

# STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION

OF

## THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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## The Law School

*“To secure the services of legal gentlemen of competent talent who may be willing to give their services free of charge, and by their aid establish a course of lecture on law to be given in the course of the ensuing year.”*

In this humble resolution introduced by Peter Clark, member of the board of trustees of The Ohio State University, the necessity for a legal addition to the educational facilities of the university was first officially recognized. But unofficial agitation for a law school had started as far back as 1881 in the appointment of a committee by the Ohio State Bar Association to inquire into the possibility of establishing some such institution. The failure of such committee to report favorably did not deter a group of university alumni from meeting voluntarily in the Franklin county courthouse to listen to such experienced barristers lecture as they could obtain. Even with the interest thus expressed, the fact that the university had been established to promote agriculture and the mechanical arts placed a large obstacle in the way of any official sanction, so it was a surprise when, in June, 1885, the board of trustees approved Peter Clark's resolution. Progress was not as rapid

as may have been expected and a law school, as a part of the university, was not formally opened until October 1, 1891.

The school was first located in the Franklin county courthouse. Its faculty was recruited from the bench and bar, with the Hon. Marshall J. Williams as dean, and H. J. Wilgus, faculty secretary. Thirty-three students had enough faith in a legal future to enroll. Before the end of the scholastic year, the newly created school could boast of 66 students. From this inauspicious inception the school grew through the natural process of evolution. In September, 1894, it assumed its position on the campus, being placed successively in Hayes Hall, Orton Hall, and finally in the spot it now occupies, Page Hall. The last mentioned building was constructed at a cost of \$110,962.65 and was dedicated June 23, 1903. The student body petitioned the university trustees to name the structure after William F. Hunter, its second dean, but the trustees refused to name the building after a living person, instead, entitling it Page Hall, in honor of Henry F. Page, a prominent Ohio attorney who had left his estate to the university.

The law school contains a splendid library of 33,000 volumes, representing an increase from its original 1500 volumes, a gift from Elizabeth Noble. A later gift of \$3000 by Emerson McMillin helped add to the library and constant additions have been made by the school itself.

The original scheme had been for the school to be self supporting. Because of this, the faculty was composed of leading practitioners in the vicinity of Columbus. As the school grew, it became necessary to its proper functioning that a full time faculty be obtained. As the legislature and trustees awoke to this fact, appropriations were made, salaries fixed, a dean appointed whose sole task was administrative, and professors were hired. At the present time, ten out of the eleven faculty members confine their activities solely to teaching.

The rapid growth of the school in a short 43 years may be attributed to the genuine interest and splendid leadership of its faculty and deans. Such men as Wm. F. Hunter, George W. Kincaid, Billy Page, John Jay Adams, and our present dean, Herschel Arant, have contributed untiringly to its "good and welfare." Through their efforts the curriculum has expanded and broadened, no attempt being made to confine students to Ohio rules and precedents. The school has kept

abreast of the latest trends in legal education. Individual initiative and research have been encouraged, seminar courses have been established, and the faculty and student body knit more closely together. The student body is as select a group as possible, and student organizations have been encouraged. Student self government became a reality with the organization of a Student Bar Association in 1933. Thus sound leadership and a stimulating student cooperation have combined to create a worthwhile school of law at Ohio State University, one which will in the future, as in the past, perform adequately a necessary service.

LAWRENCE H. WILLIAMS

## The Student Bar

It was a little over a year ago that there was the first rumbling of the Student Bar Association. The Seniors had staged their famous Funeral March of Campus Politics. These potential lawyers, whose forebears once had successfully elected Maudine Ormsby, the bovine pride of Ag Alley, as the queen of Homecoming, now dolefully carried the campus political bier up the Long Walk and into the waiting hearse. And behind the mourners marched Johnny Walker et al. dragging the Page Hall Homecoming contribution—the Queen of Sheeps.

It may be that there is no connection between this vaudeville exhibition and the Bar Association. It sounds a trifle queer on the surface to even suggest it. But many feel that this performance did much to unite the Seniors as a class. And once they had proved to themselves that they could carry through a project, they were ready to tackle something else—a bit more serious perhaps. Fortunately for the Law School, Stan Wilder's idea of the Student Bar Association happened along at this time. Stan had gone to Duke University the year before and had seen their association in successful operation. He mentioned it to some of his friends. The talk spread. Carl Tucker, Senior Class president, conferred with Dean Arant about its possibilities. He was immediately enthused. A meet-