

## *In Memoriam: Thomas Regnier (1950-2020)*

Sadly, the Shakespeare Oxford Fellowship has lost one of its leaders, Thomas Regnier, who passed away in Plantation, Florida on April 14 after contracting the coronavirus. During his extensive involvement in the Oxfordian movement, Tom served as Chairman of its Communications Committee, as website editor, as a Board Director and, for four years, as President of the SOF. In 2016 he was named Oxfordian of the Year.

A signal achievement of Tom's tenure was establishing an annual research program funded by grants so that Oxfordian scholars could conduct primary research at the world's leading archives and libraries, from the British Library and Oxford University, to the French National Library and numerous archives in Italy.

As Communications Director, Tom transformed the SOF website into the gateway for all Oxfordian publications, from the early newsletters of the British and American Oxford societies, to private publications such as *The Elizabethan Review*, to more recent SOF efforts such as the *Shakespeare Oxford Fellowship Newsletter*, *Brief Chronicles*, and *The Oxfordian*. This made the SOF website the primary research tool for Oxfordian scholars interested in the Shakespeare authorship question.



Moreover, Tom took a leading role in the reunification of the American Oxfordian movement in 2013 with the merger of the Shakespeare Oxford Society and the Shakespeare Fellowship to form the present SOF.

Tom also contributed chapters to the books *Shakespeare Beyond Doubt?* (2013) and *Contested Year* (2016), and published articles and essays on the Shakespeare Authorship Question in *The Oxfordian*, *Brief Chronicles*, *Shakespeare Oxford Newsletter*, and on the SOF website.

Tom's professional career was equally impressive. As an attorney practicing civil and criminal law, Tom won appeals in the Florida Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, and all five of Florida's District Courts of Appeal. What's more, for five years he operated his own legal firm, Tom Regnier Appeals.

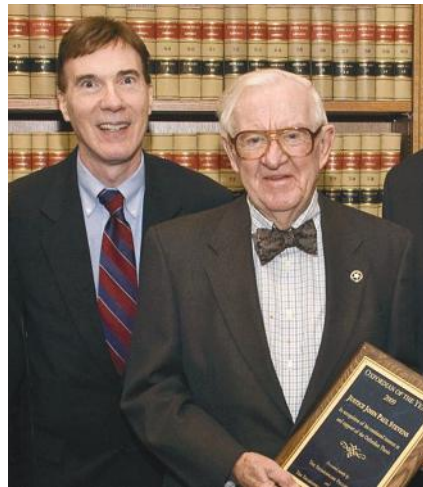
Tom earned his J.D. *summa cum laude* from the University of Miami School of Law and his LL.M. from Columbia Law School, where he was designated a Harlan F. Stone Scholar in recognition of his "superior scholarship." He also served as a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Melvia Green in Florida's Third District Court of Appeal and for the Honorable Harry Leinenweber in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

Tom did more than practice the law. He taught as an adjunct professor at the University of Miami School of Law and at Chicago's John Marshall Law School, and his law review articles appeared in the *NYU Journal of Legislation & Public Policy*, *Santa Clara Law Review*, *UMKC Law Review*, and the *Akron Law Review*, among others.

Integrating both of his lifelong passions, Tom taught a course on "Shakespeare and the Law" at University of Miami School of Law and spoke on Shakespeare's legal knowledge at conferences around the United States. In 2016, his talk on "Hamlet and the Law of Homicide" was chosen as one of the inaugural speeches in the Dade County Bar Association's Thurgood Marshall Distinguished Lecture Series.

Tom was politically active in the Libertarian Party of Florida, where he served a term as the organization's state secretary and vice chairman. In 1997–98, Tom managed the Libertarian Party's successful campaign to achieve equal ballot access for minor parties in Florida by amending the state constitution.

To those who knew him personally, Tom was a joy to be with, for his brilliant mind was complemented by a sweet, gentle soul and a delightful sense of humor. We salute his extraordinary life. May it serve all of us in the future.



*Thomas Regnier with Justice John Paul Stevens, November 12, 2009, Washington DC, courtesy of Steve Petteway, collection of the Supreme Court of the United States.*