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A Dedication

This issue of the CALIFORNIA LAW REVIEW is devoted exclusively to one subject: family law, with principal emphasis on California problems. The reasons behind this selection are two fold. One is common to many editors of legal periodicals today. There is, as current literature shows, a sudden awareness, after some years of inattention in legal writing and perhaps in law school curricula, of the very great need for dealing systematically with the social and practical problems of that fundamental unit, the American family.

The other reason is one unique to this law school. This year marks an anniversary in the career of Professor Barbara Nachtrieb Armstrong of our faculty. It is her thirty-fifth year of teaching at the University of California, and her twenty-fifth at its School of Law. For a good share of this time she has devoted herself to studying the California law of domestic relations, both in its community property aspects and with regard to the other legal incidents of the familial relationship. Further, in her systematic analysis and clarification of this area of California law, she has been almost alone in this state. Her single handed campaign to discern both what the law is and in what directions it should develop reached fruition last year with the publication of what is destined to be a standard reference work, "California Family Law," which is the subject of a lengthy review in the following pages. This year then, in a sense, represents the peak of Professor Armstrong's career in the study of the social problems of our time. To this study she brought not only the discipline of a legal scholar, but the training of the social scientist, as is evidenced by her Ph.D. in economics, and a widely ranging curiosity into our social needs, witness her books on social insurance and articles on labor law. The following articles, comments, and notes, all by teachers and students at this University, have been collected and are presented as a tribute to Professor Armstrong and a recognition of the importance of her work.

Yet there is more than respect for scholarly achievement and years of able teaching behind this tribute. Generations of law students have passed through her classes, and they and her colleagues on the faculty have always thought of her as a vital person and with affectionate regard. Therefore this issue of the REVIEW is dedicated, with great respect and affection, to Professor Barbara Nachtrieb Armstrong.

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