

XVI. THE 1980s — AND A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

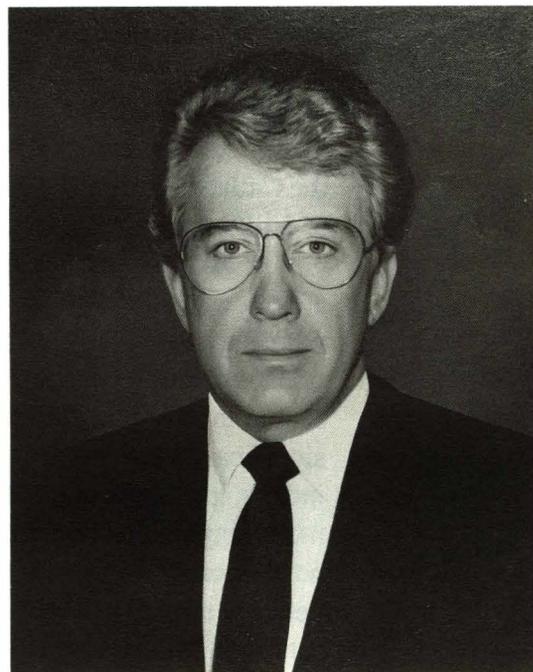
The first decade in the life of the Villanova Law School was a time calling for maximum effort to establish a law school with credentials worthy of professional recognition and respect. The requisite effort was expended and the recognition and respect of the profession was clearly forthcoming.

The second decade was a period calling for adjustment to rapidly changing social conditions. Examples of social change were the influx of women into the legal profession, increasing minority representation in the profession, the growth of generational distrust and social protestations against traditional values dear to the establishment. In addition to making the called for adjustments, there was a need to expand faculty size and physical plant. As the second decade drew to a close, the student body had been enhanced both in quality and increased numbers and the physical plant had been doubled in size.

The third decade in its earlier years was a period of unprecedented student activism, a period when the faculty, like faculties nationwide, campaigned for increased decision making powers, a period of spectacular inflation both in the general economy and in the numbers desiring to enter the Law School. It was a period of building and improving the service areas of law school administration: admissions, financial aid, placement, alumni activities. It was also a time for the inauguration of a graduate tax program and the development of programs in continuing legal education. Greeting the man who was the dean ushering in the fourth decade, was a mature, quality school of law.

In 1984, John E. Murray, Jr., Dean for the preceding seven years of the School of Law of the University of Pittsburgh, arrived on the scene as the third dean of the School of Law. He had been a full-time member of the Villanova faculty for one year under Dean Reuschlein.

Dean Murray served but two years as dean. A tireless professional, he will long be remembered for his superb teaching skills, prolific scholarly output and many beneficial physical modifications. Early on he decided to increase computerization. His first facilitative change was to create a new word processing center and to reorganize the clerical services. The secretaries were supplied with word processors



*John E. Murray, Jr., Villanova professor
1964-1965, Dean 1984-1986.*

and shortly thereafter, each faculty member was supplied with a computer.

Perhaps the most extensive physical modification occurred to the law library. By creating an auxiliary area for infrequently used materials in St. Mary's Hall and by the installation of moveable shelving which permitted the storage of certain materials in appreciably less space, about 6,000 square feet became usable for other library functions. A computerization area was installed in the library. Then, too, the library was refurbished with new carpeting and extensively used study rooms were created in the library area. Quite understandably, Dean Garbarino, '56, served as the indefatigable "construction superintendent."

During this time a most attractive conference room was constructed largely through the generosity of Patrick J. O'Connor, '67, Michael J. Izzo, Jr., '69, Gerard P. Harney, '73, and Robert F. Reeder, '69, senior members of the firm of Cozen and O'Connor. Scholarship funds were increased, especially through the generosity of Harold E. Kohn, a life member of the Board of Consultants, and the generosity of such graduates of the School of Law as Arthur J. Kania, '56, Arthur M. Goldberg, '61, Sandra S. Newman, '72, Mark C. Schultz, '75, and Jonathan H. Ganz, '78. Other significant developments of the Murray era included the creation of a new tenure, promotion and contract renewal policy, the modification of forms for student evaluations of faculty and curricular modifications including a concentration in the development of lawyering skills in which distinguished practitioners participate.

After two brief years, Dean Murray returned to the University of Pittsburgh and now serves as President of Duquesne University.

And so we come to the era of Dean Steven P. Frankino, who had served as a much beloved professor at Villanova from 1965 to 1971. He had served with great distinction as Dean of the School of Law at Creighton University, as a partner in a distinguished Omaha law firm and as Dean of the School of Law at his alma mater, the Catholic University of America. In 1984, he was enthusiastically welcomed back to Villanova.

As one looks at the Law School, it is absolutely clear that it has "arrived." It attracts applicants from prestigious colleges and universities from all over the country with impressive credentials. Its graduates are found in important partnership positions with the major firms in the Philadelphia region, they are impressively represented in New York City, Boston, Washington, D.C., Florida, California and other significant commercial areas. Law School graduates serve as appellate and trial court judges, leading trial practitioners and counselors, Bar Association heads, Congressmen, mayors and district attorneys of major urban areas, legislative leaders, union heads, corporate general counsel and executives. The dream of the founding Dean has become a reality. The next step represents the gleam in the eye of the deans that followed — ascendancy of Villanova Law School to the ranks of the truly great national law schools. This is the challenge for the impressive incumbent faculty and Dean and the subject matter for the next edition of the Law School story.