

## EULOGY: TRIBUTE TO A RENAISSANCE MAN

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Howard L. Oleck, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Cleveland State University, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, and Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Stetson University College of Law, died on June 3, 1995, in St. Petersburg, Florida, having been a law teacher for 48 of his 84 years. A 1933 graduate of the University of Iowa, in 1938, he earned his J.D. degree from New York Law School. Later in life he received several honorary degrees, including an LL.D. from Baldwin-Wallace College, and the Litt. D. degree from John Marshall Law School.

Howard Oleck was a writer and scholar par excellence. He authored six editions of his monumental, multi-volume treatise, *Nonprofit Organizations*,<sup>1</sup> as well as a six-volume treatise, *Modern Corporation Law*.<sup>2</sup> He authored several other law books including *Parliamentary Law and Practice for Nonprofit Corporations*<sup>3</sup> as well as *Oleck's Tort Law Practice Manual*.<sup>4</sup>

In addition to producing twenty legal treatises, Professor Oleck authored numerous articles on topics ranging from nonprofit organizations to law teaching methodologies. His most frequently cited article was *Adversary Method of Law Teaching Summarized*, published in Volume 27 of the *Journal of Legal Education*.<sup>5</sup>

Unbeknownst to many of his colleagues, Howard also authored three published novels, one of which became the basis for a television mini-series.<sup>6</sup> His stories combined rich, historical data with dynamic characters.

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\* Professor of Law, Stetson University College of Law. B.A., Valparaiso, 1965; J.D., Valparaiso, 1967; LL.M., Yale University, 1967.

1. HOWARD L. OLECK, *NON-PROFIT CORPORATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND ASSOCIATIONS* (6th ed. 1994).

2. HOWARD L. OLECK, *MODERN CORPORATION LAW* (1960).

3. HOWARD L. OLECK, *PARLIAMENTARY LAW AND PRACTICE FOR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS* (2d ed. 1991).

4. HOWARD L. OLECK, *TORT LAW PRACTICE MANUAL* (1982).

5. Howard L. Oleck, *Adversary Method of Law Teaching, Summarized*, 27 J. LEGAL EDUC. 86 (1975).

6. HOWARD L. OLECK, *A SINGULAR FURY* (1968).

Howard Oleck honed his writing skills during World War II. After serving in Europe as a tank commander under General Patton, he was assigned to the Allied Headquarters as an official Army war historian where he interviewed U.S. and Allied commanders daily regarding the war's developments.

After the War and a stint of practicing law in New York City, he began teaching law and researching nonprofit corporations while on the faculty of New York Law School. Later he moved to Cleveland-Marshall, where he served as dean for two years in the 1960s. During this time, he was Chair of the ABA Legal Education Standards Committee and an Advisor to the President's Commission on Non-Profit Organizations. Later he moved to Wake Forest University School of Law for a few years, before finally joining the Stetson law faculty in 1978, moving about as far south from northern winters as possible. He retired in 1981, but continued to teach courses on nonprofit organizations at Stetson.

Throughout his professional life, Howard Oleck gave of himself unhesitatingly to public causes, serving as trustee for the Florida Endowment of the Arts, a syndicated law columnist, trustee for the Unitarian Church, Chair of the Legal Advisory Board of the Society for Animal Rights, and as board member of the Florida Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

He drafted several state nonprofit statutes while serving as a member of the Legislative Commission on Nonprofit Corporations. He also served as President of the League of Ohio Law Schools, a member of Congressman Wright Patman's Committee on Non-Profit Organizations, President of Scribes, and Chairman of the AALS Roundtable of Remedies.

Howard Oleck, before joining the U.S. Army in World War II, married a wonderful woman, Helen, who survives along with two daughters, Joan of New York and Annabell of Texas. Helen and Howard had been married for fifty-three years at the time of his death.

An excellent law teacher, prodigious author, cutting edge researcher and scholar, public activist, innovator in teaching techniques, world traveler, war historian, and tank commander, Howard Oleck was totally devoted to each of his multifarious tasks and activities, his wife and children, his profession, and the public good. Indeed, throughout his life, Howard Oleck demonstrated that one can successfully combine the best of professional contributions, with

public service and family devotion. Not only his former colleagues at Stetson, but also those at Wake Forest, New York Law School, and Cleveland-Marshall, dearly miss him. Let his example inspire us all.