Loyal and active alumnus, invaluable colleague, gifted scholar with a mind always open to the improvement of the law and its greater service to public well-being; dedicated and skillful teacher both in the classroom and in the office where your open door signaled always a friendly welcome to personal conference; scrupulous, kindly and generous in all dealings with your fellow man, lightened always by a quiet but delightful sense of humor, you have commanded admiration, respect and affection from those privileged to know you. In thus exemplifying to a high degree the total of those qualities that make a fine gentleman of the law, you have honored us all and added to the distinction of the profession and your school. Warren Ferrier, we do here salute you.

Barbara Nachtrieb Armstrong*

Dedication

The Board of Editors of the California Law Review expresses both pride and lament in dedicating this issue to the memory of William Warren Ferrier, Jr. We take pride in acknowledging the tradition of legal scholarship and standard of professional integrity which Professor Ferrier instilled in his students; we grieve for those future students of Boalt Hall whose legal education will lack his guidance.

From among those who unite in tribute to Professor Ferrier, the Board of Editors feels particular affection and gratitude for his influence on the California Law Review. When he entered the University of California School of Law at Berkeley in 1912, only a half dozen law schools in the country published law reviews, and “between Illinois and the Pacific Ocean, there was a total dearth of such literature.”1 Mr. Ferrier was one of those few dauntless students who collaborated with the faculty in 1912 to launch the “perilous and novel experiment”2 of publishing a western legal journal. After serving on its first board of editors, Mr. Ferrier became the second student editor-in-chief of the California Law Review.

Those who, on the eve of the Great War, joined Mr. Ferrier in publishing the first issues of the Review did so modestly:

It is not expected that the California Law Review will occupy a place by the side of the great national reviews of this country and of Europe,

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2 Id.
but it is hoped, that it may, in a slight degree, meet the needs of a constructive criticism of the legal problems presented in California and the other Pacific States.³

In those germinal years, the editors of the Review while encouraging student work did so with understandable caution:

Many of the notes in this section [Comment on Recent Cases], as is apparent from the initials attached, which will be seen in most instances to correspond with the names printed as the student board of editors, are the work of somewhat inexperienced hands. True, the students who write these notes under faculty direction are expected, in every case, to make an exhaustive study of the points involved. But the results, at best, must in some cases, to the keen eye of the experienced lawyer, bear some earmarks of immaturity.⁴

Nonetheless, the first volume of the Review contains over five hundred pages of legal commentary by professors and students alike, among them a casenote by Mr. Ferrier himself on the “no action” statute, California Code of Civil Procedure section 726.

The California Law Review has evolved since Professor Ferrier’s days on the Board of Editors from fifteen students publishing five hundred pages per year to sixty students publishing over two thousand pages per year. That evolution could not have transpired without the counsel of Professor Ferrier, who actively served for many years on the Board of Directors and himself filled its pages over a dozen times with legal commentary.

It was not our privilege to be among Professor Ferrier’s students, but every issue of the journal we publish bears his mark. 

The Board of Editors

³ McMurray, Introductory Note, 1 CALIF. L. REV. 46, 48 (1912).
⁴ Editorial Notes, 1 CALIF. L. REV. 451, 453 (1913).