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# The Akron Law School: The Early History of the University of Akron School of Law: 1921-1959

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**THE AKRON LAW SCHOOL: THE EARLY HISTORY OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON SCHOOL OF LAW:  
1921-1959**

*Margaret E. Matejkovic\* and Richard L. Aynes\*\**

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The Akron Law School, predecessor of the University of Akron School of Law, was founded in 1921. Its purpose was “to train worthy young men and women to acquire a thorough knowledge of law. . . .”<sup>1</sup> By the 1930s, the school was seeking to “give the student a thorough, scientific, and practical training which will qualify him [or her] to practice law and to assist in giving honorable direction to the destinies of

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\* Margaret Andreeff Matejkovic, Associate Dean for External Programs, The University of Akron School of Law; BA, JD The University of Akron. As part of this history, the authors have researched information on the 626 alumni who graduated from the Akron Law School between 1925 and 1959. The authors have worked diligently to ensure accuracy and completeness of information of these alumni. If there is an error or omission in this information the authors offer sincerest apologies and welcome feedback as to accurate and complete information. To submit such feedback, contact Richard L. Aynes raynes@uakron.edu or Margaret Andreeff Matejkovic ema16@uakron.edu. Thank you.

\*\* John F. Seiberling Chair of Constitutional Law, and Constitutional Law Research Fellow, The University of Akron School of Law. Professor Aynes served as Associate Dean (1984-1993) and Dean, (1995-2007) of the School of Law. We are grateful for the research assistance of Suzanne Wentzel ('96), Christopher Dean ('98), and Deborah Murray ('98) on this project. We also want to thank Faculty Services Librarian Annette Souare and her research assistants for all the help they provided. We also appreciate the comments made by the late Nickolas P. Andreeff ('60), Assistant Dean Rosemary Cannon, Oscar C. Hunsicker, Jr., Judge William G. Rickett ('86), the late Dean Stanley A. Samad, and C. Michael Walsh ('91) upon prior drafts.

1. *Law and Business Relationship*, FIRST ANNUAL CATALOG, (Akron Law School, Akron, Ohio), 1921-22 at 4. All of the catalogues referred to in this article are available in the Archives of the University of Akron.

the city and the nation.”<sup>2</sup>

The Akron Law School merged with the University of Akron in 1959.<sup>3</sup> By 2012, the University of Akron School of Law had over 7,200 alumni who had lived in all 50 states.<sup>4</sup> Its graduates have included many outstanding practitioners and leaders of business and industry, including multiple CEOs of Roadway, the General Counsel of PPG, and the Secretary of the Board of Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company. Akron graduates have held positions in innumerable city councils, mayorships, and other similar public service.

One graduate was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, and at least fourteen graduates have been members of the Colorado, North Carolina, Ohio, and Pennsylvania legislatures. The graduates who have served as judges include one Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court, two Circuit Judges for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, and three U.S. District Court Judges. At least 183 judges on the courts of the federal government, the District of Columbia, and fourteen states have been graduates of the school. These include judges in the States of Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Wisconsin, and the District of Columbia.<sup>5</sup>

This short sketch is designed to tell the history of the school with special attention to those aspects which will preserve its rich history and help its faculty, students, and alumni understand its traditions and mission. What follows is a history of the school from its founding in 1921 until its merger with The University of Akron in 1959. An online inventory<sup>6</sup> lists all the graduates during that time period along with as much biographical data as we were able to find. The vignettes in the materials below are based upon the individuals for whom we could find data. We would have included many other important and deserving alumni if we had access to more information about them.<sup>7</sup>

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2. *Historical Sketch*, THIRTEENTH ANNUAL CATALOG, (Akron Law School, Akron, Ohio), 1933-34, at 4.

3. STANLEY A. SAMAD, A HISTORY OF THE AKRON LAW SCHOOL 22 (May 26, 1964).

4. THE ALUMNI DATABASE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON SCHOOL OF LAW (On file at Akron Law).

5. This information comes from surveys and interviews of Akron Law alumni on file with the authors.

6. Richard L. Aynes & Margaret Andreeff Matejkovic, *The Early History of The University of Akron School of Law: 1921-1959*, UNIVERSITY OF AKRON: AKRON LAW (2013), <https://www.uakron.edu/law/about/early-history.dot>.

