



PROFESSOR EMERITUS
QUINTIN JOHNSTONE '51 JSD



A Long Life *and* Legacy

1915

Yale Law School Professor Quintin Johnstone died in June 2014 in Hamden, Connecticut. Johnstone, the Justus S. Hotchkiss Professor Emeritus of Law at Yale Law School, was 99 years old.

“Quintin Johnstone was an iconic figure at the Yale Law School,” said Dean Robert Post '77. “He taught here for more than 55 years, and perhaps instructed more students than any other teacher in the School’s history.” Post spoke those words at the memorial service for Johnstone held on November 9. “He explored not merely the policy implications of our subject matter, but he would express legal judgments that were as lucid and firm as they were penetrating and incisive. He loved the intricacies of property law. And he gave to them life and meaning.”

Johnstone was an expert in property, land transactions, and professional responsibility and the legal profession. At Yale Law School, he taught courses in the fields of real property, professional ethics, legal problems of developing countries, conflict of laws, criminal law, torts, and legislation.

“Quintin was famously a man of few, but well-chosen, words.

At the meeting of the Ethics Committee that took place the week before he died, he said, as usual, both the least and the most.”—Professor Kate Stith

Born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1915, Johnstone earned both an AB and a JD from the University of Chicago. He received an LLM from Cornell in 1941, and a JSD from Yale Law School in 1951.

Johnstone worked in a private law practice in Chicago for a year before serving as an Enforcement Attorney in the U.S. Office of Price Administration in the 1940s. Johnstone’s law teaching career began in 1947 at Willamette University Law School as an assistant professor. He was named an associate professor at University of Kansas in 1950 and remained there for five years. His tenure at Yale Law School began in 1955 as a visiting professor. Between 1956 and 1959, he served as an associate professor, and in 1959 he was elevated to professor. In 1964, Johnstone was named Yale Law School’s Justus S. Hotchkiss Professor of Law. He earned emeritus status in 1985. Johnstone is credited with helping to pioneer the development of the land use finance seminars in the Yale curriculum.

Johnstone’s academic influence reached across the globe to Ethiopia, where he was a co-founder of the Haile Selassie I University Law School (now Addis Ababa University School of Law), serving as its dean from 1967 to 1969. From 1985 to 2000, he also was a professor at New York Law School and became professor emeritus in 2000.

Johnstone was the author of three books: *Lawyers and Their Work* (1967) (with D. Hopson); *Paralegals: Progress and Prospects of a Satellite Occupation* (1985) (with M. Wenglinsky); and *Land Transfer and Finance* (4th ed., 1993) (with A. Axelrod and C. Berger).

Johnstone served on the *Connecticut Law Tribune*’s editorial board from its inception in 1987 until just a few years ago. In honor of his service, the newspaper awarded its Service to the Profession Award to Johnstone in 2011 and also renamed the award the Quintin Johnstone Service to the Profession Award in his honor.

Johnstone was an active member of both the Connecticut Bar Association (CBA) and the Connecticut Bar Foundation (CBF). He received the CBA’s John Eldred Shields Distinguished Professional Service Award in 1996. Just last spring, the CBA awarded its Tapping Reeve Legal Educator Award to Johnstone.

Johnstone served on the board of the CBF for more than thirty years, and as its president from 1987 to 1991. In 2008, the Bar Foundation presented its inaugural Distinguished Service Award to Johnstone.

“Quintin was famously a man of few, but well-chosen, words. At the meeting of the Ethics Committee that took place the week before he died, he said, as usual, both the *least* and the *most*,” Lafayette S. Foster Professor of Law Kate Stith remarked at his memorial service.

Johnstone was predeceased by his wife, Nancy. He is survived by two children, Robert Dale Johnstone and Katherine Mary Johnstone. **Y**



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