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Citation: 49 Fordham L. Rev. xlii 1980-1981

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Mon Mar 5 12:23:21 2012

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EVENING CLASSES AT FORDHAM LAW SCHOOL: 1922-1925

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IN January 1921, I graduated from the High School of Commerce in New York City. Since an applicant had to be eighteen years of age to enter law school, I had to wait a year and a half to begin my attendance at Fordham Law School evening classes in September of 1922. In the meantime, I worked as an assistant bookkeeper.

While attending Fordham, I had a full-time job as a law clerk in a law office at 15 Park Row, at a weekly salary of five dollars. The hours in the evening class at that time were from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., after which I grabbed a hasty supper at the Horn & Hardart Restaurant, just across the street from the Woolworth Building in which the Law School was then located. After finishing my meager fare, which usually consisted of a sandwich or a vegetable plate and coffee, I acted as a process server, serving summonses and subpoenas for one dollar apiece. I often had to make hour-long trips to effect service, not knowing whether the defendant or witness would be at home. Many times, no one was home. No service meant no earnings and lost time. The time for performing my law school assignments on weeknights was limited to the hours between 11:30 p.m. and about 2:00 a.m.; only part of my time on Saturdays and Sundays was available for studying because in those days, law offices were open on Saturdays.

During my first year as a law clerk, I informed my employers that I could take dictation and type, having had both these subjects in high school. They agreed that not only would I perform the duties of a law clerk, but I would fill-in as a stenographer/typist. For this double duty my salary was increased to eight dollars per week. I worked in that law office for the three years that I was at Fordham Law School.

During my attendance at the Law School, the tuition was \$150 during the first year and \$180 in the third year. I received an excellent education at Fordham and also had many wonderful colleagues, some of whom I still see from time to time. I was extremely fortunate to have, among others, the following members of the faculty as professors: John T. Loughran, who later served as the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, I. Maurice Wormser, Editor of the New York Law Journal, Dean Ignatius M. Wilkinson, John A. Blake, Member of the Board of Law Examiners, Joseph F. Crater, Francis X. Carmody, well-known author of *Practice and Procedure*, and Henry M.J. Man-

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nix. With all due respect to faculties at other law schools, both past and present, it would be very difficult to find a teaching staff that could compare with the faculty that I was honored to have.

Unfortunately, a student who attended school in the evening had very little time for student or school activities. When that student worked during the day, attended school in the evening, and then went out to serve summonses afterwards, he barely had time to prepare the next day's assignments before collapsing into bed. I was, however, able to participate in one extracurricular function. My evening class organized a club called the "Tortfeasors" and its President was Charles E. Murphy, who later became a Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department. Professor Loughran was the Honorary President of the Club and attended the club dinners as did other members of the faculty. The dinners were continued for many years after graduation in 1925. As the years went by, each dinner would end earlier than the year before. We were getting older and retirement hour grew earlier.

My interest in Fordham Law School has never ceased. I have always attended the annual anniversary luncheons and other functions, and enjoy meeting new faculty and recent graduates. My association with Fordham now goes back almost sixty years. I shall always cherish the association and value the start which the Law School gave to me.