

ELVIN REMUS LATTY, of the Class of 1923, educator, scholar, and distinguished member of the legal profession. Though born in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, he, in his own words, “took one look, yelled, and the family at once moved to Maine.” With degrees from Bowdoin, Michigan, and Columbia, he has demonstrated the versatility of the liberal arts tradition by serving as an instructor in the Romance Languages and track coach at the University of Vermont, by engaging Wall Street’s legal world as a member of the firm of Sullivan and Cromwell, and by a distinguished 36-year career at the Duke University Law School. He has likewise managed to fit into this active career numerous visiting appointments at institutions in this country and abroad, as well as serving as special assistant to the American Ambassador in Caracas and as Assistant Chief of the State Department’s Foreign Funds Control Division. From a rocky island in the fog of eastern lower Penobscot Bay to the southern climes of Durham may seem a long way, but as William R. Perkins Professor of Law and Dean, he brought Yankee drive, humor and wisdom as the weapons in his arsenal, and his triumph has been complete. Under his leadership, Duke Law School achieved true national prominence and was blessed with a splendid new law school building affectionately and appropriately referred to as “the house that Jack built.” The establishment there of the World Rule of Law Center reflects his abiding awareness of the international dimension. His students stand as a monument to his work, and to each of them he has sought to convey the realization that the last word on any subject has not yet been said.

Honoris Causa, DOCTOR OF LAWS