

## **In Memoriam: C.F. Sirmans – A Pillar of Real Estate Education and Scholarship**

The academic world recently bid farewell to an unparalleled figure in the realm of real estate studies, C.F. Sirmans. Known for his extraordinary influence and immense presence, C.F.'s contributions to the academic discipline of real estate have left an indelible mark that will resonate for generations to come.

### **Distinguished Career**

C.F. Sirmans embarked on his illustrious academic journey with a Ph.D. from the University of Georgia, continuing on to esteemed positions at the University of Illinois, University of Georgia again, Louisiana State University, University of Connecticut, and Florida State University. Along the way, there were also visiting positions at the Swedish School of Economics and Business, National University of Singapore, University of Hong Kong, City University of Hong Kong, and Brigham Young University. Following retirement from formal teaching and organizational roles, C.F. continued working with coauthors and serving as the editor of the *Journal of Real Estate Finance and Economics*, underscoring a relentless commitment to advancing the field.

### **Shaping the Profession**

A foundational aspect of C.F.'s career was his partnership with Jim Kau, which began at the University of Georgia. Starting as a young doctoral student, a collaboration blossomed that would span over five decades. Together, they co-edited the *Journal of the American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association* (now *Real Estate Economics*) and co-founded the *Journal of Real Estate Finance and Economics*, both premier real estate journals. Their partnership also extended to the co-creation of the *Journal of Real Estate Literature*, a further testament to the profound impact this partnership would have on real estate academia.

C.F.'s tenure as editor for numerous journals, coupled with three seminal textbooks and edited series, significantly propelled the advancement of real estate scholarship, enriching the educational journey of students and providing invaluable resources for both industry professionals and academics. As a dissertation chair/advisor, C.F. trained several doctoral students and served as an informal mentor to countless others, fostering a legacy of scholarship and inquiry.

### **Research Contributions**

With well over 300 publications, more than 17,000 citations, and an h-index above 70, C.F.'s productivity and influence in the field are unmatched. The breadth of C.F.'s research, from housing and land markets to REITs and property rights, consistently elevated the scholarly discourse in real estate. His work enriched the field with new theoretical models, empirical methods, and a profound understanding of real estate's unique market intricacies. Formal recognition of these contributions is evident in his receipt of the highest awards by both the American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association and American Real Estate Society

including the George F. Bloom Award (AREUEA 2001), the David Ricardo Medal (ARES 2006), and the Graaskamp Award (ARES 2012).

### **Talented Musician**

One of C.F.'s most cherished passions was music, particularly his love for playing the guitar. This hobby was not just a pastime but a source of joy and celebration, shared with friends and family alike. His home boasted a collection of guitars, each with its own story, reflective of the happiness and connection music brought into his life. Playing the guitar was a way for C.F. to express his vibrant spirit and bring a sense of togetherness to those around him. In a final gesture that spoke volumes of his love, C.F. made sure each grandchild would inherit a guitar, passing on a piece of his joy and spirit to the next generation.

### **Man of Devotion**

Beyond his professional achievements, C.F. Sirmans was a devoted family man and a person of deep faith. Alongside his wife Elaine, he was a guiding force in the lives of their six children and sixteen grandchildren, instilling in them values of kindness, determination, and service. His commitment to his faith led him to serve in numerous capacities within his church, where he and Elaine dedicated countless hours to supporting those in need, including, in recent years, running an addiction recovery program near their home. This unwavering dedication to family, faith, and community exemplified the depth of C.F.'s character. He will truly be missed.

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The official obituary can be viewed, and messages and condolences posted, here:

<https://neptunesociety.com/obituaries/tallahassee-fl/clemon-sirmans-11726899>

or here:

<https://www.relihanfuneralhome.com/obituaries/clemon-sirmans-jr>