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The Dean's Letter

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THE DEAN'S LETTER

IN A VERY REAL SENSE, the appearance of the first issue of the Villanova Law Review heralds a point of time when the program of the School of Law has come to full flower.

I suppose that all that has gone before may be legitimately termed "news" to the readers of this first issue of the Review. However, I do not propose to chronicle the exciting days attendant upon the establishment of the School nor to detail the carefully calculated steps taken to realize the desire of all responsible for the conduct of the School that a full program be achieved in a minimum period of time. I want, rather, to picture for you the School of Law at Villanova as it now is—after two and one-half years of operation.

We began our third year of operation with a student body of one hundred and nineteen students; sixty-four in the first-year class, twenty-four in the second-year class and thirty-one in the third year. Thirty-eight colleges and universities are represented by residents. Our admission standards have been set at a high level—each applicant must have a bachelor's degree from a recognized college or university, backed by a creditable academic record and must have achieved such a score upon the Law School Admission Test (administered by the Educational Testing Service) as will indicate reasonable prospect of success in the study of law.

The University Administration has been most generous in authorizing a broad program of scholarship assistance, including three fellowships in memory of the late prior-provincial, Father Joseph M. Dougherty, O.S.A. This program has facilitated our effectiveness in competition for the superior law student.

The work of instruction is carried on by a full-time faculty of eight men and several part-time lecturers. They are dedicated, enthusiastic and able men and they bring to the School a well-balanced array of training and experience. You may see their names in the Law School's announcement *supra* p. ix.

The Law School Library during the past twenty-eight months has amassed a collection of over 40,000 volumes. More than half of this number has been the gift by many local friends of the Villanova Law School and by libraries in all sections of the United States. Briefly, the Library contains nearly all of the reports of the various states prior to the National Reporter System, the National Reporter System to date, much Federal and some state administrative law material, excellent periodical holdings and a good start on a statutory collection. A working collection of English Reports, English statutes, and two of the most famous English legal periodicals have been acquired. All in all, it is a remarkable achievement.

I suppose the "big news" is the new home now being erected for the School of Law on the Villanova campus. It will be one of the most modern and adequate law school facilities to be found anywhere, containing, in addition to fine classrooms and library quarters, administrative and faculty offices, quarters for the Law Clubs, the Law Review, the Student Bar Association, the research activities of the School and a beautifully appointed lounge.

Thrilled as we are at the prospect of our beautiful new home, I should like to emphasize the fact that we are not awaiting completion of the new building before rounding out our program. We are now "in high gear." Our full teaching program is in operation, including a generous offering of electives and certain "problem" or "clinical courses."

The students participate in as ambitious a program as can be found anywhere, including participation in the National Moot Court Competition sponsored by the Association of the Bar of the City of New York.

Eight student law clubs have been organized. Every student is a member of one of the clubs. The primary purpose of the clubs is to furnish self-training in briefing and in the trial and argument of moot cases. They also satisfy the need for group study and review, and they promote social activities. They are an effective medium for introducing the beginner to the traditions of law study.

We have initiated a season of Forum programs, designed to bring outstanding members of the profession and representatives of other disciplines to the campus to speak and confer with our students. In addition, the Ethics Round Table designed to deal with specific ethical problems which will confront the lawyer in the practice of his profession and in his role as a leader in the community is conducted for students in the third year. Discussion leaders, in addition to our faculty, are experienced members of the Bench and Bar, clergymen and representatives of other disciplines.

A law school counselling program has been instituted. Each member of the faculty serves as a counsellor to a small group of students. Students are encouraged to consult their counsellors on career planning, curriculum matters, and all other problems that may be associated with the study of law. Closely allied to the counselling service is the Villanova Alumni Committee on Preceptors, headed by Judge Theodore L. Reimel (Villanova '24), which assists us in obtaining preceptors for Pennsylvania students. A Placement Service to assist our seniors upon graduation is now being activated.

We have been keenly aware of our duty to give our students as much in the way of practical training as is possible. In addition to the skills taught in moot courts, a Research Service for Practicing Members of the Bar of Delaware County has been inaugurated, whereby, under a cooperative program, practitioners submit to the School "live" problems for research by students. While the primary beneficiary of the program is the student, collaboration between practitioners and the Law School is also

fruitful to the practitioner. Participating attorneys have found the opportunity to make a contribution to legal education a satisfying experience. It is hoped to extend this service in the near future.

In addition we have a cooperative program with the United States Attorney for this District under way.

Because we have great faith in the organized Bar and because we wish to prepare men who, as lawyers, will enter enthusiastically into the work of the organized Bar, we insisted from the first that the student body of the School of Law govern itself, administering its own honor system in the matter of examinations and in the matter of student conduct generally. The faculty is pleased with the way in which student government has worked in the School of Law. The instrument of self-government is the Villanova Student Bar Association, affiliated with the nationwide American Law Student Association, an affiliate of the American Bar Association. One of our students holds an office in the national association and another is a regional (third circuit) officer.

On the fourth centennial feast of Saint Thomas of Villanova, announcement was made of the foundation of the Institute of Church-State Relations within the School of Law. It is noted that rancor rather than reason has characterized many discussions of church-state relationships in the past. This has been in part due to the lack in our nation of a genuine forum where sincere and knowledgeable men may exchange their honest views in an atmosphere of objectivity. The Institute believes that it can render a distinct service to our country by providing a center to which information and opinion may be brought and weighed by persons who—regardless of religious affiliation—sincerely desire to hear other men's ideas in this area and to achieve reasonable solutions of the problems considered. Thus, the Institute is in no sense devoted to propaganda and will not lend itself as a pressure group to any persons or causes.

I should add that in the founding and administration of the School of Law, we have had the dedicated advice and counsel of a devoted group of lawyers and judges—the Board of Consultors to the School of Law, of which the Honorable Vincent A. Carroll serves as Chairman and Robert J. Callaghan, Esq., serves as Secretary.

And now—we have the Villanova Law Review. It represents a growth in the depth and intensity of our program. Its primary objective is to serve as a worthwhile tool for the better training of the students in the skills of legal research and writing. It must serve to stimulate productive thinking in the purposeful study of problems, particularly current problems in new and expanding fields. We are grateful to all who have made the Review possible, and we predict for it a bright future.

Here, then, is the picture of a law school with its central program of study, teaching and research, with all the auxiliary aids and activities which make law study and teaching rewarding. I believe that never has an American law school accomplished so much in such brief time.

Harold Gill Reuschlein