X. THE THIRD DECADE
A Law School Maturing — 1972-1982

The first two decades in the life of the Villanova School of Law involved its establishment and the securing of its home, its acceptance by the profession, its accreditation and its expansion. The student population, by 1972, had increased to 625 from the first three-class population in 1957-58 of 134. The new addition to Garey Hall proved suitable for the increased student population. With a change in command, the time had arrived for the inevitable reappraisal of the original objectives of the School and the consideration of formulating new objectives.

In anticipation of the regular seventh year inspection of the School by a team of evaluators from the American Bar Association, a self-study was mandated. The task of preparing the self-study fell to Professor Donald Giannella who prefaced his work with a statement of the traditional aims of the School dating back to its foundation:

“The primary goal of the law school has been development of the professional competence and responsibility of its students to prepare them adequately as members of the bar. The school also seeks to make direct contributions to the legal profession and the community. Another major goal of the school is to advance legal scholarship and research. Such advancement normally constitutes a contribution to the legal profession and in many instances can also be directly related to the promotion of community interests.”

The self-study forthrightly concluded that for varying reasons, the School had fallen somewhat short of its stated aspirations, except for effective teaching involving a heavy investment of faculty time in distinctive student contact in and out of the classroom.

The Report of the American Bar Association’s inspection team echoed the self-study, noting the necessity to increase the size of the faculty, the need to increase faculty salaries and the need to furnish the faculty with more adequate secretarial and research assistance. A further reason for the faculty’s failure to sufficiently distinguish itself in other than its teaching functions was the fact that the faculty did devote significant time to administrative and committee activities particularly in the areas of admissions and alumni relations and to a lesser degree to placement. This circumstance seemed to have escaped the scrutiny of the inspectors. The School’s administration proposed to address itself to these areas of concern with progress anticipated. The suggested direction of corrective action was two-fold: (1) free the faculty to look beyond teaching, and what should be staff problems, to scholarly publication and community involvement and (2) improve the quality of student life by greater support from the Placement Office already in place, thus addressing the students’ principal career concern, namely, securing on graduation a good employment start in the profession.

The faculty to whom these concerns were addressed consisted of the senior
teaching team of Abraham, J. Edward Collins, Dowd, Giannella, O’Brien, Frankino, Schoenfeld and Valente, which had been augmented by more junior, but rapidly maturing, additions from Dean Reuschlein’s administration: Cannon, ’62, Dobbyn, Cohen, Hyson, Lurie, McNamara, Rothman, Taggart, ’68 and Walsh, together with Becker, newly appointed by Dean O’Brien. This complement offered a formidable array of faculty talent to take the School through the challenges of the third decade and to correct the spotlighted weaknesses.

Significant developments occurred in short order. Within two years of the new administration’s assumption of authority, full-time offices headed by a trained technician with supporting staffs had taken over the formerly faculty-administered admissions and alumni activities. The Placement Office, already in place from the previous administration, was given added staff. A full-time Admissions Office was established, headed by Sandra Moore Mannix, who was succeeded in 1986 by Denise McGarry. Since 1990, the Director of Admissions has been Maureen O’Mara. A full-time Placement Office had been created by Dean Reuschlein and was headed by Christine White-Wiesner. Mrs. White-Wiesner was succeeded by Joan Beck and later respectively by Virginia Schuman and Marie Helmig. Joan Beck returned to manage the office for several years until moving to distant parts. She was succeeded by Janet Egner, who, upon her marriage, moved out of state. In 1990, Elaine Fitzpatrick was named Director, serving under the new title of the office, Director of Career Services.

Under Dean O’Brien, alumni activities were transferred from the part-time directorship of alumnus Professor Walter J. Taggart, ’68 and placed in a newly created office headed by a full-time administrator, Robert O. D’Ambrosio, ’72, to be succeeded for a brief time by Mary P. Buxton. From 1986, the Director of Alumni Affairs was the indefatigable Trudy Gallagher Riddell who left to enter teaching in 1989. In 1985 the Financial Aid responsibilities were separated and the Office of Financial Aid established with Audrey D’Orazio as Director. The present Director is Wendy Barron.

These offices and initial appointments by Dean O’Brien not only lifted the burden from the shoulders of harried professors, but greatly increased the effectiveness of operations to the benefit of the students and alumni. Applicants for admission were more widely recruited, the School became more widely recognized in higher educational circles and admission decisions were made more expeditiously in the evaluation of the ever-expanding numbers of presumably more highly qualified applicants. However, the ultimate decisions regarding acceptance of applicants continued to be exclusively the province of a faculty committee. Under Dean O’Brien’s tenure, the Office of Admissions was assigned the additional significant function of helping students to secure essential financial assistance from various
external sources as well as processing applications for student loans from expanding Law School funds. In 1990, the Alumni Office was reorganized and is now part of the newly-created Development office with major gifts and annual giving responsibilities as well as supervision of alumni relations. The Director of the Office of Development is Gerard J. Lauber and Laurie J. Russen is the Director of Alumni Services (the new name for the office).

In 1990, the public relations and publications functions, performed for many years by the Dean and faculty members, were combined, broadened in scope and made a full-time function.

Someone has endeavored to fix the prime aspirations and motivations of the young during the past several decades. The anonymous sage had it that in the '50s the young aspired to love and romance, in the '60s to peace and in the '70s to getting a job. If true, the establishment of the Placement Office with resulting jobs was conducive to love and peace for students and peace-of-mind for the faculty. The Placement Office has been successful in assisting students and graduates in gaining full-time professional positions, and in securing summer and part-time law-related employment for students while still in residence. It has actively encouraged and assisted potential employers in contacting and recruiting students, counseled job aspirants about how best to present themselves, both in writing and in person, so as to effectively sell future employers, instructed students on how to conduct themselves in interviews and follow-ups and has advised as to where and how to make individual contacts with lawyers and law offices. In the annually published statistics of placement success by law schools nationally, Villanova has consistently been among the elite.

During the earlier years, the conduct of alumni affairs had rested almost totally in the hands of Dean Reuschlein. He had been intimately acquainted with the early graduates as students and was not reluctant to conduct telephonic solicitation of them. He took immense pride in the high percentage of gifts he was able to secure from the various classes. He often said that inducing alumni to give to the School of Law might well be the most important of his decanal activities. Dean Reuschlein’s one-on-one style was remarkably effective, until the classes became so large and the graduates so numerous that he could no longer address them by their first names. Simultaneously, the duties of the Dean in an ever-expanding School were becoming more onerous. Despite ever-increasing duties, Dean Reuschlein managed to keep his close contacts with class presidents and alumni giving chairpersons.

Class reunions, their scheduling and the manifold duties connected with
them, ultimately devolved upon an indefatigable and a most loyal alumnus, Professor Walter J. Taggart, '68.

When Dean Reuschlein migrated to San Antonio, the time had arrived for the appointment by Dean O'Brien of a full-time director of a newly created office devoted to the solicitation of funds from alumni and friends of the School of Law and to the organization and supervision of alumni functions. As noted, the first director of the Alumni Office was Robert O. D'Ambrosio, '72, who continued the annual solicitation telethon, using both faculty and student solicitors. Initially, the Alumni office was charged with certain duties in the area of continuing legal education. As the five-year class reunions became more numerous and more county gatherings of law alumni were scheduled and the task of record keeping increased with each graduating class, there was but little time to devote to continuing legal education, and so during the third decade a Director of Special Graduate Programs, in the person of Professor Arnold B. Cohen, was appointed.

The freeing of the faculty from administrative chores was accompanied by a gradual increase in the secretarial staff. From a single pool of three or four secretaries available to the faculty, satellite secretarial offices, conveniently located, were developed. Dean O'Brien introduced the electronics data processing age to the Law School with a special fundraising effort which resulted in the purchase of the Law School's first word processor and a new copier. Very quickly word processors and further additions to the copier equipment became very common at the Law School. The stage was set for the introduction under Dean Murray of personal computers in each faculty office.

With the multiplication of duplicating equipment, the age of paper descended upon the School like a blizzard. As professors needed to spend less time pecking at typewriters and pushing pencils, they sought and secured sabbaticals which facilitated the publication of articles, course books and texts and contributed to their intellectual renewal.

Concurrently with these developments, the economy was facing a raging inflation which did not leave law school tuition unaffected. At Villanova, the basic cost of a legal education (tuition) in 1953 was $400 per year; by 1972, tuition had risen to $1,570 (1989-90 tuition and fees were $11,240 per year). At the same time, the price of law books and the cost of living were shooting skyward.

