Robert Shaw passed away on January 7, 2002 after long and difficult health challenges. Many faces have come and gone at Pierce Law in the past five years since Bob Shaw retired. Change is constant and natural. We head into the future with new faculty and staff who will build their own legacy of success. Nonetheless, as we face the future, it is helpful to look at the past, lest we forget those who have gone before us and presented us with a solid institution with the oldest and most renowned intellectual property programs in the nation.

A Tribute to ROBERT SHAW:

Professor of Law and Director, PTC Research Foundation

By Jon R. Cavicchi '87 JD, LLM
Intellectual Property Librarian and
Assistant Professor of Research

Bob Shaw was instrumental in building the intellectual property programs we have today. I spoke to faculty, staff and alumni to prepare this celebration of the life and career of this man, who was most of the time quiet and humble, and at other times outspoken on topics and causes he deeply cared about. Those who worked with Bob over his two decades at Pierce Law agree with Professor Tom Field, who characterized him "as a consummate professional who took practice and teaching very seriously." He was dedicated to his family, patent law, his students and legal education.

Bob was a native of Illinois. He received his B.S. (Electrical Engineering) from the University of Illinois and his LL.B. from New England School of Law. Bob was a fighter pilot in World War II for the Navy, flying Wildcats off of Jeep carriers in the Pacific, landing at night on small carriers before the days of high technology. He was in a private patent law practice from 1949 to 1967, and later hired as the patent attorney for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he served from1967 to 1980.

He was hired as a lecturer in patent law at Franklin Pierce Law Center from 1977 to 1980, and then appointed director of the PTC Research Foundation, and editor of *IDEA: The Journal of Law and Technology*. He was elevated to the rank of full professor in 1980, and taught Patent Practice and Procedure I and II, Selected Topics in Intellectual Property I and II, and Patent Moot Court.

Of himself, he wrote the following for the Franklin Pierce Law Center admissions bulletin shortly before he retired:

> "From 1967 to 1980 I was a patent attorney for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology covering a wide spectrum of technical disciplines, although my technical training is in electrical engineering. Since 1977, I have taught patent practice courses at FPLC, and, since coming here full-time in 1980, I have served as director of the PTC Research Foundation. The patent practice training places great emphasis on claim drafting and application drafting, responding to communications from the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO), and a study of the law as it applies to all aspects of the patent practice in the PTO and more generally. This is a two-year offering, and in the second year the law and practice are studied to greater depth. Our graduates have found patent employment with some of this country's largest industrial companies and with law firms specializing in the intellectual-industrial property practice."

The story of Bob's contribution to the founding and building of intellectual property programs at Pierce Law is

best described by the school founder Robert Rines and by Homer Blair, the founder of the graduate programs in intellectual property.

According to Rines, "Bob pioneered the novel curriculum for patent law courses at law schools. He helped found and grow the PTC Research Foundation and conference programs as its director. During his most active years he provided "laboratory" patent practice opportunities for Law Center students in assisting in handling several hundred patents and licensing transactions for faculty at Dartmouth, the University of Massachusetts, MIT, Carnegie Mellon and US Army Research Labs and others."

Bob was best known for his expertise in patent prosecution, but Bob also had considerable experience with patent litigation. Rines also stated that when he founded Pierce Law, he relied heavily on Bob for assistance in a considerable number of patent trials in which he was involved—all over the world. "Bob was an excellent observer and listener in court and often provided insights for winning trials," says Rines.



Professor Robert Shaw

Bob was involved with the Board of the Academy of Applied Science that helped found Pierce Law. He was particularly involved in national programs offered by the Academy for encouraging young inventors and scientists. Bob was Rines' "strong right arm" in helping develop the Chinese and Korean patent alumni of Pierce Law, and accompanied Rines to the Far East in this connection. He assisted Rines and Professor Bryan Harris in negotiating cooperative programs with the British Institute of Patentees and Oxford University. Bob was closely involved with Rines in the launching of the Germeshausen Center and in working with Germeshausen and Rines on numerous patent interests.

Rines stated, "Bob felt that the most important talent of a patent lawyer was in knowing how to analyze the real inventive concept and translating that into competent claim language." Bob always stressed that his tutelage at Rines & Rines under David Rines, for whom the David Rines Professorship was named, was responsible for giving him insights into claim drafting to help teach students to rise above the average patent lawyer.

Blair talks of the effectiveness of the patent law team approach established at Pierce Law. Blair's background was corporate. Bob was the expert in university patenting and licensing. Professor Tom Field had been a patent examiner. Rines had been in private practice. All four professors had different backgrounds and insights. Bob taught the basics of patent law for decades to thousands of patent lawyers in the making. For most of those years he "taught it his way," according to Blair.

Bob was very involved and interested in teaching. He had a solid background when he became a teacher which Blair feels made him most effective. Bob was involved in intellectual property management before it became a discipline. According to Blair, "Bob 'would dig around at MIT' for intellectual property opportunities."

