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# LOYOLA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW—CHICAGO

VINCENT F. VITULLO\*

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW owes its origin and its continued existence to a need strongly felt in the legal community for a law school of the highest excellence conducted in the Jesuit tradition. In September, 1908, the new Law School welcomed its first group of thirty students. Until the Loyola University Charter was issued in 1909, the Law School, which with old St. Ignatius College first constituted the new University, was called The Lincoln College of Law. Because some of the original students had entered with advanced standing, the first graduates of the new School received their law degrees in 1910.

The year 1921 was a milestone in the history of the Law School. In that year a full-time day division was established with a three-year course of study, the evening division course was expanded to four years; and women were admitted to both divisions. By 1924, the full-time faculty had been increased from one to three; the library had been greatly enlarged; and the admission standards had been increased to require entering students to have completed two years of college work.

Thereupon, in December of 1924, the Law School was admitted to membership in the Association of American Law Schools, and, in March of 1925, the American Bar Association placed Loyola on its list of approved law schools.

During the 1930's, the Moot Court competition was developed in the School. A series of preliminary trials culminating in a final appellate competition provided the participants with excellent training in research and in brief-writing as well as in oral argument. The victorious intra-

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school team then entered a state-wide appellate competition sponsored by the Illinois State Bar Association. In the post-war era, this state-wide competition has been replaced by a regional and national appel-



*Dean John C. Hayes*

late competition, in which the Law School has, on several occasions, reached the national finals in New York City.

Admirably expressive of the spirit of the Law School and of its alumni and student body is the original statue of St. Thomas More, executed by the prominent Chicago sculptress, Patricia K. Watters, and located in a commanding position in the law library. In 1949, inspired by the dignity of their chosen profession, by the lofty ideals of this great saint of the common law, and by their gratitude to the Law School for providing them with excellence in their legal education, the Student Bar Association presented the "Loyola More" to the Law School.

In 1959, Dean Fitzgerald was drafted by the Illinois Supreme Court to act as the first Deputy Court Administrator for Cook

County, Illinois. When in 1961 the Illinois Supreme Court asked Dean Fitzgerald to remain in his post of Deputy Court Administrator indefinitely, Professor John C. Hayes, who had been serving as acting Dean since 1959, was appointed as Dean Fitzgerald's successor.

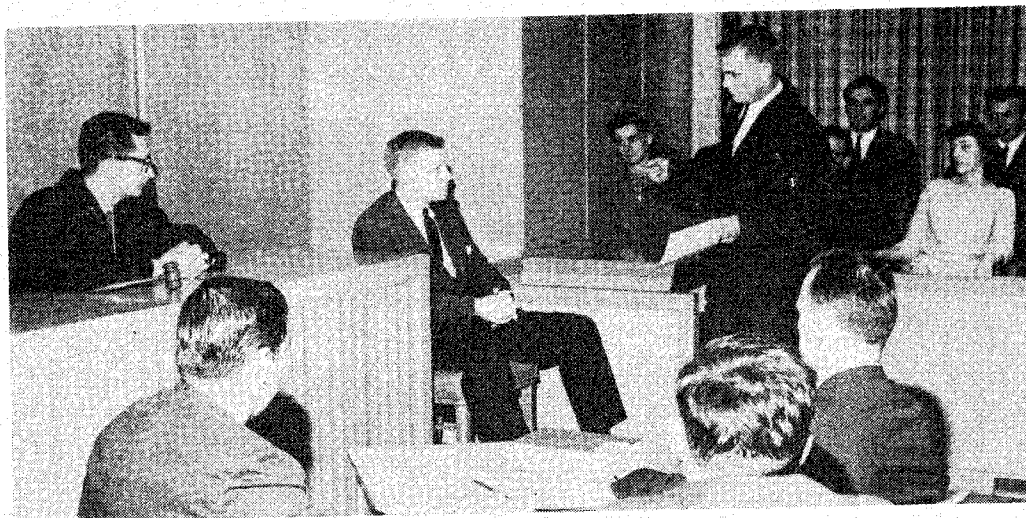
The post-war progress of the Law School has been most gratifying. Student numbers have kept pace with the national average. While a third year of college work has been made an Association admission requirement, the fact is that three of four Loyola Law applicants already have their Bachelor degrees.

The Loyola Law School Building is a modern, functional facility housing all of the essentials of a professional legal education. The law library, now containing over 40,000 volumes complemented by micro-card equipment, is handsomely housed on the third floor of the building. Over half the collection is immediately available in the main reading room; the remainder is conveniently located in adjoining rooms on the same floor. In addition to several spacious classrooms, the Law School building contains seminar rooms, individual faculty offices, an auditorium, a student lounge, and the Thomas D. Nash Courtroom, which provides the proper setting for moot court arguments and mock trials.

In addition to the national appellate competition already described, other notable current student activities include the preparation of the case comments published in the "Recent Decisions" section of the *Illinois Bar Journal*; excellent experience in pre-trial, motion, and trial practice in a "litigation clinic," culminating annually in a full day's mock trial; the development of the Student Bar Association, to

which has been entrusted a great measure of control of student interests and activities; and the institution of a Legal Writing course in the first year to serve as the base for the more advanced appellate brief-writing and current case comments. The most recent addition to the program of student activities is the publication of *The Loyola Law Times*, a new venture in legal journalism. The fact that *The Loyola Law Times* was conceived, organized, published, and written entirely by student initiative is a matter of satisfaction to the faculty and alumni of the Law School.

The combination of effective and progressive standards of admission, of instruction, and of examination has produced some 1700 competitively able practitioners of the highest ethical standing, who are also signally devoted alumni presently instituting an annual giving program for the continued development of their Law School. These alumni are the best evidence that the Law School has in the past achieved, and is now achieving, its purpose of providing a competitively advantageous legal education in the traditions of Loyola University.



*Moot Court Trial in Thomas D. Nash Courtroom*

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