

January 7, 2014

**ITEM 162-1002-R0114**

**Authorization to Confer the Title of Dean Emeritus of Law on E. Edwin Eck, University of Montana.**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of E. Edwin Eck from the faculty of the University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its deep appreciation for his years of dedicated and valued service to the University and the state of Montana by recommending that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

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**EXPLANATION**

E. Edwin Eck was dean of the School of Law for fourteen years at a time when the average tenure of law school deans in the United States was less than four years. Dean Eck came to the Law School with substantial practice experience having been a law clerk to U.S. Judge James Battin, an Assistant United States Attorney, and a tax and estates practitioner for Morrow, Sedivy, Olson & Eck in Bozeman and for Anderson, Brown, Gerbase, Cebull & Jones in Billings. During his tenure as dean, he successfully developed and built a state-of-the-art law building that will be the home of UM School of Law long into the future. He undertook a massive fundraising effort to acquire \$14.8 million for the 45,968 square foot expansion and drove to 50 of Montana's counties and visited with countless law firms and government officials to secure the pledges necessary to the project. He also undertook the task of acquiring the technology and equipment necessary for the functioning of a law school in the computer age.

Ed Eck has been a faculty member at the UM School of Law for almost 30 years and taught estate and gift taxation, charitable tax planning, wills and trusts, corporate law, and property law. He has an LL.M. in taxation and is an established expert in tax and estates. He has been a frequent presenter at the annual Tax Conference hosted by the Law School and other Continuing Legal Education conferences.

He was nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the U.S. Senate in 2008 as a member of the IRS Oversight Board in Washington, D.C. and continues in that capacity. Dean Eck has been a Commissioner for the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws from 1989 to present. Under the leadership of Ed Eck, the late Joe Mazurek, and the late Dean Bob Sullivan, Montana may have enacted the most Uniform State Laws of any state in the nation. Most recently, he was chosen by the State of Montana to oversee the formation of the trust fund that will hold a substantial portion of the proceeds of the sale of Blue Cross / Blue Shield as it makes a transition from non-profit to profit status. The fund could ultimately hold \$140,000,000.

The faculty of the School of Law is pleased to nominate Dean Eck for emeritus status.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

No Attachments