The initiation, at the urging of Dean O'Brien and Professor Taggart, of Villanova University's participation in the United States government-sponsored work-study program made research assistants available to faculty members. There were, of course, additional benefits accruing from participating in the work-study program.

With faculty relief from many administrative duties, an increase in secretarial assistance, the availability of student research assistants, along with the more frequent occurrence of sabbaticals, the scholars of the faculty began to blossom in print. Professor Valente published *Local Government Law, Cases and Materials* in 1975 (2nd ed. 1980, 3rd ed. 1987); in 1980 he also published *Law in the Schools* (2nd ed. 1986), and in 1985 his two-volume treatise, *Education Law, Public and Private*, appeared. Professor Cohen published his *Debtor-Creditor Relations Under the Bankruptcy Act of 1978* in 1979 (with Supplements in 1981 and 1983), a volume of *Bankruptcy, Secured Transactions and Other Debtor-Creditor Matters* in 1981 (Supplement 1985), *Debtors' and Creditors' Rights* (with Zoretsky) in 1984, and

The 1970s saw the departure of valuable members of the faculty (other than those who died), notably Professors Frankino, McNamara and Walsh. Of the three, only Frankino had teaching experience before coming to Villanova. However, all three proved to be excellent classroom performers with unusual out-of-the-classroom rapport with students. They were open, friendly, energetic, vibrant people with a warm devotion to the School and everything associated with it — a devotion which continued even beyond their respective tenures. Professor Frankino was a major contributor to the transformation of the curriculum from a largely required curriculum to a predominantly elective one. He taught Conflict of Laws, International Law and International Business Transactions. Professor Walsh was a tireless worker, particularly in faculty recruitment. He taught principally in the public law area. Professor McNamara, the typical colorful, personable, witty and outgoing trial lawyer, brought the drama of the courtroom to the Trial Practice program, making it the most popular elective in the curriculum. All three were ambitious men: Frankino and Walsh left to be law school deans (at Creighton and Arkansas, respectively), and McNamara to return, albeit with a feeling of regret that financial considerations compelled his retirement from teaching, to the life of a successful trial practitioner. Their contributions were significant and their presence unforgettable to students privileged to have had contact with them. Their departure was also a deep loss to their colleagues to whom they were always a positive delight.

Three replacements for the departing faculty members arrived during the last year of Dean Reuschlein’s administration. They were John J. Cannon, ’62, who came with impressive governmental and private practice experience in Philadelphia, Arnold B. Cohen, a one-year veteran of the explosive ’60’s at the Berkeley campus of California, and a successful Philadelphia lawyer, John M. Hyson, who arrived with valuable private and governmental practice experience in Boston and Frederick P. Rothman, who had taught for one year at the University of Utah, and whose first inquiry of Villanova during his recruitment interview was as to the size of the law library, thereby characterizing him for what he is, a serious professional.

To these three, Dean O’Brien promptly added Lewis Becker, an experienced practicing lawyer in New York City and Philadelphia; Robert A.J. Barry, the sophisticated Manhattan corporation lawyer, and Leonard Packel, a veteran Pennsylvania trial lawyer, public defender and deputy Attorney General who worked with and then succeeded Professor McNamara as the in-house model of a successful trial lawyer and became the czar of instruction in Evidence and Trial Practice. Here was a solid array of first-class performers, all of whom quickly earned the respect and regard of their colleagues and of Villanova law students.

A major concern of Dean O’Brien was that the increase in the number of women law students was not matched by the presence of women on the faculty. In fact, at this point in time, the faculty was all male, with the notable exception of Professor Jane L. Hammond, ’65, the long-term preeminent law librarian. In fact,
over the years, the library staff was pretty much a women’s preserve, with two notable exceptions. The first of these was Joseph S. Ciesielski, ’69, who served as Professor Hammond’s assistant from 1962 until he received his law degree from Villanova, whereupon he left to head the law library at the University of San Diego. The second male among the books was Frank Yining Liu, who served as Assistant Librarian from 1971 until 1980, when he became the law librarian at Duquesne University.

