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Professor Emeritus of Journalism Nomination for Clemens P. Work; University of Montana-Missoula

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Clemens P. Work from the faculty of the School of Journalism, the dean and faculty wish to express their appreciation for his years of dedicated and valued service to the University, the School of Journalism, and the State of Montana by recommending that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

Professor of Journalism Clemens Work retired in May 2012 after a 22-year campus career. A generation of School of Journalism alumni came to know him as the soft-spoken, longtime teacher of the school's media law course. The campus community and public at large knew him as an author, documentarian, and vigorous defender of free speech at home and across the globe.

Professor Work taught the School of Journalism's media law course one final time this spring. He continues to help the University and School foster connections with journalists from around the world. An intrepid traveler, he forged ongoing relationships between Montana journalists and their counterparts in Nepal, Bhutan and Burma.

Professor Work came to the school in 1990 from a job as deputy business editor at *U.S. News & World Report*. Before that he was deputy director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press in Washington, D.C. He began his career in the late 1960s as a reporter for newspapers in California and Colorado before deciding to seek a law degree, which he earned in 1975.

In addition to teaching the media law course at UM, he taught subjects ranging from basic reporting and photojournalism to intermediate courses in public affairs reporting, news editing, and business journalism. He directed the School's graduate program for more than a decade. He revived the Montana Journalism Review and was a founder of both the Montana Freedom of Information Hotline and Montana Innocence Project, two public service projects that still thrive today.

It was his research into the struggle for free speech in the American West that caught the public's special attention. His 2005 book, *Darkest Before Dawn*, examined Montana's free speech fights and the hysteria that led to Montana's Sedition Act, which banned criticism of the nation's involvement in World War I. The book inspired Professor Work and Professor Jeff Renz of UM's School of Law to seek posthumous pardons for 78 people convicted under the sedition law. Those pardons were signed in May of 2006 before an audience that included descendants of many of those who had been imprisoned.

In a letter commemorating Professor Work's retirement, Gov. Brian Schweitzer wrote that the emotional signing ceremony underscored the importance of free speech and marked one of his most memorable days.

"The solace brought to those families that day was the direct result of your remarkable project to document this dark period in our history," he wrote. "You not only gave these families the gift of reconciliation, you gave this Governor one of the most meaningful experiences of his life."

Professor Work's book also became the basis for the Montana PBS documentary "Jailed for their Words: When Free Speech Died in Wartime America."

The lessons drawn from Professor Work's teaching and research were not lost on his students. Alumnus William Heisel, whose career as an investigative reporter includes work for the Los Angeles Times and Orange County Register, spoke for two decades of journalism students when he summarized what Professor Work meant to him.

"I learned much from every instructor at UM," Heisel wrote last spring, "but Clem Work taught me perhaps the most valuable lesson: that being a good journalist was an extension of being a good citizen. And that being a good citizen meant not just enjoying the freedoms that come with living in a country as great as ours but that it meant guarding against threats to those freedoms. Threats from government overreach. Threats from bigotry and xenophobia, misogyny and classism, fear and hate. Above all, Clem taught us to guard against laziness, especially our own."

The School of Journalism is pleased to nominate Professor Work for Emeritus status.