Dean's Report to the Alumni - 1964

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Dean's Report to Alumni - 1964

In a recent talk to an alumni group Father Vincent T. O'Keefe, S.J., our Rector and President, suggested the dimensions of the modern university. Fordham will not be content to limit the activities of its faculties to the conducting of classes and the pursuit of academic research. This of course has been a primary objective of our educational processes--it is not to be demeaned and can never be sacrificed. However, Father O'Keefe commented upon the continuing trend of the modern university to participate actively in the formation and implementation of the philosophical, technical and cultural life of the nation. The university cannot stand by as an observer but must itself share in the growth processes in those areas in which it has competence. The Law School has already embarked upon such a venture and has made tangible contributions in improving the law and the processes of its administration.

Public Service

This is a period of change in the law, and the faculty of the Law School has been active in effecting the change as well as in interpreting it to the profession. For example, in May 1964 Professors Conway, Kessler and Fogelman presented an institute on the Business Corporation Law which was well received by the alumni and the profession generally. Professors Kessler and Fogelman have delivered papers on the new Corporation Law to upstate County Bar Associations at the invitation of the New York State Bar Association. Professor Kessler had also acted as consultant to the Commission which drafted the new statute.

In cooperation with the Judicial Conference of the State of New York, the Law School presented six weekend training sessions for lay Justices of the Peace in April and November, 1964. This program was administered by Mr. John A. Ronayne and classes are conducted by Professors Freeman, McLaughlin and Perillo. In conjunction with the American Bar Association and the Northwestern University Traffic Institute, the Law School sponsored the Eighth Annual Traffic Court Conference in June, 1964. Traffic Court judges, district attorneys and court personnel throughout the United States attended these sessions.

Associate Professor Joseph McLaughlin has continued to lecture throughout the State to various Bar Associations on the new Civil Practice Law and Rules and, with the publication of his new casebook, is acknowledged as an expert in the field. Assistant Professors Malachy Mahon and Thomas Quinn, S.J. have lectured before various bar groups on the new Commercial Code. The Law School will sponsor an
institute next spring on this subject under their capable direction. During the year, Professor Calamari continued to act as a consultant for the Temporary Commission on Estates. Professors Kessler, Rice and Perillo have acted as consultants for the New York State Law Revision Commission; Professor Leonard Manning as the Constitutional Law consultant for the Citizens' Committee on Reapportionment.

Your dean, in addition to serving as Chairman of the Citizens' Committee on Reapportionment and as a member of the Law Revision Commission, was afforded the privilege of addressing the Insurance Section of the American Bar Association, the Law Reform Committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York and was a panelist at Villanova Law School's Annual Conference on Pre-Legal Education as well as the Insurance Section of the Association of the Bar.

The attractive facilities of the Law School have been made available to a variety of professional agencies charged with the responsibility of improving the law. In addition to the symposium mentioned, the Law School has hosted the meetings of the Law Revision Commission of the State of New York and the Citizens' Committee on Reapportionment. On December 4th an actual arbitration under the auspices of the National Mediation Board was conducted in the Moot Courtroom of the Law School. Students were invited to witness at this time the trial of an important jurisdictional question. In short, the Law School has become a recognized center not only for the education of lawyers but a laboratory as well for the improvement of the law.

With the active involvement of the faculty in the enactment of legislation and its interpretation, the Law School has made a measurable contribution to Father O'Keefe's concept of the expanding role of the university in public affairs. The attractive facilities of the Law School have, in the course of these activities, become known and appreciated by leaders of the bench and bar, legislators and legal educators from other institutions. The total effect, we are confident, will enhance the reputation of the school.

Faculty

In addition to the activities which have been mentioned, the law school faculty publication record has been impressive. The bulk of publication has been at an all-time high. Professor Charles Rice was the author of a book "The Supreme Court and Public Prayer" which was published by the Fordham University Press. Professor Rice also had articles published in the Missouri Law Review, American Bar Association Journal and the Catholic Lawyer. Associate Professor Joseph McLaughlin is the author of a new casebook on the New York Civil Practice Law and Rules which has already been adopted by a majority of the law schools in this State. He has also published articles in the Syracuse Law Review, New York Law Journal, the Nassau Bar Journal, the Supplementary Practice Commentaries for McKinney's Annotated Statutes. Other faculty articles published during the year included: Professor Joseph Crowley -
We regret to advise that the Cameron Professor of Law, Dr. Thomas J. Snee, who had been on a leave of absence, has resigned from the faculty and is presently a seminarian at St. Joseph's Seminary in Dunwoodie, New York. His interest in the law school remains unabated and we welcome his occasional visits and frequent prayers for the welfare of our school.

