

UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA

**TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF PROFESSOR CALVIN EVERSELY**

Dr. Paloma Mohamed, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences

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**Family members, Esteemed and Learned Members of the Legal Profession, Dignitaries, Potentates, Well Wishers, Ladies and Gentlemen:**

*“The measure of a man is not where he stands in safety and good times, but how and where he stands in times of hardship and adversity”* . It is this moral courage, above all else that defines the university life of Calvin A. Eversley Professor of Law at the University of Guyana.

The learned Professor became known to many of the younger academics and students in the wider campus for his strong and detailed positions on the floor of the Academic Board which he would later reduce to lengthily legal briefs to be circulated. In doing so he may have often stood against many powerful adversaries with the now familiar words “ you’re welcome to challenge me!”. His seemed to be in relentless pursuit of not only fact but truth and in doing so he held persons to an almost unattainable standard of being and doing .

His students remember him as learned, often impatient, but completely dedicated to their education not only as well trained lawyers but as good and upright men and women of the profession.

In this regard Professor Calvin Eversley was always willing to listen to situations put to him, to draw upon a thorough knowledge of the acts and statutes of the University of Guyana and the laws of Guyana and to give legal opinions in both private and public matters many times *pro bono*.

Calvin A. Eversley began his long engagement with the University of Guyana in 1981. He remained at UG for 5 years until 1985 when he left. He returned to The University ten years later in 1996 after having taught at the University of the West Indies and in the Bahamas . He stayed with the University from 1996 to 2001 when he left to work in high office in the USA and the US Virgin Islands. Before leaving the University of Guyana, Calvin Eversley had the distinction of serving as the first Head of the newly formed Department of Law from 1998 to 1999.

Upon his return to the University of Guyana in 2008 he was appointed Senior Lecturer and later Prof of Law. He remained with the University from that time until he passed from this life a few short days ago.

That Calvin Eversley was learned and productive as a Professor of Law is evidenced by the fact that he produced over 30 published articles and opinions in reputable journals. He also served as editor of the UG Law Review. His major work on *legitimate expectation* has become entrenched in the university especially as it applies to student and faculty rights. Apart from his strong stance on *legitimate expectation*, Calvin Eversley was also constantly ruminating about the number of students who were unable to study law overseas and wished to see Guyana with its own Law School at which each deserving student, regardless of financial capacity could with dignity and erudition pursue the profession they loved. We hope that though he did not live to see this day, it is coming soon.

Prof. Eversley himself demonstrates the viability of this ideal of the self made professional. Having elevated himself from a cadet with the City Council Corps through hard work, dedication, personal sacrifice and the “grace of God” as he often intoned, Professor Eversley ensured that he graduated with top honors from many of the institutions he attended . Whether it was from the internationally prestigious Harvard Law School or the regionally important University of the West Indies , Hugh Wooding and the University of Guyana, he often came away with awards and special commendations. Calvin A. Eversley

always accorded these achievements even on official documents and I quote “ to the grace of God, Jesus my Lord and Savior” .

Reading this on his official CV, presented to the University of Guyana brings to mind psalm 119:17-32 which may aptly describe the relationship between his professional ethic and his personal religious beliefs.

*“I have chosen the way of truth  
I have set my heart on your laws  
I hold fast to your statutes , O Lord  
Do not let me be put to shame  
I run the path of your commandments  
For you have set my heart free”*

**The University of Guyana therefore wishes to record its gratitude for the contributions of Professor Eversley to the academic life and status of the campus but most especially the Department of Law since his first engagement in 1981.**

**To those grieved by his passing we wish you the strength of God, each other and good friends to raise you up in these difficult times. Know that your loved one was deeply appreciated and highly respected by many at the University. There are few left in this world like him.**

**May GOD receive him now and may his soul be safe and free.**

**The University of Guyana thanks you.**