7. If you have additions, corrections or suggestions please send them to one of the authors: raynes@uakron.edu or ema16@uakron.edu.

## I. CHARLES R. GRANT AND THE AKRON LAW SCHOOL

One might think that the story of the Akron Law School and the University of Akron School of Law would begin in Akron, Ohio. But, because of the history of its first Dean, Charles R. Grant, it must necessarily begin in Connecticut.



Judge Charles Grant

Judge Charles Grant was no doubt selected as the first Dean of the Akron Law School because of his role in the law and in the Akron community.<sup>8</sup> At the time of the School's founding he was one of the most prominent citizens of Summit County. His long career included service as the Probate Judge of Summit County (1882-1891), at a time when the patronage associated with that court guaranteed that it would be held only by one of the political leaders of the county.<sup>9</sup>

He was a Judge of the Eighth District Court of Appeals from 1912-1919.<sup>10</sup> Then, when the Ninth District Court of Appeals was established in 1921, Judge Grant was one of the original judges of that court.<sup>11</sup>

His civic and community positions were numerous. These activities included service with the bar association, President of the Akron Public Library Board of Control (1883-95),<sup>12</sup> Secretary of the Akron Law Library Association,<sup>13</sup> and President of the YMCA (1914).<sup>14</sup>

8. He was referred to as the "dean of the Akron Bar . . ." *Historical Sketch, FIFTEENTH ANNUAL CATALOG*, (Akron Law School, Akron, Ohio), 1935-1936, at 3.

9. KARL H. GRISMER, *AKRON AND SUMMIT COUNTY* 691 (1994). He succeeded Judge William E. Pardee who had been probate judge and was described as the leader of the local Republican Party. Both Judge Grant and Judge Pardee served upon the first 9th District Court of Appeals, which included Summit County. *Past Judges of the Ninth District Court of Appeals*, COURT OF APPEALS OF OHIO NINTH APPELLATE DISTRICT, <http://www.ninth.courts.state.oh.us/Judges.htm> (last visited Oct. 20, 2012). Through the generous contributions of Judge Pardee's daughter, the late Caroline Pardee, the law school's major moot court room, the Judge William Pardee Courtroom, was furnished in 1973-74 and renovated in the summer of 1996.

10. STEPHEN H. PASCHEN, *ORDER IN THE COURT: THE COURTS AND THE PRACTICE OF THE LAW IN AKRON, OHIO 1787-1945*, 30 (1997).

11. *Past Judges of the Ninth District Court of Appeals*, COURT OF APPEALS OF OHIO NINTH APPELLATE DISTRICT, <http://www.ninth.courts.state.oh.us/Judges.htm> (last visited Oct. 20, 2012).

12. OSCAR EUGENE OLIN, *AKRON AND ENVIRONS* 190 (1917). Grant served as its President for three years. *Id.* at 410. One of the other members of the board was John R. Buchtel, the founder of what is now The University of Akron. SAMUEL LANE, *FIFTY YEARS AND OVER OF AKRON AND SUMMIT COUNTY* 186 (Akron: Beacon Job Dept. 1892).

13. OLIN, *supra* note 12, at 225.

14. *Id.* at 224.

Additionally, he was elected to the Board of Education four times.<sup>15</sup> He was also the editor of *The Akron Times*, a newspaper with great political influence,<sup>16</sup> and his home at 110 Merriman Road was one of the elegant homes of early twentieth century Akron.<sup>17</sup>

Looking at Judge Grant's life in 1921, one would view him as the head of one of the first families of Summit County, but it was not always so. In a 1917 sketch of Grant's life, author Oscar Olin said of Charles Grant what Lincoln had said about himself: "[H]is early history is only 'the short and simple annals of the poor. . . .'"<sup>18</sup> The exploration of his early life may provide the key to what strikes one at first as a curiosity: why would a man at the head of his profession become Dean of a new law school at the age of seventy-five?

