THE VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LAW
THE DEANS

The Villanova Law School's four Deans; Left to right, Dean Emeritus Harold G. Reuschlein, 1953-1972; former Dean John E. Murray, Jr., 1984-1986; Dean Steven P. Frankino, 1987-present; and former Dean J. Willard O'Brien, 1972-1983.
INTRODUCTION

Dean J. Willard O'Brien made a timely decision some years ago to preserve the memories of those who have been involved in the Villanova Law School story. He retained the service of Professor Emeritus J. Edward Collins to document the Law School story and write his memories of the school with particular emphasis on the personalities of the principal actors of the initial three decades. After completing his assignment Professor Collins moved to Florida and there was a short hiatus in this Law School project. Dean John E. Murray, Jr. capitalized on the fortuitous return to the Villanova community of Founding Dean Harold Gill Reuschlein to enlist him to edit and supplement Professor Collins' work. When I was appointed dean in 1986 I retained Dean Reuschlein to expand and complete the project, to make it a pictoral as well as a narrative history and to add lists of significant persons, events and publications in extensive appendices. Dean Reuschlein placed his strong and pervasive stamp on the entire enterprise — sufficient to be described as the principal author. During the past four years he has been supported and aided by the many hours of dedicated labor of Associate Dean Robert P. Garbarino who is a member of the first graduating class. Together they span and encompass the school's entire history.

This book, therefore, is the product of the combined efforts of a number of persons. The text reflects the singular style and perspective of Harold Reuschlein and, in many paragraphs and one complete chapter, the particular voice of Ed Collins. The whole was supervised by Dean Reuschlein and brought to fruition with the cooperative efforts of Bob Garbarino.

This is a School of Law product and publication. It was easy to convince the principal contributors to participate. I simply reminded them that if they did not do the first history of Villanova School of Law someone else would — a true Hobson’s choice. My role has been to encourage the process and celebrate its completion.

I salute the authors, the participants, those who have been a part of the Villanova Law School story and the readers who, in enjoying our past, will encourage our future.

Steven P. Frankino
Dean
The Villanova University School of Law

THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS

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It was frequently and accurately said of Dean Reuschlein that he had a propensity for attracting important personages to the Law School. Perhaps it was because of his persistence and the fact that the "word was out" that the visitors invariably had an awfully fine time during their stay at the Law School. The pictures of Supreme Court and other prominent judges, clergy and persons that follow bear witness to that reputation.

Dedication of Garey Hall, April, 1957. Recipients of honorary degrees are, from left: Senator (later President) John F. Kennedy, and Mr. Chief Justice Earl Warren, U.S. Supreme Court. With them are Father James A. Donnellon, President of Villanova University, Milton Hauser, law partner of Eugene Garey, and Mr. Chief Justice Charles Alvin Jones, Pennsylvania Supreme Court. Chief Justice Warren gave the convocation address.

Professor William D. Valente presents his treatise to Mr. Justice Antonin Scalia, U.S. Supreme Court, during Justice Scalia's 1987 visit to the Law School.

Mr. Chief Justice designate William H. Rehnquist, U.S. Supreme Court, and Dean John E. Murray, Jr. at 1986 commencement.

Reimel Moot Court Finals, 1965. Standing, left to right, are Charles A. Haddad '66; Lee Silverstein '67; Andrew J. Hailstone '66; and Robert G. Kelly '65. Seated are Judge William F. Smith, U.S. Court of Appeals, 3rd Circuit; Mr. Justice Potter Stewart, U.S. Supreme Court; Mr. Justice Michael J. Eagan, Pennsylvania Supreme Court.
Reimel Moot Court, 1967. Front row: The Bench — Mr. Justice Henry X. O'Brien, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania; Mr. Justice Byron R. White, Supreme Court of the U.S.; Chief Judge Austin L. Staley, U.S. Court of Appeals, 3rd Circuit. Standing are Patrick J. O'Connor, '67; Edward R. Murphy, '67; Judge Theodore Reimel; Dean Reuschlein; Robert L. Clarey, '67; and John B. Day, '67.

Reimel Moot Court, 1969. Seated are Mr. Justice Thomas Pomeroy, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania; Mr. Justice William H. Brennan, Jr., Supreme Court of the U.S.; Judge Francis Van Dusen, U.S. Court of Appeals, 3rd Circuit. Standing are Gregory R. Leonard, '69; Charles C. Whitty, '69; Dean Reuschlein; Joseph D. Casey, '70; and Samuel J. Knox, Jr., '70.

Forum, March 10, 1958. From left are Matthew J. Ryan, '59; Anthony J. Mazullo, '59; Thurgood Marshall, later U.S. Supreme Court Justice; and Dean Reuschlein.
Left to right are Rev. John A. Klekotka, O.S.A. President, Villanova University; Mr. Justice Arthur M. Goldberg, Supreme Court of the U.S.; and Dean Reuschlein at 1965 commencement.

Reimel Moot Court, 1964. Left to right are Richard H. Roesgen, '64; Thomas M. Twardowski, '65; Judge J. Cullen Ganey, U.S. Court of Appeals, 3rd Circuit; Mr. Justice William O. Douglas, Supreme Court of the U.S.; Mr. Justice Benjamin Jones, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania; Thomas A. Riley, Jr., '64; and William J. Green, '64.

Dedication of the completed Quadrangle, Garey Hall, April 15, 1972, with recipients of honorary degrees. From left are Dean Reuschlein; Mr. Justice Tom C. Clark, Supreme Court of the U.S.; Vincent P. McDevitt, Vice-President and General Counsel, Philadelphia Electric Company and member of the Law School Board of Consultants; Robert Meserve, President of the American Bar Association; and Harry W. Jones, Cardozo Professor, Columbia University.

At the 1962 Alumni Dinner are Judge Thomas Clary, U.S. District Court, E.D. Pennsylvania; Mr. Justice John Marshall Harlan, U.S. Supreme Court; Father James A. Donnellon, O.S. A., President of Villanova University; Mr. Chief Justice Charles Jones, Pennsylvania Supreme Court; and Dean Reuschlein.
PROLOGUE

The year was 1927, the U.S. economy was booming, and Villanova College was giving thought to expanding into graduate professional education by establishing a law school. As time passed, boom descended into depression, but plans for the law school continued to simmer until finally reaching the boiling point in 1933, when Villanova College turned its attention to the small, independent, unapproved, and apparently underfinanced Philadelphia College of Law. To the Augustinian Fathers, the time seemed opportune for a take-over of the College of Law. Operating in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, the Augustinians were committed to cooperation with their Archbishop, His Eminence Dennis Cardinal Dougherty. Without the knowledge and approval of the Cardinal Archbishop, it was unthinkable that any important action be taken by the Augustinians or any other religious community operating in Philadelphia or its environs in that day and age.

So the Cardinal’s gracious nod of approval was sought, and was sought, and was sought, with only silence emanating from His Eminence. Why this disturbing silence? Apparently, a pontifical university located in the nation’s capital furnished the explanation. The Catholic University of America, located in Washington, D.C., had operated a law school since 1898. The School had become a member of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) in 1921. It was, however, struggling in competition with its Jesuit neighbor, The Law School of Georgetown University (AALS 1902) and the unapproved Columbus Law School, an evening school sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, later absorbed by Catholic University. Indeed competition was not restricted to legal education under Catholic auspices. Operating in the capital city were the George Washington University School of Law (AALS Charter Member), the National University Law School (later absorbed by George Washington) and the Washington College of Law (for women, later absorbed by American University). The Catholic University of America is a pontifical University, therefore a creation and a nurtured child of the Holy See. Thus, it is not difficult to understand that interference or competition without the approval or blessing by the Ordinary of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia was unthinkable. At least so it seemed to Dennis Cardinal Dougherty.

Despite exchanged correspondence between Father Edward V. Stanford, the President of Villanova College and Bishop Corrigan, the Rector of the Catholic University, in which the Bishop expressed no objection to Villanova opening a law school in the Philadelphia area, the ultimate and dispositive answer of Cardinal Dougherty seemed to be: clear the matter with Rome without my blessing. So the Philadelphia College of Law passed out of existence and the plan for a law school at Villanova was put on a long-time hold to await a much later day.

When the idea of a law school at Villanova was finally revived, the aspiration became a reality at a speed surprising in light of the foregoing history. The dramatic ending of World War II and the subsequent hostilities in Korea had brought a flood of servicemen to the United States with grants of federal funds for the education of
veterans, and an insatiable hunger on the part of the recipients to make up for lost time in establishing themselves in civilian careers. Everywhere, the empty classrooms of the war years were being filled to capacity and beyond. A war-hardened generation was eager to prove itself in the professions. What would Villanova do to meet these demands and opportunities?

Administrators of the University were not in total agreement as to the course to pursue. A very powerful and influential voice in the College administration favored the founding of a medical school. Other administrators, conversant with the excessively high cost of medical education, were emphatically wary of such a move and the heavy financial commitment such a move would involve. The fact that a significant number of medical schools formerly operated by private universities had transferred their efforts at medical education to state-supported facilities seemed to have had a significant impact at Villanova. Under the impression that a law school could be operated at reasonable cost, the element in administration eyeing a medical school in the college’s future saw the law school as a step into professional education, which might ultimately warrant the establishment of a medical school at a later date. At any rate, the die was cast and Villanova College arrived at the determination to found and operate a law school.

Enter at this point a young and personable Villanova College president, Father Francis X. N. McGuire, O.S.A. At the outset, Father McGuire decided he needed professional backing to further his plans for a law school and accordingly organized a group of lay advisors, Catholic judges and prominent lawyers, with whom he discussed his hopes and concerns. (This group later developed into the present Board of Consultants to the School of Law.) This initial group of advisors was a rather formidable one, whose views were not likely to be ignored. Among the early members were a former Attorney General of the United States, a soon-to-be Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association, members of the federal and state judiciary, practitioners who had arrived as well as younger members of the bar who were climbing the ladder of success in their profession. The sentiment of the advisory group was emphatic in its conviction that Philadelphia needed and should welcome a quality Catholic law school and that the need extended to the whole Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. There was but one law school in all Pennsylvania under Catholic auspices, the Law School of Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, which at that time was exclusively a part-time evening operation. Thus buoyed by such distinguished backing, Father McGuire was able to persuade the College Trustees of the feasibility of moving in the direction of graduate education in the law. Though the commitment to a law school had been made, the hoped-for medical school and a projected mammoth football stadium were still planned and programmed for a time, until the proponents passed from the scene.

During all this time of planning and well into the operating life of the Villanova School of Law, the Jesuit Fathers at St. Joseph’s College in Philadelphia indicated their intention to establish a law school, initially, at least, to be a part-time, evening operation. It was the view of administrators at Villanova and of Villanova’s advisors and of the yet-to-be appointed founding dean that the establishment of two Catholic law schools in the Philadelphia area fore-ordained disaster for both such ventures. In warding off the threat from St. Joseph’s one must give great credit to the influence of Walter Gibbons, a member of the original board of advisors, who often served as lawyer for the Archdiocese in important matters; the influence of James
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McGranery; Herman Obert; and, according to Dean Reuschlein, who spoke about the matter to Archbishop O’Hara (later Cardinal O’Hara), perhaps to the then-new Archbishop himself. At any rate, the folly of two Catholic colleges competing with each other in legal education was made apparent.

And so, the die was cast. There was to be a Villanova Law School. It now became necessary to take the first step to make the dream a reality. A dean must be found. Understandably, in this quest, the advisory group could be of little help. Off to Chicago went Father McGuire to talk to legal educators in attendance at the annual meeting of the Association of American Law Schools. While at the meeting, the president contacted Dean Vernon X. Miller, then of the University of San Francisco (later to be president of the AALS and Dean of the Catholic University of America Law School), Dean Anthony Papale of Loyola University, New Orleans, Dean James A. Doyle of Creighton University, Omaha, and Judge Cornelius J. Moynihan, one-time Dean at Boston College. Father McGuire spoke with all of these prospects at the Chicago meeting. Of the group only Moynihan expressed interest in girding for battle and starting a new school, but then concluded that family commitments would keep him in Boston.

With Father McGuire’s return to the Villanova campus, new candidates were proposed — not sitting deans — but veteran law professors: Walter H.E. Jaeger of Georgetown and Harold Gill Reuschlein of the University of Pittsburgh. In pre-World War II days, Reuschlein and Jaeger had been longtime colleagues on the Georgetown faculty. No sooner had Professor Reuschlein been suggested, when Father McGuire established contact with him by telephone. The phone call immediately set sparks flying. A trip to visit with Professor and Mrs. Reuschlein in their home in Mount Lebanon immediately established good rapport between Father President and the Reuschleins. After numerous weekend planning visits to Villanova, a deal was struck. It was the beginning of a love affair between the Reuschleins and Villanova which has continued for almost forty years. In late February, 1953, an agreement was reached between Villanova and Professor Reuschlein. Soon the world learned that Villanova would launch a law school and that both the College and the Dean-designate were determined to make history with a program destined to achieve excellence in a minimum of time.