

THE GAGE IS MORT

Michael Parish

LOU POLLACK BECAME THE DEAN [of the Yale Law School] during part of my time there but was still teaching Property to second year students. One of them was Richard Neely '67, later to be Chief Justice of the West Virginia Supreme Court – an elective office that requires fiddle playing and attendance at a lot of family reunions. Pollack started off the first class asking if anyone knew what a mortgage was. Neely was resplendent in his green corduroy jacket with brass buttons and wearing a bowtie and a tattersall shirt, while the rest of the class was largely dressed in the freedom rider/war protester uniform of jeans and a blue cotton work shirt. Neely raised his hand, the only one in the class, and started talking about the different kinds of mortgages, purchase money, self-amortizing etc., mentioning the Old French derivation and that when the note is paid, the gage is mort, and on and on. Pollack's jaw was dropping in amazement until one of the class called out "Don't worry, Dean, he didn't learn it here – he's a transfer student from UVA."

Michael Parish graduated from the Yale Law School.