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A QUALIFIED FAREWELL TO KEN BROUN

WALKER J. BLAKEY†

On January 1, 1988, Kenneth S. Broun stepped down after eight and a half years as Dean of the School of Law at the University of North Carolina and began a two-year leave of absence from his duties as a member of the Law School faculty to return to private practice as a trial lawyer. It is, therefore, an appropriate time to say something about the contributions that Ken Broun has made to the Law School, to the legal profession, and to the wider community that both the Law School and the profession serve. However, I want to make it clear to any reader of these words, and especially to Ken Broun, that this is not a final statement of what Ken has done for all of us. We intend to get a great deal more work out of him in the years to come.

It must be admitted that Ken has already given us eight and a half years of extraordinary leadership. During his deanship the Law School has grown both in national stature and in service to our students and the State. We have made real progress in many different areas: scholarship, placement, fundraising, administration, library services, clinical legal education for our students, and continuing legal education for the bar. We have even made substantial improvements in the ways we use our too limited space. Throughout this period Ken did more than his share of the work and planning. His most difficult task as Dean, however, was guiding the faculty to decisions about what its goals were and how they were to be realized. He obviously was successful.

After all the planning and work that Ken has contributed to the Law School community, he deserves a reward. There are many people who would not regard two years of trial practice as a "reward," but Ken is going to enjoy what he is doing. There is, however, another reason why it is appropriate for Ken to spend his leave working as a trial lawyer. That work relates to his own work as an evidence scholar and a pioneer of new kinds of legal education, such as the programs conducted by the National Institute for Trial Advocacy. Ken has managed, despite the demands of a deanship, to keep up his work as a co-author of the *McCormick* hornbook and the *Broun and Messenholder* evidence text (and even to write his part of the *Broun and Blakey* evidence "Blackletter"). In the next two years he will have the opportunity to carefully reexamine the problems of present-day litigation, which surely will make him an even better scholar and teacher.

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