

Winter 2000

A Tribute to William Burnett Harvey

Harry Pratter
Indiana University Law School

Douglass Boshkoff
Indiana University Law School

Roger B. Dworkin
Indiana University Law School

William D. Popkin
Indiana University Law School

Julius G. Getman
University of Texas at Austin School of Law

Follow this and additional works at: <http://www.repository.law.indiana.edu/harvey>

 Part of the [Legal Biography Commons](#), [Legal Education Commons](#), and the [Legal Profession Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

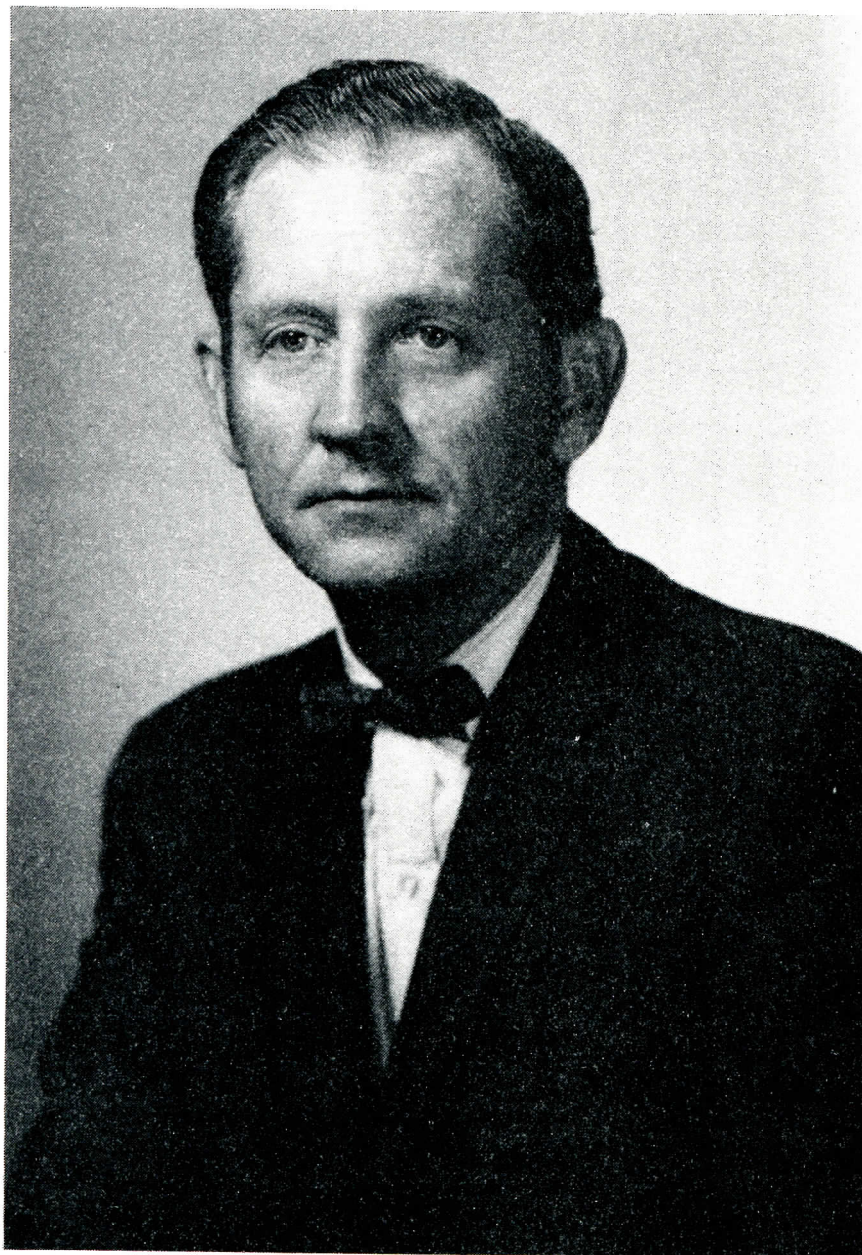
Pratter, Harry; Boshkoff, Douglass; Dworkin, Roger B.; Popkin, William D.; and Getman, Julius G., "A Tribute to William Burnett Harvey" (2000). *William Harvey (1966-1971)*. Paper 32.
<http://www.repository.law.indiana.edu/harvey/32>

This Writing about Dean William Harvey is brought to you for free and open access by the Law School Deans at Digital Repository @ Maurer Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in William Harvey (1966-1971) by an authorized administrator of Digital Repository @ Maurer Law. For more information, please contact wattn@indiana.edu.



JEROME HALL LAW LIBRARY

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Maurer School of Law
Bloomington



W. Burnett Harvey
Dean, 1966 - 1971

A Tribute to William Burnett Harvey

The Board of Editors, in recognition of his lasting contributions as Dean of the Law School, hereby dedicates Volume 75 of the *Indiana Law Journal* to the memory of William Burnett Harvey.

IN TRIBUTE

HARRY PRATTER*

Burnett Harvey was a man who made a difference.

In the Bloomington Faculty Council his incisive remarks, delivered in an impressive voice, made him an important participant in that body's deliberations. When student protests hit this campus, he was seen as one who understood the nature of their disaffection and alienation—the opposition to the Vietnam War and their anti-establishment view of the University.

For the Law School he was a dedicated leader. As Dean, he encouraged and supported the faculty and imbued them with a vision of all that the School and they could be.

