

IN MEMORY OF GUS A. SCHILL, JR.

*James W. Skelton, Jr.*¹

Gus A. Schill, Jr., passed away on March 25, 2018, at his home in Kerrville, Texas, at the age of eighty-five.² Gus was a long-standing member of the Advisory Board of the *Houston Journal of International Law*, having joined the Advisory Board when it was expanded from fourteen to twenty members by then Dean Robert Knauss in the fall of 1983.³ Dean Knauss also became a member of the Advisory Board at that time and asked Gus to serve as the very first Chairman of the Advisory Board, which he did from 1983 to 1985.⁴

Gus contributed his valuable time and exceptional ideas to the *Journal* for twenty-three years until he retired from the Advisory Board in 2006 and became one of its Emeritus Members.⁵ Gus took an active interest in the law students at the University of Houston Law Center and was very generous with his time and advice. His kind, enthusiastic, and good-natured

1. Mr. Skelton served as the Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Houston Journal of International Law from 1999 to 2010 and has been a member of the Advisory Board since 1980. He has practiced law for more than forty-three years, specializing in international and domestic oil and gas transactions. He served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Houston Law Center from 2008 to 2016, teaching an Energy Law course entitled Doing Business in Emerging Markets. He is also a coauthor of the Second Edition of the textbook DOING BUSINESS IN EMERGING MARKETS: A TRANSACTIONAL COURSE. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from Arizona State University, a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from South Texas College of Law, and a Master of Laws degree in International Legal Studies from New York University. He has published twenty articles for legal periodicals and books and has made seventeen presentations at international conferences in Houston, Dallas, London, and Moscow.

2. *Tributes, Gus Schill (1932 – 2018)*, HOUS. CHRON., Mar. 27, 2018, at Tribute Section.

3. James W. Skelton, Jr., *The Journal at 30: An Insider's View*, 30 HOUS. J. INT'L L. 617, 633 (2008).

4. *Id.*

5. *Id.*

manner, as well as his keen sense of humor, made the students and his colleagues feel at ease with him; consequently, Gus developed a reputation as a reliable, loyal, and sagacious source of guidance.

Gus always showed up at Advisory Board meetings with a smile on his face and armed with some perceptive solutions for the issues facing the Board of Editors. He followed up on his offers of assistance and was diligent about making sure the students were comfortable with the outcome. It was not only a pleasure working with him, but, due to his sensitive and scholarly approach, it was a learning experience for everyone involved in the discussions and the projects in which he became involved. On many occasions during the meetings and dinners we attended, I marveled at Gus' ability to hold the attention of the students and lawyers in attendance and provide insightful, positive answers to the questions posed.

As a native Houstonian, it was only natural that Gus would graduate from Rice University in 1955 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He proceeded to graduate from the University of Texas Law School in 1958 and spent the next thirty-nine years working for and ultimately becoming a partner at the Houston law firm of Royston, Rayzor, Vickery & Williams.⁶

Gus specialized in Admiralty Law at Royston, Rayzor, Vickery & Williams, and taught Admiralty Law as an Adjunct Professor of Law at the Law Center for almost thirty years.⁷ A fellow professor at the University of Houston Law Center, Sandra Guerra Thompson, made the following statement, which epitomizes the high esteem in which Gus was held by his former students and many colleagues: "He was known in the profession and in the classroom as a lawyer who held himself to the highest standards of professionalism. He was a fine gentleman and a brilliant teacher."⁸

Gus was awarded the Honorary Alumnus Award and the A.A.

6. *Longtime UHLC Adjunct Professor in Admiralty Law, Gus Schill, Dies at 85*, UNIV. HOUS. L. CTR. (Mar. 27, 2018), www.law.uh.edu/news/spring2018/0327Schill.asp.

7. *Tributes, Gus Schill (1932 – 2018)*, *supra* note 2.

8. *Longtime UHLC Adjunct Professor in Admiralty Law, Gus Schill, Dies at 85*, *supra* note 6.

White Outstanding Professors Award by the University of Houston in 2000. He published many legal articles on admiralty and legal ethics topics and made many presentations at legal seminars.⁹

As an alumnus, Gus was an extremely loyal supporter of Rice University. In fact, he served as the President of the Alumni Association from 1972 to 1973 and was presented with its Distinguished Alumni Award. He was a member of the Rice University Board of Trustees from 1994 to 1998, and also served as a member of the Board of the Friends of Fondren Library at Rice University. In 2016, the Rice Alumni Association presented Gus with the Gold Medal for Service to Rice, its highest award.¹⁰

Although he and his family took summer vacations in Hunt, Texas, for twenty-five years, Gus decided to retire in Kerrville, Texas. He shared his memories of Rice University with many high school students while serving as a volunteer representative of the Rice University Admissions Department in the Texas Hill Country. While retired in Kerrville, he worked as a volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for foster children. He was also a member of Zion Lutheran Church and served on the Church Council.¹¹

Gus is survived by Kay Gorges Schill, his wife of fifty-six years, and their children, Mary Martha Schill and Steven August Schill.¹² Gus will be missed dearly by his family, many friends, former students and clients, colleagues, and all of those who were so fortunate to know and work with him.

9. *Tributes, Gus Schill (1932 – 2018)*, *supra* note 2.

10. *Id.*

11. *Id.*

12. *Id.*

