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Dean Leon H. Wallace

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United States Supreme Court

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The Indiana Law Journal is pleased to dedicate this issue to Leon H. Wallace, who retired as Dean of the Indiana University School of Law in July of 1966. Mr. Wallace, a distinguished lawyer, scholar, and dean, will remain on the faculty as Charles McGuffey Hepburn Professor of Law.

DEAN LEON H. WALLACE

It gives me great pleasure to join with the *Indiana Law Journal* in honoring my old friend Dean Leon H. Wallace on his retirement after fifteen years as Dean of the Law School at Indiana. It is most fitting that the *Journal* dedicate this issue to Dean Wallace, whose legal work has contributed so much to the development of the law during the last quarter of a century. It is most pleasing to recall our long association together as fraternity brothers (Delta Tau Delta and Order of the Coif) and as co-workers in the Seventh Federal Circuit Bar where I serve as Circuit Justice.

In these years of observance of him and his work, both on and off the campus, I have found that he has not let his learning—of which he has an abundance—lead him astray from the practicalities of life. He is not one to go about displaying his knowledge; he studies to learn, to digest and to master the law, not to use it as “show-off.” Recognized as a great teacher of the law, he knows that his courses do not add up to an education but merely are a means to attain it. He is well aware that while the law is a learned profession it is also an intensely practical one. It is this basic philosophy that enables him to turn out so many students that have done so much for the law profession. Their names are legion and they will continue for years and years to display these basic qualities of their “old” teacher.

Retirement does not mean that either the law school, the profession or the Bar will lose the helping hand of Dean Wallace. In the law he continues to be as young as his ideas, as beloved as his tradition. We wish him a happy and satisfying retirement from administration during which he continues to devote his great abilities, deep wisdom and high spirit to the continued development of the living law.

TOM C. CLARK†

† Associate Justice, United States Supreme Court.

On the occasion of the retirement of Dean Leon Wallace as Dean of the Indiana University School of Law, I am happy to pay a personal tribute to this distinguished lawyer and legal scholar. I have always held Dean Wallace in the highest personal esteem. He has performed an outstanding service for our Indiana University School of Law. He has been a lawyer of the highest order and a teacher and scholar of unusual attainment. The consoling factor in the retirement of Dean Wallace is that he will continue as a member of our faculty and will occupy the Hepburn Chair in the years to come. Indiana University, the Indiana Bar and the Indiana University School of Law have been immeasurably strengthened by the service of Leon Wallace to our state and University since his admission to the Bar in 1933.

JOHN S. HASTINGS†

By the bench marks which measure the accomplishments of deans of law schools, Leon H. Wallace has achieved uncommon success. Dean Wallace, who has been a member of the Indiana University Law School faculty since 1945, was appointed in 1952 to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Bernard Gavit. Although members of the bar can only indistinctly observe the operations of law schools, the visible successes enjoyed by Dean Wallace have been genuinely remarkable.

During the early years of his administration, the Law School vacated old Maxwell Hall and moved to new and much more suitable quarters in the southwest corner of the campus. The new building was most effectively designed for the training of aspirants to the law, offering them modern, comfortable and attractive study, library, research and assembly facilities. Aside from the building's aesthetic contribution to the legal education of its occupants, it provides accommodations matched by few other law schools in this nation. Major credit for this new building must be given to Dean Wallace.

Under Dean Wallace's guidance the faculty of the Law School has continued to include and attract scholars of the highest note. Perhaps no law school dean can better discharge his responsibilities than by preserving and enhancing the excellence of his faculty, and in this endeavor Dean Wallace has succeeded admirably. Especially significant has been his ability to draw to the Law School the younger members of the faculty whose enthusiasm and creativity inspire the mind and sharpen the wits of the student and enrich the educational process.

