
Editorial

Judge René Joliet

With the death of Judge Joliet, a major contributor to the critical analysis of economic and Community law, the Court of Justice has lost one of its leading intellectual forces and most robust personalities. His doctorate at Northwestern University on *The Rule of Reason in Antitrust Law* (1967) and his *Monopolization and Abuse of a Dominant Position* stand as two of the major contributors to competition law theory by European scholars; they are still regularly cited and consulted and have paved the way for many others.

After a long and distinguished career as Professor at Liège and at the College of Europe (where the stories of his demolition of the incompetent, the pretentious and the self-inflated were legendary), Joliet's appointment to the Court of Justice in 1984 as successor to Judge Mertens de Wilmars brought to the Community judiciary another leading academic lawyer with a fiercely perceptive power of critical analysis. His many contributions to academic writing covered a number of central aspects of economic law, principally competition and intellectual

property, but he was very much the master of institutional questions as well.

He was a man of great courtesy, warmth and charm, yet forthright in his views and never afraid to shrink from controversy, demanding the same rigorous standards from his friends and colleagues in intellectual debate and legal reasoning. He was no glad sufferer of fools and placemen, academic, judicial or otherwise, giving short shrift to those who attempted to meet reason with platitudes or political bagatelle.

Joliet inspired very real personal loyalty and affection among those who worked for and with him, and those with whom he disagreed respected his intellectual rigour and integrity. The stoicism with which he bore his final illness was remarkable, and his friends, colleagues, and even those of whom he was less enamoured and who thus found themselves on the receiving edge, are undoubtedly poorer for the passing of a fiercely independent and courageous spirit.

Laurence Gormley