Born on October 23, 1846, Charles Grant started life in New Haven, Connecticut, the son of a shoemaker, William T. Grant and Ester F. Treat Grant.<sup>19</sup> This is a respectable profession, one in which hard work and skill is required. It has also been called a "contemplative" profession, because the worker at his task had time to think and contemplate. Carl Sandberg's poem, "Telegram," uses a shoemaker as one of the examples of the backbone of democracy:

I know a shoemaker who works in a cellar slamming half-soles onto shoes and when I told him, he said

"I pay my bills, I love my wife, and I am not afraid of anybody."<sup>20</sup>

15. *Id.* at 410.

16. E.S. Horton and Judge Grant published the *Akron Times* from 1898 to 1916. *Id.* at 233.

17. When Grant was in private practice his office was in the Second National Bank Building he walked to his office. "On the way he would often do the family grocery shopping, bringing to the office his market basket." RUTH DEAN, *THE VALUE OF INTEGRITY: A MEMOIR CELEBRATING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF BUCKINGHAM, DOOLITTLE & BURROUGHS L.L.P.* 11 (2003).

18. OLIN, *supra* note 12, at 410. Though Grant obviously came from a working class background and worked hard in his early life, one should not infer lack of status from that. His father, William T. Grant, was a shoemaker. *1860 Census Record for Charles Grant*, ANCESTRYLIBRARY.COM, [http://search.ancestrylibrary.com/iexec?htx=View&r=5542&dbid=7667&iid=4211344\\_00036&fn=Charles&ln=Grant&st=r&ssrc=&pid=17433079](http://search.ancestrylibrary.com/iexec?htx=View&r=5542&dbid=7667&iid=4211344_00036&fn=Charles&ln=Grant&st=r&ssrc=&pid=17433079) (last visited Oct. 20, 2012). But he was also a Justice of the Peace for twenty-five years and a member of the Connecticut Legislature in 1844-45. Gladys E. Chamberlain, ed., *Man of the Month: Charles R. Grant*, SUMMIT COUNTY HIST. BULL., Oct. 1945, at 155. According to the 1860 census, the value of William Grant's real property was \$500. *1860 Census Record for Charles Grant*. We appreciate the research of Faculty Services Librarian Annette A. Souare, which indicates this value in 2012 dollars would be \$11,295.

19. His death certificate indicates he was born October 23, 1846. *See also Charles R. Grant, Matching Person (from Family Trees)* ANCESTRYLIBRARY.COM, <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/10507841/person/6013458546/> (last visited Mar. 17, 2012).

20. CARL SANDBERG, *THE COMPLETE POEMS OF CARL SANDBERG: REVISED AND EXPANDED*

Charles Grant learned that trade at an early age. He worked as a shoemaker during the winter, after attending school, and as a farmhand during the summer.<sup>21</sup> It is probable, like many in the early 1800s, that his father needed his son's labor to help keep the family business going and to pay for the son's own expenses.

By the time Charles reached the age of fifteen, the world had been turned upside down. Ten southern states had claimed to secede from the United States. An untried President with no prior executive experience, Abraham Lincoln, had called for 75,000 volunteers to suppress the insurrection.<sup>22</sup> Among those who responded from Connecticut was a group of men from Hartford who organized the 12th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry ("12th Connecticut"). At age fifteen Charles was too young to officially enter the service, but his brother Frederick M. Grant was a Sergeant, a 1st Lieutenant, and ultimately a Captain in that unit.<sup>23</sup> Apparently with the aid of his brother, Charles was treated as a soldier in the company and served as a courier, sometime under enemy fire. These were duties which "would ordinarily be entrusted to a staff officer."<sup>24</sup>

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EDITION 248 (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc., 1969).

