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Dedication, 39 J. Marshall L. Rev. iii (2006)

Honorable William J. Bauer

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DEDICATION

This issue of *The John Marshall Law Review* is dedicated to John N. Erlenborn, a twenty-year Congressman from Illinois, and principal author of ERISA. During his entire service in Congress, he served as a member of the House Labor and Education Committee (1965-1985) and during his final terms, he was ranking Republican on that committee.

John Erlenborn was born in Elmhurst, Illinois in 1927. After service in the U.S. Navy, he entered Loyola University College of Law and graduated in 1949 – one of his classmates was Howard Markey, later Dean of The John Marshall Law School.

After a brief period with the firm of Perry and Elliot in Wheaton, Illinois, John Erlenborn was appointed as Assistant State's Attorney for DuPage County in 1950. He also helped form the firm of Daniels, Bryan and Erlenborn in Elmhurst that same year. In 1952, he left the State's Attorney's office and formed the firm of Erlenborn and Bauer (William J. Bauer, the writer of this dedication).

In 1956, John Erlenborn was elected to the first of his four terms as a State Representative to the Illinois General Assembly. In this first term, he was one of two freshman representatives chosen as outstanding by the media. In 1964, he was elected to the United States Congress and reelected nine times. His interest in the long-term welfare of working people led to his long and successful work on ERISA and other legislation concerning health and retirement concerns of the labor force. He was a co-sponsor and proponent of the Black Lung legislation to aid coal miners with this disease.

In 1985, John Erlenborn retired from Congress voluntarily and joined the Washington office of the firm Seyfarth and Shaw, serving as an expert in advising their clients on the duties of employers under ERISA. After ten years with the firm, he "retired" again. He then went on to serve as adjunct professor in the business school at Georgetown University and, by Presidential Appointment, as President of the Legal Assistance Foundation, the group responsible for the distribution of federal monies allocated by Congress for various legal aid groups, primarily to ensure access to the legal processes of the country by the people unable to afford normal legal fees.

Serious illness forced John Erlenborn to resign his teaching position and the Legal Assistance group in 2004 and in November of 2005, he died. The legacy of his work in the labor law field will

live on for a long time. His work revolutionized the way companies are required to care for their employees both during their period of employment and their retirement.

Both management and labor owe a great debt of gratitude to this outstanding public servant from Illinois. And so do I.

Honorable William J. Bauer

United States Circuit Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit