



Guido Calabresi

Dear Friends,

As Cathy will explain, it is not possible for me to be with you today. I did want, however, to tell you how much receiving the Prosser Award means to me. It makes me happy in a way no other award can.

From the very beginning in the fall of 1959, torts has been my field. I have taught it every single year, either at Yale or when I have visited at Columbia, Harvard, the University of Cambridge, etc. And every year I have learned something new, from my students and from teaching them this wonderful subject. It never grows stale; it always gets deeper.

I first fell in love with the subject fifty-five years ago in Fleming James's torts class. Jimmy James was a great torts teacher, and all the other greats of the time: Gregory, Seavey—and Prosser foremost among them—were part of the conversation almost every day. But there was also something else in the background which Jimmy did not fully appreciate himself.

The materials he used—what became the Shulman & James Casebook—had originally been put together by Shulman and Walton Hamilton. Jimmy James was not an economist, in any way, and Shulman not much more. But Walton Hamilton certainly was. And, lurking in the materials were all sorts of questions that, as I've recently learned, Hamilton put in, questions which invited an economist's analysis that Hamilton, who left torts very early for antitrust, never made.

That interplay between Hamilton's and James's visions of torts, between economics and everything else torts is concerned with, was made to order for me fifty-five years ago. It still is. I was fascinated then, and continue to be to this day. The Prosser Award that you have given me will spur me on to write more and continue to teach about the very special role that torts has in legal systems like ours.

To join the extraordinarily wonderful, dear friends all, previous recipients in sharing Prosser's name, makes me glow with delight. To receive this Award from you, dear friends, makes the pleasure even greater.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

The Honorable Guido Calabresi
U.S. Court of Appeals, 2nd Circuit