21. OLIN, *supra* note 12, at 409.

22. JAMES MCPHERSON, *BATTLE CRY OF FREEDOM* 274 (1988).

23. Captain Grant's service dates (September 21, 1861 – December 31, 1865). *American Civil War Soldiers: About Frederick Grant*, ANCESTRY.COM, [http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&db=hdssoldiers&rank=1&new=1&MSAV=0&msT=1&gss=angs-d&gsfn=frederick%20m&gsln=grant&msipn\\_\\_ftp=Connecticut,%20USA&msipn=9&msipn\\_PInfo=5-%7C0%7C1652393%7C0%7C2%7C3242%7C9%7C0%7C0%7C0%7C0%7C&uidh=mg9&pcat=39&fh=1&h=4315153&recoff=8%209&requ=294913&ur=262144](http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&db=hdssoldiers&rank=1&new=1&MSAV=0&msT=1&gss=angs-d&gsfn=frederick%20m&gsln=grant&msipn__ftp=Connecticut,%20USA&msipn=9&msipn_PInfo=5-%7C0%7C1652393%7C0%7C2%7C3242%7C9%7C0%7C0%7C0%7C0%7C&uidh=mg9&pcat=39&fh=1&h=4315153&recoff=8%209&requ=294913&ur=262144) (last visited Oct. 20, 2012). The record of the application for a pension by Captain Frederick M. Grant's widow, Sarah Grant, indicates that he also served in Company H of the 4th Louisiana Native Guards. Company H was an African-American unit that pre-dated the Civil War. *See U.S. Civil War Pension Index: General Index to Pension Files – Frederick M. Grant*, ANCESTRY.COM, <http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?ti=0&indiv=try&db=civilwarpension&h=564594> (last visited Jan. 22, 2013). He also served in Company H of the 76th United States Colored Infantry, a unit created on the basis of the Louisiana Native Guards. *See also Louisiana Native Guards*, <http://www.frenchcreoles.com/military%20achievements/Louisiana%20Native%20Guards/louisiana%20native%20guards.htm> (last visited Oct. 20, 2012). *See also Pension Records*, ANCESTRY.COM, [http://search.ancestry.com/iexec?htx=View&r=an&dbid=4654&iid=32959\\_032848-00903&fn=Frederick+M&ln=Grant&st=r&ssrc=&pid=564594](http://search.ancestry.com/iexec?htx=View&r=an&dbid=4654&iid=32959_032848-00903&fn=Frederick+M&ln=Grant&st=r&ssrc=&pid=564594) (last visited Oct. 20, 2012). Ancestry.com's U.S. Civil War Soldiers, 1861-1865 indicates that Frederick M. Grant was "part of the African American Civil War memorial." *U.S. Civil War Soldiers*, ANCESTRY.COM, [http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&db=nps\\_civilwarsoldiers&rank=1&new=1&MSAV=1&msT=1&gss=angs-d&gsfn=frederick+m&gsln=grant&gskw=African+american+civil+war+memorial&gskw\\_x=1&cpxt=0&uidh=mg9&cp=0&pcat=39&fh=0&h=100976&recoff=8+9+10](http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&db=nps_civilwarsoldiers&rank=1&new=1&MSAV=1&msT=1&gss=angs-d&gsfn=frederick+m&gsln=grant&gskw=African+american+civil+war+memorial&gskw_x=1&cpxt=0&uidh=mg9&cp=0&pcat=39&fh=0&h=100976&recoff=8+9+10) (last visited Oct. 20, 2012).

24. Letter from Judge Grant to Ellsworth R. Bathrick (June 16, 1912) (referring to comments

The 12th Connecticut first saw action in Louisiana where it was the first infantry force to enter New Orleans in April of 1862 after the Union Fleet under Rear Admiral David G. Farragut ran the battles of Fort Jackson and Fort St. Philip.<sup>25</sup> At that time, Grant's ultimate commander was Major General Benjamin Franklin Butler.<sup>26</sup> There is some suggestion that Grant acted as an aide to General Butler, who was in command of all Union forces in Louisiana, and to his successor, General Nathaniel Banks.<sup>27</sup>

The 12th Connecticut stayed in the Louisiana theatre and was involved in many skirmishes and battles throughout 1862 and 1863. Though there is no record of Charles' actions during those battles, a 20th century report of a committee of Congress indicates that he was often "under fire" and entitled to be recognized as a soldier in the Union army.<sup>28</sup> His last duties were to escort three wounded officers home to Connecticut. He completed his military duties on August 1, 1863.<sup>29</sup>

Charles, who would have been seventeen in 1863, settled on a farm near Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio in April 1864.<sup>30</sup> His reasons for choosing Ohio are not clear. But, this was an area which was part of Connecticut's original Western Reserve and it is not unlikely that Grant had relatives in Ohio or at least former neighbors or friends in the region.

