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Dedication to Richard F. Babcock

This issue of the Northern Illinois University Law Review is dedicated with deep affection and admiration to Richard F. Babcock. Professor Babcock has not only left an indelible mark on the legal profession but also on a number of academic institutions. He is that rare individual who is able to straddle effectively the gap between the legal profession and the legal academy. We have indeed been privileged to have had Dick Babcock relate to us as teacher, scholar, colleague, and friend.

Richard F. Babcock received his A.B. degree from Dartmouth College in 1940, his J.D. degree from the University of Chicago Law School in 1946, and his M.B.A. from the University of Chicago School of Business in 1950. His lifelong interest and devotion to the specialty of land use law was sparked during his first year of law school when he was asked to write a note on the topic of zoning in Illinois. Later, in 1946, Babcock looked to zoning law when he wanted to start his own firm, known today as Ross & Hardies. From the law review perspective, it is interesting to note how the firm gained its prestige. As Babcock has explained,¹ his practice was always comprised of litigation, drafting ordinances, and writing. "But it's the writing . . . he acknowledges, which brought in the jobs by giving [his] firm national exposure." In his words, writing allowed him to be the "rainmaker" for his firm.

A generation of land use lawyers and planners have grown up with Babcock's first book, *THE ZONING GAME* (1966). Babcock co-authored *THE ZONING GAME REVISITED* in 1985 with Charles Siemon, and he has also authored four other books: *EXCLUSIONARY ZONING: LAND USE REGULATION AND HOUSING IN THE 1970s* (1973), with Fred P. Bosselman; *BILLBOARDS, GLASS HOUSES AND THE LAW* (1977); *CITY ZONING: THE ONCE AND FUTURE FRONTIER* (1979), with Clifford L. Weaver; and *SPECIAL DISTRICTS: THE ULTIMATE IN NEIGHBORHOOD ZONING* (1990), with Wendy U. Larsen. Needless to say, he has also written numerous articles on land use regulation and planning.

Northern Illinois University College of Law was privileged to have Professor Babcock teach land use law during the spring semesters of 1987 and 1991. As the preeminent land-use lawyer in the country, he has been an important force in the growth of our curriculum. This distinguished practitioner of land use planning law shared many first-hand experiences with his classes, leaving a trail of inspiration along the way. Several of our law review members took his class in 1991

and, consequently, an idea was sparked for the first annual symposium on land use law. After the students discussed the idea with Professor Babcock during the summer of 1991, they had no idea that they would return to school in the fall to find that he had commitments from all of the speakers and had planned the agenda for the symposium. The new Dean was not only surprised but encouraged by such a development. The subsequent planning required minimal effort and the event was an honor for the Law Review to host. Without a doubt, Professor Babcock deserves full credit for our First Annual Symposium on Land Use, Environmental, and Agricultural Law.

Both the Law Review and the College of Law Administration extend their heartfelt thanks to Professor Babcock for attracting the distinguished panel of speakers to our campus. We received excellent feedback from the land use lawyers and planners who attended the event. Due to the event's success, we have decided to create a tradition at the N.I.U. College of Law and, already, plans are underway for the second annual symposium. For these reasons, and especially for Babcock's spirit and interest in us as students, we dedicate this symposium issue to him. He planted a seed from which we have reaped great benefits. As the tradition continues, we look forward to providing a forum annually for speakers in the areas of land use, environmental and agricultural law.

Dean James J. Alfini
Members of the Northern Illinois University Law Review