

IN MEMORY OF JOSÉ JUAN PINTÓ RUIZ, OUR TEACHER AND MENTOR

It is impossible to write about Dr. José Juan Pintó Ruiz without stirring up emotions, not only because he was the heart of our firm and one of the indisputable pillars of the legal profession and the academic world in our country, but also because of his immense charisma, humanity and approachability.

To refer to his professional career entails, in a certain way, making reference to the history, configuration and development of Spanish Civil Law during the last half of the 20th century, a time very much in need of influential figures who exuded knowledge and honesty. Attorney, Dean of the Barcelona Bar Association, Magistrate, Professor, Academician at *the Real Academia de Jurisprudencia y Legislación* and the *Acadèmia de Jurisprudència i Legislació de Catalunya*, Vice-President of the *Consejo General de la Abogacía Española*, member of the *Comissió Jurídica Assessora de la Generalitat de Catalunya ...*, Mr. Pintó did everything in the field of Law. However, his aura and humanist profile transcended the pure practice of law, having also been one of the brightest people of reference in the field of economics and, notably, in the banking sector: he was the president of the Caixa de Barcelona and, subsequently, La Caixa (today, Caixabank), member of the *Real Academia de Ciencias Económicas y Financieras*, President of the *Confederación Española de Cajas de Ahorros*, President of the Banco de Europa, among many other positions he undertook throughout the course of his long and fascinating life. Unsurprisingly, his illustrious professional career led the way to numerous important awards and distinctions, such as the *Cruz de Honor de San Raimundo de Penyafort* or the *Creu de Sant Jordi*.

His prolific collection of works is worthy of special mention, a legacy of immeasurable value that we are all fortunate enough to enjoy thanks to the infinite generosity of its creator. It would be impossible to list the almost three hundred publications Mr. Pintó authored here, though we would be remiss not to highlight two of them above the rest, the ones he was especially proud of: *El Afloramiento y la determinación del derecho según el maestro José Castán Tobeñas*, which he wrote on the occasion of his admission as an Academician; and his contribution to the *Comentarios al Código Civil y compilaciones forales* by Prof. Manuel Albaladejo. We strongly encourage anyone seeking to gain a complete and conscientious picture of Spanish and Catalan Civil Law to dive into his collection of works. Likewise, his absolute commitment and dedication, in the academic and editorial sphere, to ISDE –where he was named Honorary President– and *Difusión Jurídica* were a constant since the moment both institutions were founded.

Where Pintó Ruiz & Del Valle is concerned, we owe everything to him. He built our firm, he brought us together and he taught us. Following his father's footsteps, Mr. José Pintó Badals, who founded Bufete Pintó in 1903, Mr. Pintó helped the firm grow for decades, and hand in hand with his son and successor, José Juan Pintó Sala, our President, cemented our alliance with Del Valle Abogados in 1999, thus giving way to the current Pintó Ruiz & Del Valle. None of this would have been possible without Mr. Pintó's leadership, conviction, determination, and absolute dedication to the firm.

As impressive as his professional and academic achievements may be, they pale in comparison to his human dimension, guided by his deeply rooted Christian principles. We will forever remember his magnificent speeches, which so very often left us speechless and moved us. In particular, we will always have his speeches at the annual firm Christmas lunch etched in our memory, a moment awaited by all where he displayed not only his unparalleled skills in oratory, eloquence and erudition, but also an insight, a sense of humor, a sentiment, and a humanity that was out of the ordinary, and that Christmas after Christmas, speech after speech, managed to move us all just as it did the first time.

Never again will we hear the sound of him typing away on his Underwood, nor will we be able to sit with him on his couch in his office where he welcomed us, encouraged us, and imparted his wisdom upon us, but we will always carry him in our hearts.

May you rest in peace, maestro.