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## Dean William C. Warren

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## DEAN WILLIAM C. WARREN

It would be virtually impossible, even if I were to preempt this entire issue of the *Columbia Law Review* for the purpose, to document fully the monumental contributions William C. Warren made to the Law School during the seventeen years of his deanship. I can hope only to touch lightly upon them, leaving the reader to admire the foresight, the energy, the generosity of spirit, and the long hours of dedicated effort which enabled him to accomplish so much.

When Bill Warren assumed leadership of the Law School in 1953, it was housed in a building which had long stunted its growth, and its faculty faced decimation by the imminent retirement of many of its most distinguished members. With tuition and living costs rising, he found a meager \$10,000 a year available for scholarships. Columbia was in grave danger of becoming a law school for the very rich. There was no development program and alumni relations bordered on the non-existent.

Bill Warren attacked all these problems simultaneously, with the vigor and commitment we have learned to expect of him. Teacher-scholars of national reputation and younger men of great promise were attracted to replace those who retired, and he began to develop the financial resources which were the condition precedent to the accomplishment of his other objectives.

Today, as a consequence of Bill's wise planning and strenuous efforts, the student body has grown to a thousand, about half of whom are receiving financial aid from the Law School. The development program and the generosity of alumni and friends enable us to admit students from every economic level, giving effect to Bill's conviction that the path to the law at Columbia should not be open only to the affluent. Our students routinely represent most of the States of the Union and many countries of the world; their experience and education are almost unbelievably diverse.

The increased size and diversity of the student body, as well as the accompanying expansion of the Faculty and enrichment of the curriculum, were facilitated by the acquisition of a splendid new Law School building. The handsome structure is a literal monument to Bill's tenacity and vision, for he raised, almost single-handedly, the funds required to construct and equip it.

Bill Warren's conception of the Law School went far beyond bricks and mortar. In curricular affairs, he encouraged the development of new courses, seminars, and instructional methods. No member of the Law Faculty was constricted by insistence upon traditionalism. On the contrary, all were stimulated to reappraise what had already been done and, when desirable, to innovate. To mention just a few of the major changes in the Law School's

educational program during his tenure, we have four law journals where once there was only one; we have small group instruction in our regular class offerings instead of only in seminars; and we are engaged in a major experiment in clinical instruction. Bill's receptivity to new ideas did not mean that he would leap on every passing bandwagon. A proposal that offered real promise of making a substantial contribution to legal education would be welcomed; the gimmicky, the faddist, the distracting—these would be firmly discouraged.

Bill's concern for the professional quality of the Columbia Law School was matched by his commitment to personal and human values. Under his leadership, the Columbia Law Faculty has been a superbly effective partnership, free of backbiting, free of cliquishness, free of the professional jealousies that so often infect academic communities. Issues are addressed on their merits, not in terms of their supporters. And Bill Warren is entitled to a major share of the credit for this extraordinary esprit.

Alumni relations too have been marked by affection and regard, not simply by pleas for support. As I have followed in Bill's footsteps to class reunions, the annual Columbia Law Symposium, and similar events, I have been struck repeatedly by the satisfaction alumni take in them. They take pride in strengthening ties to their school, pleasure in renewing friendships with their contemporaries.

Despite the many and intense pressures which have beset him during his long tenure, Bill has borne all his administrative burdens with dignity, honor, and goodwill. It is no wonder that the Trustees of Columbia University have named him Dean Emeritus, that the Alumni Association has bestowed its Medal for Excellence upon him, and that the Faculty of Law unanimously proclaimed its "deepest gratitude" to him and expressed its warm wish that he "remain our colleague during the remainder of his academic career."

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