

**CELEBRATING
RICHARD OLIVER BROOKS**

On June 22, 2018 a large audience of Vermont Law School alumni, faculty, staff, and friends gathered in the Chase Center to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Environmental Law Center and to pay special tribute to Richard Oliver Brook—"Brooks" to his colleagues and friends—as the visionary founding director of the ELC. Following remarks by seven of the former ELC directors recalling past accomplishments and offering thoughts on the challenges facing environmental law and legal education in general, and the ELC in particular, a panel of VLS faculty presented a *Festschrift* to honor the scholarly contributions of their colleague.

Participants included Professors Stephen Dycus, John Echeverria, David Mears, Janet Milne, and Pat Parenteau. Each gave brief remarks (some briefer than others) summarizing the articles that are included within this special volume of the Vermont Journal of Environmental Law. Professors Hillary Hoffmann and Reed Loder also contributed to the collection. The articles span the gamut of environmental, land use planning, and natural resources law, along with observations on the Brooksonian view of the world. The essays reflect the tremendous breadth of Brooks' intellectual curiosity and dedication to the stewardship values that inspired the creation of the ELC grounded on a fundamental respect for the laws of nature and the rule of law.

We hope you enjoy this collection of musings and fond reminiscences of a true pioneer and giant in the field of environmental education.

-The Editors