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about him by Captain Clark). This letter was quoted in the Congressional Resolution noted *infra* note 28 at 5.

25. For a brief account of this military action, see BRUCE CATTON & RICHARD M. KETCHUM, *THE AMERICAN HERITAGE PICTURE HISTORY OF THE CIVIL WAR* 134 (1960). A more thorough account is found in MCPHERSON, *BATTLE CRY OF FREEDOM*, *supra* note 22 at 418-20.

26. Though his efforts toward the end of the war, including being bottled up outside of Petersburg, have tarnished his reputation, Butler did provide some early successes in the war that were of importance to the Union. He was a major political force in his own era, both before and after the war and had a "highly successful" practice in criminal law in Massachusetts. *See generally* STEWART SIFAKIS, *WHO WAS WHO IN THE CIVIL WAR* 96-97 (1988).

27. *See* LANE, *supra* note 12. Charles' brother Frederick was stationed at Ft. Jackson, Louisiana in January 1864. *U.S. Returns from Military Posts, 1806-1916*, ANCESTRY.COM, <http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?h=278047&db=USmilitaryposts&indiv=try> (last visited on Oct. 20, 2012).

28. *See infra* note 29.

29. Grant to Bathrick, *supra* note 24. Grant's service as a member of Company "F," Twelfth Regiment, Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, was formally recognized by Congress in 1914. 63d Cong. Sess. II, Cl. 184, An Act for the relief of Charles R. Grant. A copy of this action by Congress hangs in Room 133 of the C. Blake McDowell Law Center.

30. LANE, *supra* note 12, at 186. The Census of 1870 shows Judge Grant living in Cuyahoga Falls. *1870 United States Federal Census*, ANCESTRY.COM, <http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&db=1870usfedcen&rank=1&new=1&MSAV=0&msT=1&gss=angs-d&gsfn=charles+t&gsln=grant&gskw=cuyahoga+falls&uidh=mg9&pcat=35&fh=0&h=37753348&recoff=> (last visited Oct. 20, 2012). All references to Census records are taken from Ancestry.com.

In his early years in Ohio, Grant worked as a farmer.<sup>31</sup> He saved enough money to do something that must have been extraordinary for a shoemaker's son: he enrolled in Western Reserve College in 1868. At that time the college was located in Hudson, Ohio. He supported himself by teaching school in the winter and farming in the summer.<sup>32</sup> While working to support himself and earning grades that placed him first in his class, Grant was a member of Delta Upsilon Fraternity, the Geological Society, Phi Delta, The Picwick Club, and served as the Class Poet.<sup>33</sup> He won a prize as a freshman for Latin translation and presented a "philosophical oration" in his junior year.<sup>34</sup>

After graduation in 1872, at the head of his class of eighteen, Grant went to Colorado where he spent a year "recruiting his health."<sup>35</sup> Grant decided to pursue the practice of law and returned to Ohio. He studied law with one of the leading Judges of the County, Newell D. Tiballs.<sup>36</sup> He was admitted to the bar in September of 1874. He then formed a partnership with H.B. Foster of Hudson.<sup>37</sup>

One of his clients was the leader of the Republican Party in Summit County, Probate Judge William E. Pardee.<sup>38</sup> A life-long Republican, Grant bolted the party in 1896 to support the Populist and Democrat nominee William Jennings Bryan against his fellow Ohioan and Union Veteran, William McKinley.<sup>39</sup> He remained a Democrat the rest of his life.

During his career as a lawyer, Grant taught at the Law Department

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31. LANE, *supra* note 12, at 186.

32. OLIN, *supra* note 12, at 409. The 1870 Census shows Charles Grant "attending college" and living in Cuyahoga Falls with the family of farmer George Sackett. *1870 United States Federal Census*, *supra* note 30.

