

Dean John R. Kramer

We dedicate this year's Institute to John R. Kramer, who served as Dean of Tulane Law School from 1986 to 1996 and continued his service to Tulane as a faculty member until his death on March 7, 2006.



In 1988, shortly after his appointment as Dean, John Kramer helped to establish The Public Law Center (TPLC) as a joint venture of Tulane and Loyola Law Schools. When TPLC conducted its first International Legislative Drafting Institute in 1995, Dean Kramer discussed “The Worst Bill Ever Drafted,” which was the Food Stamp Act drafted by—John Kramer! He chose that title because he had deliberately violated one of the cardinal rules of legislative drafting by placing important substantive law into the “Definitions” section. He did it for “strategic reasons,” John said, “because no one ever reads the Definitions.”

John Kramer embraced in his life many of the elements that are united in this 2006 Institute:

- At Georgetown University Law Center and Tulane Law School, he pursued a stunning thirty-year career in legal education.
- In Washington, D.C., and New Orleans, Louisiana, he contributed to the civic life of two cities that occupy a special place in the political and cultural identity of America.
- The Institute's combination of academic instruction and practical training mirror Dean Kramer's commitment to clinical legal education.
- And finally, this Institute unites in one experience the fun and hard work that fueled John Kramer's life: “He had a robust enthusiasm for everything he did. He had a good life and a good time living it.”

John was a national figure in legal education and legislative practice. The New Orleans Times-Picayune, The Washington Post, and The New York Times all wrote obituaries; we've included some in your materials. We invite you to read about this accomplished man. His work is done, but his good works endure.