



NEW MEXICO LAW REVIEW

Volume 10
Issue 1 *Winter 1980*

Winter 1980

Dedication of the Honorable John B. McManus, Jr.

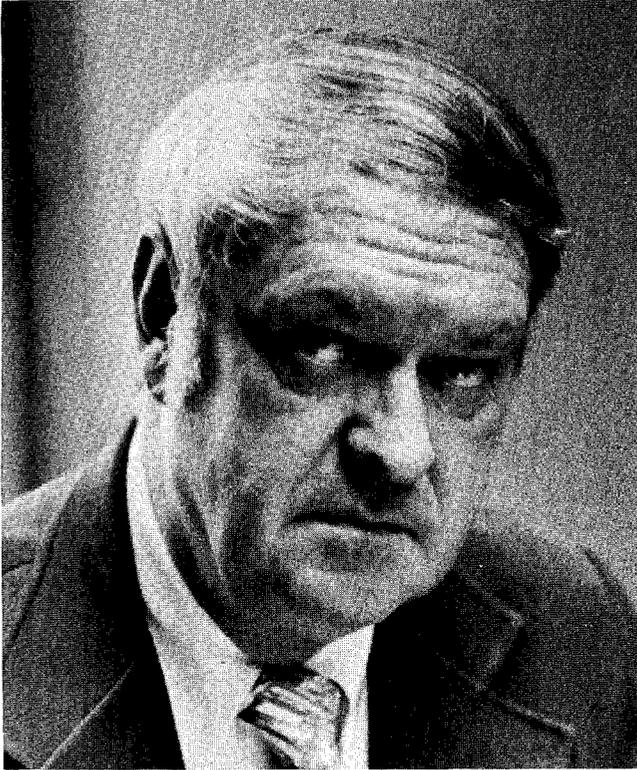
Frederick M. Hart

University of New Mexico - Main Campus

Recommended Citation

Frederick M. Hart, *Dedication of the Honorable John B. McManus, Jr.*, 10 N.M. L. Rev. 1 (1980).
Available at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmlr/vol10/iss1/2>

This Front Matter is brought to you for free and open access by The University of New Mexico School of Law. For more information, please visit the *New Mexico Law Review* website: www.lawschool.unm.edu/nmlr



JOHN B. McMANUS, JR.

DEDICATION

The appellation “honorable,” traditionally used in addressing a judge or justice, fitted John B. McManus, Jr. He was concerned that the court be treated with respect, for to him it represented one of society’s treasured heritages. As an individual, however, he always seemed a little uncomfortable with the title. He would rather be called “Jack,” as he felt that those he met were friends rather than petitioners.

During his nine-year tenure, six of which Justice McManus spent as Chief Justice, the New Mexico Supreme Court was probably the most progressive state court in the country. The justices saw a need to modernize court procedures, not only to make the judicial system more efficient, but also to better provide justice for all. Chief Justice McManus participated fully in these developments. His contributions to the judicial process will long benefit the people of New Mexico.

John B. McManus’ opinions are characterized by a direct, unaffected style and approach to the issues. For example, in *Stang v. Hertz Corp.*, he wrote:

The history of the evolution of strict products liability, its policy basis and prerequisites to recovery does reveal a recognition by the courts of traditional common law concepts of status and responsibility. It was referred to by Professor Keeton as “impressive evidence of continuing reform of tort law through candidly creative judicial action.” . . . As Chief Justice Vanderbilt stated: “One of the great virtues of the common law is its dynamic nature that makes it adaptable to the requirements of society at the time of its application in court.” . . . We feel that the conditions and the needs of the times make it appropriate for such changes as we are here making

The opinion exemplifies Chief Justice McManus’ approach during his career on the bench. It also exemplifies his life. As a man of the people, he rose to the highest judicial office in the state. He never, however, separated himself from his friends, and his friends were all with whom he came in contact. He never ceased to look for ways in which to improve the law so that it might better serve all the citizens of this state.

We are happy and proud to be able to show our regard for the late Justice McManus by dedicating this issue of the New Mexico Law Review to him.

FREDERICK M. HART
Professor of Law
University of New Mexico