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## Tribute

George A. Gould

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## Tribute

*George A. Gould\**

I am extremely pleased that the Land and Water Law Review is dedicating this issue to George Rudolph and that I have been asked to contribute to it. No one is more deserving of recognition than George Rudolph.

I understand that George has reduced his teaching load. I am afraid that he may soon become bored, particularly during the winter months when fly fishing Wyoming streams becomes a little "hard." Presumptuous though it may be, I have written a letter of recommendation to assist George should he seek additional employment to fill his spare time. I am providing a copy as my contribution.

### To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to recommend E. George Rudolph. I have known Dean Rudolph for almost 20 years. My first association with him was as a student in his tax courses at the University of Wyoming College of Law. Subsequently, I joined the faculty at that school and served as Associate Dean during most of the period that George occupied the position of Dean. Finally, I consider him a friend, with whom I have spent uncounted hours over a beer discussing matters both weighty and trivial. I believe that my varied association gives me a unique perspective from which to comment on Dean Rudolph's qualities.

When I think of George Rudolph, the first thing that comes to my mind, and I suspect the mind of others, is his sense of humor. His wit is legendary; if collected one could fill a book with "Rudolphisms." One of my favorites is his comment that "one would have a fine city if Denver and Albuquerque were combined and moved to Albuquerque." This remark reflects his well-known dislike for the invasion of southern Wyoming by Colorado fishermen. As I recall, he once wrote in a letter to the *Denver Post* that the trouble with Colorado fishermen is that, like American soldiers in England during World War II, "they are over-paid, over-sexed, and over here."

A second quality that springs immediately to mind is his uncommon "common" sense. Indeed, many of his "Rudolphisms," although disguised as humor, are full of insight. His good judgment is combined with a direct, uncomplicated manner. I know of few individuals who are so secure with themselves. George Rudolph feels no need to impress others and is not unduly impressed by others in "high" positions. In short, he is his own man. If George Rudolph has any neuroses, they are not obvious; with George, "what you see is what you get."

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The qualities just noted served George well while he was Dean of the College of Law. Although he was largely responsible for the building which the College now occupies, he was not an empire builder. His ego did not require an empire. This does not mean he was without a sense of mission. The mission of the law school as he saw it was, first and foremost, to prepare students to function competently as Wyoming lawyers. As his former students will attest, the law school under his direction accomplished its mission.

I am sure that you will receive glowing reports if you check with those who were University officials during George's tenure as Dean. However, if they are honest, they will admit that George was not reluctant to challenge them when he thought it was in the best interests of the law school. More importantly, these differences in opinion were almost always resolved in George's favor.

A third notable quality is his consummate skill as a teacher, as exhibited by his numerous teaching awards. Anyone who can make income tax interesting, and I can attest that he did, must surely be in the top rank of teachers. Certainly, that is where I place him.

Many law professors of George's generation teach by intimidation. George does not. He earns the respect of the students and achieves results without such a ruse. Nevertheless, he has not fully escaped the mythology that is a part of every law school. For many years, George taught no first-year courses, and student folklore, at least during my time at the law school, held that George Rudolph does not recognize the existence of a student until he or she has survived the first year.

I understand that George no longer teaches tax courses. Despite this, I am sure that the law school prospers. The current students may not even find this circumstance exceptional. Nevertheless, for several generations of Wyoming lawyers, the concept of a University of Wyoming College of Law in which George Rudolph does not teach tax does not seem quite right.

George's concern for good teaching is not limited to himself. While he recognizes that research, writing, and other activities are important in a faculty member, I have frequently heard him express the view that teaching competence is a necessity.

George is also a superb administrator. I do not know whether his skills are instinctive or whether they are the result of his experiences tramping through much of Italy as an army sergeant during the Second World War. However, I do know that I have never worked for a better "boss." People give George Rudolph their best out of respect and affection, not out of fear or intimidation.

Rounding out his competence, George Rudolph is an excellent scholar and writer. His writing, like his manner, is clear and direct. His treatise, the *WYOMING LAW OF REAL MORTGAGES*, is a standard reference work for Wyoming attorneys. I am certain that his most recent publication on Wyoming local government law will receive similar acceptance.

There is much more I could say in praise of George Rudolph, but this letter has already grown too long. Perhaps I could summarize my views by saying that George Rudolph epitomizes those characteristics which are essential to the long-term success of any institution. When I think of George, it is not of a "superstar;" rather, I think of the competent, committed, professional, who through steady application and dedicated service provides the core around which an institution develops and grows. I give him my highest recommendation.

Very truly yours,

George A. Gould  
Professor of Law