LON L. FULLER
1902-1978

Lon Fuller was a vigorous and eloquent spokesman for the study of law and society. Indeed, he preferred to speak of law *in* society, in order to avoid a suggestion of separate realms or an image of law as standing over against society. The continuity of legal and social phenomena was a postulate of his thought, deeply affecting what he had to say about legal and social norms, the legal process, "implicit law," and much else.

In jurisprudential circles, Fuller is perhaps best remembered for his sustained criticism of legal positivism. In his well-known exchange with H.L.A. Hart, and in *The Morality of Law*, he stressed the intimate connection of law and morality. It would be a parody to suppose that he considered all law morally defensible. On the contrary, he sought a standpoint for the criticism of positive law and he found that standpoint in the internal dynamics of legal ordering.

In a review of *The Anatomy of Law*, I suggested that Fuller's approach might best be referred to as *legal naturalism*. Although he was friendly to the natural law tradition and associated by others with it, I heard him as speaking in the accents of American pragmatism. In keeping with that tradition, Fuller was a thorough-going naturalist. Everything that belongs to legal experience is natural—the pathologies of law no less than its characteristic ideals.

Fuller brought to jurisprudence a keen sociological awareness. He gave seminars on the sociology of law and, especially in recent years, he turned his attention to the analysis of modes of association and developed a distinctive interpretation of law and custom. His writings will engage our attention for a long time to come.

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