For many years, Bob "was the patent program" at Pierce Law. Attorney Kevin Carroll, who worked with Bob as a student and is now an adjunct patent professor, says that, "Although Bob stopped teaching patent practice years ago, he has left his mark on this course. We continue to use drafting assignments that originated with Bob Shaw, and I often mention his name when instructing students on the 'art' of patent claim drafting."

Bob was devoted to his students. I was a student in one of the final patent practice classes he taught while I was earning my LL.M degree. I would visit Bob in his office and often find him in lengthy conversations with foreign students who were vexed by technical jargon along with the English language. Bob was an unending source of mentorship. He gave unconditionally of himself. Professor Bill Hennessey '86 says that, "Bob was the biggest help in starting the MIP program. He would always organize a trip to climb Mount Cardigan in the early fall." Bob had a quiet appreciation of the beauty of nature and the unique splendor of New Hampshire. He spent innumerable hours counseling (and comforting) foreign students who struggled through his courses. Hennessey says that, "Bob and his wife Ruby were a home away from home for many students. Few realized how much kindness and inspiration he spread to

others. Bob knew all of his students as individuals, their likes and dislikes, their strengths and weaknesses. He knew how to instill confidence in his students through his example, his constant good cheer, and his willingness to hear and consider another side of the story."

Bob was a student of science and had deep interests in the area of neurology. Attorney Rochelle Blaustein '93, who assisted Bob as a student and later as an assistant professor, recalls many long conversations on matters of science.

There were many sides to Bob. According to Professor Emeritus Richard Hesse, "Bob was one of the few 'technology' people on the faculty who showed any real interest in other aspects of law and legal education. He was deeply concerned about government and civil liberties. While we seldom agreed on the more controversial issues of our times, Bob was always thoughtful and open to discussion. Those who knew him knew how committed Bob was to liberty as he saw it." Hennessey also agrees that "Bob had a rock-solid commitment to justice and liberty."

Still others remember Bob in different ways. Bob was a family man. He and Ruby adopted two children. He loved children. Professor Sarah Redfield relates that, "One of the things that endeared Bob to me was his interest in children. After I had Alex, Bob started stocking his office with a few children's books so he would have something to read should I stop by with my son. Later, he and Alex became friends in their own right, with Bob giving Alex some much more serious science books. And when Althea came along, he continued his friendship with her and with me."

Bonnie Morrison,who now works in the library, was Bob's assistant for fifteen years. She remembers him as good hearted. Bob "went above and beyond the call of duty for the students, spending lots of time with them. He was a mentor to many, giving advice to many alumni in the field." She says that many alumni still call and ask about him.

Bob was an unassuming person. To look at him in his flannel shirt, you would not think of this man as a patent lawyer. Bob loved good Italian food, running and travel. He frequented many local restaurants. Attorney Carroll says that he thinks of Bob whenever he has breakfast at the Foothills Restaurant in Warner, where Bob was a regular and favorite customer. Bob loved to be on the move.

Paula Jewell, library services supervisor states, "I liked him about as much as I have ever liked anyone here. He was a good man. I would have lunch in the café with him and we would talk about Illinois where we are both from. He was funny, and so very bright." Bob lived near Jewell in East Concord and was a jogger before his illness caused him to stop. "He would be out in any weather. In the rain I would see him out in his yellow rain slicker. When he was unable to jog he walked, until he could not even do this," says Jewell.

Rines remembers Bob as a "great square dancer." He and Bob belonged to the Unitarian Church and never missed a square dance or couples club hayride. Rines jokes that "Bob always kept us laughing—even in the bitterest cold." Bob liked to have a good time. Most remember him for his sense of humor. Rines remembers him as "extremely congenial and fun loving." Professor Hesse states that, "In contrast to Bob's aggressive attitude in defense of his ideology, Bob had a wonderful sense of humor and a capacity to laugh at himself. He was an enjoyable colleague." Blair remembers Bob as "a serious guy with a good sense of humor; pleasant, quiet and conscientious and frank in faculty meetings."

Bob will be missed by hundreds of students whose lives he touched and by those who worked with him. Rines sadly said, "Bob will be sorely missed as a friend and colleague and certainly as a mentor to many of the earlier FPLC patent law students." Hennessey concludes, "Most important to me, he was a fiercely loyal friend and colleague."

Pierce Law honors Bob Shaw in several ways. On September 30, 1995, the Bob Shaw reading area was dedicated in the new Intellectual Property Library. Over one hundred students, faculty, inventors and staff have contributed to the space. On January 10, 2001, Dean John Hutson announced that a scholarship in the name and memory of Bob Shaw will be established. Bob loved to read in the library. Bob loved students.

That the students of Franklin Pierce Law Center will benefit in his memory surely would make Bob smile, his big warm smile.

Professor Jon R. Cavicchi overseas the administration of the intellectual property library. He created and currently manages the school's award-winning intellectual property website, the "IP Mall." He has practiced civil, criminal and administrative law.