

MERCER BEASLEY LAW REVIEW

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MERCER BEASLEY LAW REVIEW

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William S. Gummere

It is with a deep sense of personal loss that the Editors of the *MERCER BEASLEY LAW REVIEW* record here the death of William S. Gummere, Chief Justice of New Jersey.

To everyone associated with The Mercer Beasley School of Law, whether as trustee, as teacher, or as student, and whether personally known to the Chief Justice or not, there has inevitably grown up, with a deep respect for his judicial integrity and his legal acumen, a sense of personal affection engendered of his interest in and sympathy for this school and the ideals for which it was established.

This interest and sympathy were indicated at the school's founding by his and Mrs. Gummere's consent that the school might use as its name that of his distinguished predecessor and father-in-law, Mercer Beasley, by his presentation of a portrait of Chief Justice Beasley and by Mrs. Gummere's presentation of a portrait of the Chief Justice which had long hung in their home. They were further revealed by his acceptance from the school at its first commencement of the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws and were, within the last few weeks, reaffirmed by his gift to the school of his private law library accumulated through his years at the Bar and on the Bench. Thus arose in us a profound sense of gratitude and esteem.

That his passing should have come in the midst of his work—he had but last week again presided at the opening of a new term of the Supreme Court—must have been as he would have wished; but this thought can do little to relieve from the regret that his firm personality and deep learning should be withdrawn, while he was still at his height of intellectual vigor, from the conferences of our courts, and cannot at all relieve from the deep grief which all at this school feel in the death of a friend.

The Editors tender to Mrs. Gummere and the family their most heartfelt sympathy.

January 26, 1933.