

Robert Shaw

Professor of Law and Director, PTC Research Foundation

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Robert Shaw passed away on January 7, 2002 after long and difficult health challenges. Those who worked with Bob during his two decades at the Franklin Pierce Law Center agree with Professor Tom Field, who characterized him “as a consummate professional who took practice and teaching very seriously.” He was dedicated to his family, patent law, his students, and legal education.

Bob was a native of Illinois. He received his B.S. (Electrical Engineering) from the University of Illinois and his LL.B. from New England School of Law. Bob was a fighter pilot in World War II for the Navy, flying Wildcats off of Jeep carriers in the Pacific, landing at night on small carriers before the days of high technology. He was in a private patent law practice from 1949 to 1967 at which time he was hired as the patent attorney for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he served from 1967 to 1980. Bob was a Lecturer in Patent Law at Franklin Pierce Law Center from 1977 to 1980, when he became Professor of Law, Director of the PTC Research Foundation, and Editor of IDEA: The Journal of Law and Technology. Until his retirement, he taught Patent Practice and Procedure I and II, Selected Topics in Intellectual Property and Patent Moot Court.

During his most active years, Bob helped grow the PTC Research Foundation and provided “laboratory” patent opportunities for Law Center students who assisted in handling several hundred patents and licensing transactions. Professor Bill Hennessey tells that Bob was the biggest help in starting the MIP program. He would always organize a trip to climb Mount Cardigan in the early fall. Bob had a quiet appreciation of the beauty of nature and the unique splendor of New Hampshire. He spent innumerable hours counseling (and comforting) foreign students. Hennessey tells that Bob and his wife Ruby were a home away from home for many.

Bob will be missed by thousands of students whose life he touched and by those who worked with him. Pierce Law honors Bob Shaw in many ways. On September 30, 1995 the Bob Shaw reading area was dedicated in the new Intellectual Property Library. Dean John Hutson announced on January 10, 2002 that a scholarship in the name and memory of Bob Shaw is being established. Bob loved to read in the Library. Bob loved students. That the students will benefit in his memory surely would make him smile, his big warm smile.