident or bomb scare. Having come out of a background as a lawyer and public official in California, I was inclined to deal with situations in a non-confrontational way. In most leadership roles, if you set aside your own apprehensions and don't take the exalted status of your position too seriously, it is possible to alleviate a lot of tense and conflict-filled situations."

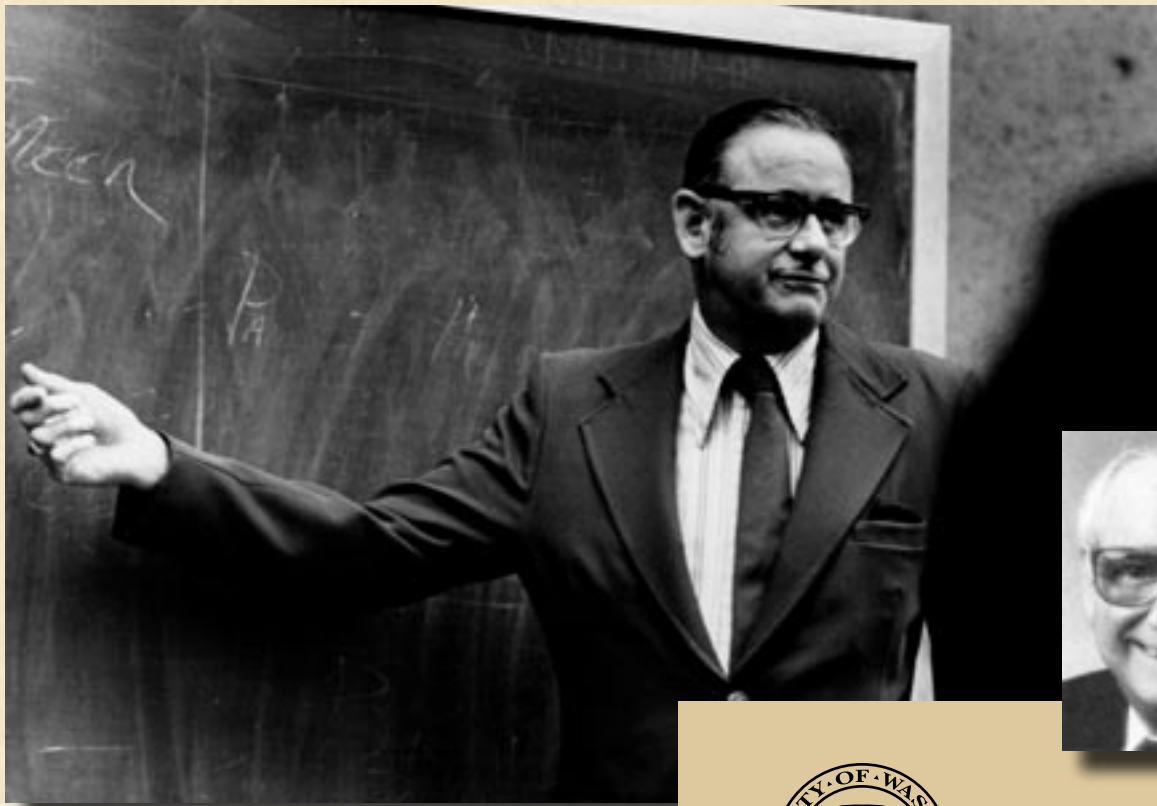
Dean Roddis stayed on as a member of the faculty, with leaves of absence, until his retirement in 1995. During one of these leaves of absence, Dean Roddis served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Unigard Insurance Group. He continued his engagement in an insurance business, regulatory and litigation consulting practice. Dean Roddis passed away in February 1999.

The Richard S. L. Roddis and Family Law Library Fund was created by his family and many friends and colleagues to honor his commitment to excellence and address his genuine concern about the reduction of state resources to support the Law Library. Dean Roddis' intellectual interests are furthered through the purchase of books and materials in the areas of insurance law and tort law. In addition, the fund is also used to purchase books about the use of plain language in contracts, a strong interest of his. This Fund helps the Law Library retain its historic quality in these areas of law in the face of declining state support.

In recognition of this valuable Fund, Dean Roddis and his wife, Joanne, are named as members of the Marian G. Gallagher Society, established to promote private support of the Law Library. The joint names acknowledge Dean Roddis' view that "deaning is a marital community enterprise."

If you would like to join the many others who have contributed to remember Dean Richard S. L. Roddis, please make your check payable to the Washington Law School Foundation and send to:

Law Development Office
Attn: Richard S. L. Roddis and Family Law Library Fund
University of Washington School of Law
William H. Gates Hall
Box 353020
Seattle, WA 98195



To honor Richard S. L. Roddis,
Professor and Dean Emeritus, and his
great interest in reading and the law
Given by his family and friends

Marian Gould Gallagher
Law Library