Charlie R. Harvey was appointed in 1976 to succeed Jane L. Hammond, ’65, who, after 22 years of outstanding service, eight as assistant under Arthur Pulling and fourteen as head librarian, left to accept a comparable post at the Cornell Law School. Fortunately, Professor Hammond continues to serve the School of Law as a member of its Board of Consultants. Charlie Harvey left Villanova in 1981 to serve as law librarian at Rutgers University (Newark). She was succeeded by Alan S. Holoch who served five years as Director of the Law Library and then assumed similar duties at Ohio State. He was succeeded by Elizabeth M. Devlin, ’76 in July, 1987 as Acting Director of the Law Library until the arrival of William James from the directorship of the University of Kentucky Law School Library in 1988.

Dean O’Brien took action to alleviate his concern about the relatively small number of blacks in the student body and the absence of women and minorities among the full-time teaching faculty. Mary Joe Frug was appointed to the faculty in 1975 and served for several years until leaving when her husband, a member of the law faculty at the University of Pennsylvania, accepted appointment to the Harvard Law faculty, whereupon she accepted appointment to the New England School of Law. James H. Manning, Jr., served as the first black member of the full-time faculty from 1976 to 1981, when he became a trial lawyer in the employ of Sun Oil Company.

Women have become an increasingly accepted and important component of the full-time faculty, beginning with the arrival of Jane L. Hammond in 1954 as assistant to Arthur Pulling, and the appointment of Mary Joe Frug. Miss Hammond succeeded Dr. Pulling as Librarian in 1963, thus achieving faculty status. In the fall of 1978, Dolores B. Spina, ’66 joined the full-time faculty after serving as the first woman member of the Board of Consultants. She was particularly active in the Trial Practice and Juvenile Justice programs until leaving the full-time faculty in 1981. She was succeeded by Professor Anne B. Poulin who came from the office of the United States Attorney in Chicago and brought her considerable trial experience to the Trial Practice and Juvenile Justice programs in addition to her courses in Evidence and Criminal Procedure. In 1982, Charisse Lillie, the first full-time black female professor, joined the faculty, leaving in 1984 to enter government service. More recently, the complement of women faculty members has been increased with the appointment of Ellen Wertheimer, Doris Del Tosto Brogan, ’81, Catherine J. Lacotct and Ruth Gordon. The new professors represented an impressive array of experience and background. Professor Wertheimer, after a Third Circuit Judicial Clerkship, was engaged in private practice in Philadelphia; Professor Brogan, after a distinguished academic career at the Law School, was a member of the litigation department of a major law firm; Professors Lactot and Gordon joined the faculty during Dean
Frankino’s deanship. Lanctot had a broad range of litigation experience with the United States Justice Department; and Gordon practiced in New York, specializing in international organizations law.

Another problem giving concern to Dean O’Brien was the fact that School operations were financed almost exclusively out of student tuition, as opposed to the situation at a significant number of law schools where substantial endowments constituted a significant source of funds. Then, too, demographic changes nationwide seemed to indicate possible future problems. There was the observable movement of population to the sun belt with an anticipated shrinkage in the regional pool from which the majority of the School’s students were drawn. This migration forbode shrinking tuition funds in the future, even with tuition increases which might prove to be self-defeating. Compounding the problem was a foreseeable shrinkage in the college-age population as the baby-boom generation following World War II ceased to be baby-boomers.

To deal with these problems, the Dean determined that endowment funds should be aggressively pursued and alumni giving stimulated to the maximum degree. Revenue producing programs might be developed through utilization of the School’s unused facilities, during weekends and vacation periods. Efforts to secure endowment financing were begun but had to be somewhat low-key because at that time the University was in the midst of a major fund drive, its “Covenant Campaign.” Meanwhile, renewed efforts to increase alumni giving were gratifyingly productive. The results indicated an alumni loyalty which compared more than favorably with other law schools nationwide.

The move to more productively use the facilities of the School achieved success to an encouraging extent through the development of programs in continuing legal education and the inauguration of the Graduate Tax Program. Continuing legal education which had originally been assigned to the Alumni Office was split off with the appointment of Professor Arnold Cohen as the Director of Special Graduate Programs. Though Professor Cohen was heavily involved in teaching and in the production of scholarly publications, his efforts were successful. His offerings were well received.

And so the Villanova School of Law moved into its fourth decade with a change of command, continuing vitality and high hopes.