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James Michael Taggart 1944-1978 Memoriam

Aidan R. Gough

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IN MEMORIAM
JAMES MICHAEL TAGGART
1944-1978

*Aidan R. Gough**

On September 25, 1978, as his article for this Symposium issue on public employment law was in the printer's hands, J. Michael Taggart, universally known as Mike, died in the terrible plummet of P.S.A. Flight 182 in San Diego.

With deep regret and high respect, the Board of Editors of the *Santa Clara Law Review* dedicates this Symposium to his memory.

Mike received his undergraduate degree from Santa Clara and graduated from the School of Law in 1969, having served on the *Review's* Board himself and having worked as a teaching assistant in the Legal Research & Writing program. Upon graduation, he went with the Office of the County Counsel of Los Angeles County as a deputy in its schools' division. After two years, he joined Lee Paterson to form the law firm of Paterson and Taggart, specializing in the representation of management in labor law problems.

At his death, some seven years later, the firm represented school districts and other public employers the length and breadth of California—indeed, it has become probably the principal firm of its kind in the United States—and Mike had earned an enviable renown as one of the nation's leading practitioners of public employment and school law.

He deserved it. Witty, inquisitive, irrepressible, exuberant, always enormously diligent, Mike brought to his practice a fine mind and a remarkable energy which never outran his honor — or his sense of humor. He cared greatly for those with whom he dealt, individual persons as well as institutions they constitute. His exemplary standards of professional commitment, client dedication and legal skill serve to remind us well what lawyers can and should do, and why we are all here.

His ties to the School were close, as his article in this issue and his frequent appearances as guest lecturer in our classes attest. We are as proud as we are privileged to be counted among the legions of his friends, and we share with them and with his family our enrichment from knowing him and our profound sorrow at his passing.

*Professor of Law; Faculty Advisor of the SANTA CLARA LAW REVIEW.