33. Letter from Helen Conger to Deborah A. Murray (July 10, 1997) (copy on file with author).

34. OLIN, *supra* note 12, at 409. Though beyond the scope of this paper, some insight to what it was like to be a student at Western Reserve in the 1870 is found in FREDERICK CLAYTON WAITE, *WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY* 433-447 (1943).

35. LANE, *supra* note 12, at 186.

36. PASCHEN, *supra* note 10, at 30. Tiballs was a Trustee of what was to become The University of Akron and a Vice President of the newly organized Akron Bar Association. *Id.* at 28. He served multiple terms as President of the Akron Bar, 1887-92, 1898-99, and 1908-10.

37. This was apparently Horace B. Foster, a lawyer who was born in Massachusetts about 1828 and was living in Hudson, Ohio during the 1880 Census. *1880 United States Federal Census*, ANCESTRY.COM, [http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&db=1880usfedcen&rank=1&new=1&MSAV=0&msT=1&gss=angs-d&gsfn=horace+b&gsln=foster&msrpn\\_\\_ftp=HUDSON+OH&uidh=mg9&pcat=CEN\\_1880&fh=0&h=18584633&recoff=](http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&db=1880usfedcen&rank=1&new=1&MSAV=0&msT=1&gss=angs-d&gsfn=horace+b&gsln=foster&msrpn__ftp=HUDSON+OH&uidh=mg9&pcat=CEN_1880&fh=0&h=18584633&recoff=) (last visited Oct. 20, 2012).

38. *State ex rel. Pardee, v. Pattison*, Governor, 76 N.E. 946 (1906).

39. GRISMER, *supra* note 9, at 69.



of Buchtel College, the predecessor of the University of Akron School of Law.<sup>40</sup> When the Akron Law School opened in 1921, the first course the thirty students took was entitled “Lectures on Elementary Law.”<sup>41</sup> It lasted for six hours and was taught by Judge Grant.<sup>42</sup> Grant also taught third-year students a twenty-six hour course in constitutional law.<sup>43</sup> The class was later taught to fourth-year students in 1926.<sup>44</sup> His required book in 1926 was *Cooley on Constitutional Law*.<sup>45</sup>

It was a different time in 1921 when the school first opened its doors so students could hear Dean Grant’s lectures. The population of the State of Ohio was almost 5.8 million. The President of the United States was Ohioan, Warren G. Harding, with Calvin Coolidge as his Vice President. Harding’s cabinet included Herbert Hoover as Secretary of Commerce and Ohioan, Harry M. Daugherty as Attorney General.

The Governor of Ohio was Republican Harry L. Davis. Budding lawyers reading new Supreme Court cases found Ohioan William Howard Taft on the bench as Chief Justice of a Court that included Oliver W. Holmes, Jr. and Louis D. Brandeis. The Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court was Carrington T. Marshall, and the Mayor of Akron was Carl Beck.

Albert Einstein won the Nobel Prize for physics for his discovery of the photoelectric effect. Sigmund Freud published his book *Dream Psychology*. Woodrow Wilson won the Nobel Peace Prize and Benito Mussolini declared himself leader of Italy.

All the World Series games that year were played in New York, with the New York Giants defeating the New York Yankees. It was a year in which Babe Ruth hit fifty-nine home runs. Ohio State lost 28-0

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40. Courses in law were offered from 1883-1897. A student took one year of courses at Buchtel College. This was followed by one year at a law school awarding an LL.B. or one year of study in a law office with a preceptor. The student was then eligible for admission to the bar. Holders of the LL.B. did not have to take the bar examination. See generally STANLEY A. SAMAD, LEGAL EDUCATION IN AKRON, OHIO: A CONCISE HISTORY OF THE AKRON LAW SCHOOL AND THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON SCHOOL OF LAW 13 (1990); AKRON BAR ASSOC. EXAMINER MAGAZINE (Akron Bar Assoc., Akron, Ohio) April 1991, at 13.

41. *Courses of Study*, FIRST ANNUAL CATALOGUE, *supra* note 1, at 10.

42. *Id.*

43. *Id.* at 11.