† Chief Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Soon after Dean Wallace assumed that title, a practical legal training program was initiated at the Law School. It was an innovation in legal education and provided an opportunity for students to apply in practice the knowledge acquired in the classroom. In conjunction with this program, which was integrated into the Law School's regular curriculum, extensive financial assistance was made available to qualified students, and this scholarship assistance has been continued through the Law School Fund, which was founded in 1963-64. He encouraged and nurtured these many educational training and scholarship programs through their inception, and the obvious successes which they enjoy are attributable in large measure to his efforts.

But if any single factor must be identified as the true mark of Dean Wallace's achievements, it must be the student body. In the Korean War years when Leon Wallace took office as Dean, the Law School—as other professional schools—had a very depressed enrollment, with only sixty students in the 1951 freshman class, many of whom were unable because of military obligations to complete even one semester of school. Today the Law School enrolls some two hundred fifty students each year and declines to accept countless other applicants. That the Law School's enrollment has achieved such high levels is but another indication of Dean Wallace's capabilities as an administrator and educator.

From his students I have learned that Dean Wallace was probably the most accessible head of any school on any campus. And it mattered not to him whether the students who came to him brought problems from the classroom, the study hall, or their homes. Understanding and courteous, he was a father-confessor and patiently listened and benignly dispensed the wisdom of lawyer, teacher and friend. All the more remarkable was this when one recalls that Dean Wallace continued to teach courses in future interests and local administrative law, and for a time taught a course in trusts as well.

The Law Journal also profited greatly from Dean Wallace's support. Again, from his students, Journal editors, I learn that in times when the independence of the Journal was less secure, he invariably and unequivocally backed its student-formulated editorial policies, and that, while he never attempted to impose his will on student editors, Dean Wallace never refused to give full hearing to any of their requests, that not once did he fail to support in every proper way their efforts to produce a Journal worthy of Indiana University. One may doubt whether, in the absence of his encouragement and forthright assistance, the Journal would today enjoy its high academic recognition.

It should be remembered that Dean Wallace was for twelve years a practicing lawyer at Terre Haute, coming there from having earned his J.D. at Indiana University on the highest scholastic record made up to that time. To the Terre Haute Bar he brought an excellence in legal scholarship, pleading and documentary draftsmanship, and general legal finesse and expertise that amazed and inspired his fellow practitioners. His competence was such that his alma mater soon brought him back to launch him on his life career of legal mentor.

All the while, for thirty-three years, Dean Wallace has been a loyal and devoted worker in the organized bar. In the American Bar Association, he confined his work to the Section of Local Government Law, becoming Section Chairman in 1964. In the Indiana State Bar Association, his participation is a record almost too long to narrate. Among his many committee memberships over the years he has done remarkable work as Chairman of the Committee on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar and as Chairman of the Committee on Amendments to the State and Federal Constitutions. His extensive surveys and reports on admission and placement practices were most revealing and greatly aided both the law graduate and the practitioner who would hire him. His exhaustive and scholarly reports on pending state and federal constitutional amendments, year after year and duly correlated, are virtually a treatise on the subject.

With all of that, he has long served as a Director and Secretary-Treasurer of the Indiana Bar Foundation and has been the work horse of that organization. He joined in the creation of the Indiana Continuing Legal Education Forum, has been on its Board, and has shepherded its small beginning to its present status as an effective and appreciated facility for upgrading and updating the professional competence of the lawyer in practice. As Dean he has been a member of the House of Delegates and has faithfully attended its meetings and participated in its deliberations. In summary, the organized bar has had no more active and loyal worker in its vineyard than Leon Wallace.

Gentle and soft-spoken, Leon Wallace has implanted in his graduates and many other young lawyers, and, thus, in the bar of the State of Indiana, a sense of dignity and integrity and intellectual and professional responsibility. His retirement as Dean of the Law School is a loss made tolerable only by the knowledge that he will continue his career at the Law School as Charles McGuffey Hepburn Professor of Law. The bar of the State of Indiana is grateful for his many contributions and counts him among its most distinguished members. As we have benefited and

prospered through him, we say: "Long may he continue to live, to study, to teach, to counsel and to enrich our profession."

PAUL N. ROWE†

† President, Indiana State Bar Association.