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The Least of These: In Praise of Professor Tom
Holdych's Integrity and Dedication to Justice
for the Disadvantaged

*Henry McGee**

Professor Holdych and I were at opposite ends of our nation's political spectrum, yet I admired his integrity and compassion without reservation. He was a Christian gentleman in every sense of the word. At a time when the fabric of our nation is rife with clashing opinions, exploitation of fear, and pandering to extremists, Professor Holdych was the model of restraint. His values overlapped his Christian faith in many ways. I envied his ability to entertain conservative political positions but still express his theories and ideologies with uncommon civility.

His heartfelt political perspective was accompanied by a fervent belief in Jesus Christ, and Christianity was the core of his belief system. He had faith in the productive outcomes of individualism, as well as a profound concern for those less fortunate than himself. He had an immense compassion for the downtrodden, the exploited, and the poor. His work and dedication to the Union Gospel Mission Open Door Legal Services Program suggests that he was able to resolve his internal conflict about an unkind and insensitive social order that often fails those in need. He overcame this tension by giving energetic legal representation to those who most needed it.

Tom Holdych did not conceal his value system. Despite his work in the legal regime that protects the wealth and power of elites, he lived his life according to a moral order that worked to shield the poor from exploitation and depredation.

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