He taught a wide variety of subjects. Most exotic were courses that drew on his experience in Africa. His scholarly writings, always couched in a felicitous style, were most distinctive when he addressed the problems facing Ghana. His innovative casebook in contracts (co-authored with John Dawson and later with Stanley Henderson) was a rich teaching resource.

Most memorable to me was the warmth of his friendship. He and his wife Lou were gracious hosts, lively and fun to be with. A visit to their farm home in Vermont was an opportunity to enjoy the countryside and engage in good talk. Burnett was a fascinating raconteur, especially when he talked about his time in Africa and his relationship with Conor Cruise O'Brien.

In short, Burnett Harvey was a mensch.

MY RECOLLECTION OF BURNETT HARVEY

DOUGLASS G. BOSHKOFF**

Burnett Harvey had many good qualities. Pictures of him often show a rather

* Professor Emeritus, Indiana University School of Law—Bloomington.

**Robert H. McKinney Professor of Law Emeritus, Indiana University School of Law—Bloomington.

reserved, formal person, one who appears to be hard to approach. Nothing could be further from the truth. Burnett was an extraordinarily warm and compassionate person who valued and respected the work of all members of the Law School community. A member of the secretarial staff once told me that he was the first person who made her feel that what she was doing was important.

Burnett resigned as Dean in the fall of 1970, while on leave in Africa. Then he returned to Bloomington for the balance of that academic year. During this period, I was serving as Acting Dean. Although he did not agree with everything I was doing, he gave me his unconditional and complete support. Not once did he embarrass me with public criticism or disapproval. He was too kind for that and I have always been grateful for his restraint.

Burnett left Indiana University almost thirty years ago. We kept in touch and saw each other occasionally. Indeed, we were in active correspondence shortly before his death. He was a class act and I shall miss him.

“BUT SINCE THEY GOT BURNETT HARVEY”

ROGER B. DWORKIN***

What a wonderful way to begin a career in legal education—having Burnett Harvey as my Dean!

When I went onto the teaching market in late 1967, I was blessed to have the guidance of two wonderful mentors, the late Herbert L. Packer and Indiana’s distinguished alumnus, J. Keith Mann. Herb and Keith helped me get interviews and then offered advice about how to proceed. When the field of available choices had narrowed, they both proffered the same advice: Go to Indiana. Keith Mann put it most memorably, telling me, “Indiana has always been a good law school, *but since they got Burnett Harvey*”

Keith’s meaning was plain, and he was right. Burnett Harvey brought the Indiana University School of Law in Bloomington a new spirit of excitement, enthusiasm, and shared intellectual enterprise. Something good was going on here, and we were all in it together. The force of Burnett’s intellect plus the gentle way that he brought us newcomers along created an esprit de corps that saw us through difficult times as well as good ones. Burnett did not do well in the role of subordinate, but he was a fantastic person to work for. He got my career off to a good start, and I shall remain forever grateful to him for teaching me the values of the academy—intellectual integrity, hard work, and commitment to one’s students and to the life of the mind. Our Law School and the world of legal education lost a great man when we lost Burnett Harvey.

***Robert A. Lucas Professor of Law, Indiana University School of Law—Bloomington; Nelson Poynter Scholar and Director of Medical Studies, The Poynter Center for the Study of Ethics and American Institutions, Indiana University.

IN TRIBUTE

WILLIAM D. POPKIN****

I remember Burnett Harvey best for his determination that Indiana University School of Law be the best law school—period. His ambition rubbed off on everyone around him. For a younger faculty member like myself, there was simply no question about how hard you would work to bring credit to the School. You taught and wrote your best, not only because that was the professional thing to do, or because of personal goals, but also because the Dean expected no less of you.

Burnett's style was quiet. He led by example and his teaching and scholarship set a standard that we all wanted to emulate. But there was more. He was also an eminently gracious man and friend. I did not come to the School a coffee drinker but coffee hour with the Dean was not to be missed. Through this informal gathering, Burnett brought colleagues together for conversation and helped to forge bonds that long survived his leaving the School.

IN TRIBUTE

JULIUS G. GETMAN*****

When Val Nolan, the able head of our dean search committee, announced that William B. Harvey had agreed to be our Dean, a sense of excitement and anticipation ran through the faculty offices. The young people—Doug Boshkoff, myself, Ed Kitch—were particularly delighted. We anticipated that Harvey's deanship would invigorate the School, help us to focus our teaching, improve our scholarship, and recruit able young colleagues. Almost everything we anticipated came true and more. It was a period of growth, change, and self-discovery for us and for the School. We added people who we knew would be fine scholars; the likes of Ed Sherman, Bill Popkin, Joe Broadley, Buzz Arnold, Maury Holland, and Dan Tarlock; innovative teachers who stirred our students, like Roger Dworkin and Pat Baude. Together with our distinguished senior colleagues, like Harry Pratter and Ralph Fuchs, we reveled in being part of a dynamic and enjoyable academic community, a place where innovation was valued and mistakes forgiven. When I visited at the University of Chicago law school in 1970, great though the school was, I was eager to return to Bloomington to help the process of change. Over the next few years, the School improved in teaching, scholarship, and reputation. None of this could have happened without Dean Harvey, who never lost the central vision of developing a community of scholars and teachers that would make an already fine school even better. The

****Walter W. Foskett Professor of Law, Indiana University School of Law—Bloomington.

*****Earl E. Sheffield Regents Chair in Law, University of Texas at Austin School of Law.

process that he set in motion continues till this day.

On a more personal note, I found him to be a fine colleague, a devoted mentor, and a leader who encouraged me to take scholarly chances. I'm sure that all of us who were on the faculty during the days of his deanship look back fondly on those days.