Faculty Additions

We are pleased to report that our faculty has been strengthened by the addition of three new members. Joining the full-time faculty is Associate Professor Edward F. C. McGonagle, A.B. Princeton, M.A. Yale University, LL.B. Boston College Law School, LL.M. Harvard Law School. Professor McGonagle had taught at Duquesne University Law School for several years before joining our faculty. He is teaching Trusts and Agency.

Assistant Professor Constantine N. Katsoris, B.S. Fordham, LL.B. "cum laude" Fordham Law School, LL.M. New York University Law School. Professor Katsoris was a former editor-in-chief of the Fordham Law Review and president of the Fordham Law Review Association. He was associated with the firm of Cahill, Gordon, Reindel & Ohl before joining the faculty. He is teaching Taxation, Estate Planning and Wills.

Joining the part-time faculty, replacing Professor James Hession, is Adjunct Assistant Professor H. Curtis Meanor, B.A. Rutgers, LL.B. Rutgers Law School. Professor Meanor is a former secretary to Governor Meyner of New Jersey and is an active appellate lawyer in that State. He is teaching New Jersey Practice here.

Admissions

Applications for admission to the law school continue to increase. In 1961, which was our first year at Lincoln Square, we received a total of 632 applications; in 1962--789; in 1963--1036 and this year we reached a high of 1293 written applications. The Committee on Admissions accepted 517 candidates and 338 students accepted Fordham Law School. Although the Committee denied a greater percentage of applicants and accepted a lower percentage than in any previous year, we were still able to increase our school population from the 673 in 1961 to a present peak
of 823. We are delighted to report that a good number of sons and daughters of alumni are represented in the entering class which represents the graduates of some 89 different colleges and universities.

Although we have increased our numbers we have been able to raise the scholastic average of our entering class. The average law school aptitude test score of the new class is 561 which is the best in our history. The law school ranked eighth in the nation this year in popularity according to the Educational Testing Service which administers the LSAT and records student preferences.

Moot Court

The Moot Court program continues to expand. For the second year a compulsory first year day school moot court program was completed. In the voluntary appellate moot court program for upper classmen some 64 students participated. The final prize argument was conducted before a panel composed of Judge Irving R. Kaufman, United States Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, Judge Jacob Mishler, United States District Court for the Eastern District and Judge Thomas F. Croake, United States District Court, Southern District of New York. Some 72 students participated in the trial moot court program as attorneys. First year students acted as witnesses, jurors or bailiffs. We are indebted to some sixty practicing attorneys and members of the state and federal judiciary who sat as judges in these trials.

We are pleased to report that our moot court team consisting of Edmond A. Kavounas, Jr., Brian J. Griffin and Seth D. Blumenfeld succeeded in winning the Whitney North Seymour Bowl emblematic of the New York regional championship. The team defeated New York University, New York Law School and Columbia Law School and as this letter goes to press, will represent the New York area in the national competition. This is the third victory in five years for our moot court team in competition with the other five local law schools.

Law Library

The collection of the law library has increased from the 76,000 volumes reported last year to 85,000 volumes. Our micro-card collection now includes the record on appeal for the New York Court of Appeals cases for the Second Series as well as records and briefs filed in the United States Supreme Court. With the cooperation of the University, we were able to convert the unoccupied space in the ground floor into a well furnished supplementary reading room seating 150 students. This room not only permits some relief of the crowding of the main room of the library but also permits students to brief cases in a more relaxed atmosphere. Conversation and smoking are permitted in this room. The alumni are cordially invited to use the facilities of the law library.
Placement

There are still many fine students in the senior year of the law school who will be available for placement upon graduation in June, 1965. Mr. John A. Ronayne, the Administrative Assistant to the Dean is in charge of placement and we request that you call him at LT 1-3200 in the event that you have any employment opportunities in your own office or are aware of openings with other attorneys. Mr. Ronayne has résumés for most of the senior students and will be pleased to forward copies to any alumni who may be seeking assistants. We are also being called by numerous firms and corporations who seek experienced professional assistance. Any alumnus who may be interested in making an employment change should advise Mr. Ronayne.

Conclusion

We again express our gratitude to the Alumni Association for this opportunity to report on the progress of the school during 1964. We are particularly grateful to the Alumni Scholarship Fund which has made it possible for the awarding of three full scholarships to students now attending the school. The Louis Stein Foundation has further made a generous grant to the law school for student loans which has permitted us to assist several needy students. The American Bar Association Foundation has made available to the law school the sum of $65,000 for student loans commencing on January 1, 1965. If we are to continue to attract top-flight college seniors we must have additional scholarship assistance. On behalf of the faculty and students I thank Judge William C. Hecht, President of our Association as well as the Board of Directors which has cooperated fully with the school. We are anxious to continue the tradition of fine legal education at Fordham and will welcome your comments and suggestions.

The faculty, students and staff of the Law School join with me in wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

William Hughes Mulligan
Dean