44. *Courses of Instruction*, SIXTH ANNUAL CATALOG, (Akron Law School, Akron, Ohio), 1926-27, at 16.

45. *Id.* Cooley had taught at the University of Michigan Law School and had been a justice on the Michigan State Supreme Court. His 1868 treatise went through six editions and “was cited more frequently than any other legal text in the late 19th Century.” See ROGER K. NEWMAN, THE YALE BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN LAW 127-128 (2009). In 1921-22 he used *Black on Constitutional Law*. *Courses of Study*, FIRST ANNUAL CATALOGUE, *supra* note 1, at 11.

to University of California in the Rose Bowl. In boxing, Jack Dempsey was the heavyweight champion of the world. Moviegoers watched Rudolph Valentino's "The Sheik" and Douglas Fairbanks in "The Mark of Zorro."

Bread cost ten cents a loaf, suspenders cost fifty cents a pair, gasoline was eleven cents a gallon, and milk cost fifty-eight cents a gallon. One advertisement indicated that a two-ton Pierce Arrow truck cost \$3,750, but the average new car cost \$420. Other products advertised included Palmolive Shaving Cream and Whitman's Sampler. The tuition at the Akron Law School was \$100. The average income of the nation was \$2,134.

Along with the birth of the law school, there were others we recognize today who were born in 1921, including entertainer Chuck Connors, Senator and Astronaut John Glenn, Betty Friedan, Otto Graham, Hugh Downs, Donna Reed, Warren Spahn, Senator Jesse Helms, Steve Allen, and Jane Russell.<sup>46</sup>

Though the early records of the School are no longer available, we can surmise much about the early days of the Akron Law School from its catalog for the academic years 1921-22.<sup>47</sup> One of the moving forces in establishing the school was Charles A. Neale, who became Dean of Law School in 1929. We will learn more about Neale, but for now, it is sufficient to note that while Neale studied law in Mayfield, Kentucky,<sup>48</sup> he also obtained formal training at the Cleveland Law School in Cleveland, Ohio.<sup>49</sup> Apparently he and his friend Paul Short,<sup>50</sup> who

46. Much of the above data was taken from 1921 PAGES OF TIME, A NOSTALGIC NEWS REPORT (1980).

47. See FIRST ANNUAL CATALOGUE, *supra* note 1.

48. 3 SCOTT DIX KENFIELD, AKRON AND SUMMIT COUNTY OHIO 1825-1928 at 323 (1928).

49. A HISTORY OF THE AKRON LAW SCHOOL, *supra* note 3, at 3.

50. Though Paul Short's name is mentioned in the early catalogues, which contained a short historical sketch of the school, we cannot locate any biographic information about him, except that the first catalogue included LL.B. after his name, indicating that he was a lawyer. See FIRST ANNUAL CATALOGUE, *supra* note 1, at 1. There is a Paul Short recorded in the census records in Akron, Ohio and another in Stark County. It is reasonable to believe that since Paul Short is said to have died in 1923 (see below) that this is the Paul S. Short who died in Stark County on November 27, 1923. See *Ohio, Deaths, 1908-1932*, ANCESTRY.COM, [http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&db=ohdeath93-98&rank=1&new=1&MSAV=0&msT=1&gss=angs-d&gsfn=paul%20s%20&gsln=short&msddy=1923&msrpn\\_\\_ftp=Akron,%20Summit,%20Ohio,%20USA&msrpn=52656&msrpn\\_PInfo=8-%7C0%7C1652393%7C0%7C2%7C3247%7C38%7C0%7C2824%7C52656%7C0%7C&dbOnly=\\_F00056ED%7C\\_F00056ED\\_x,\\_F0005708%7C\\_F0005708\\_x,\\_83004005%7C\\_83004005\\_x&uidh=mg9&pcat=34&fh=0&h=5097673&recoff=6%20%208&requr=294913&ur=262144](http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&db=ohdeath93-98&rank=1&new=1&MSAV=0&msT=1&gss=angs-d&gsfn=paul%20s%20&gsln=short&msddy=1923&msrpn__ftp=Akron,%20Summit,%20Ohio,%20USA&msrpn=52656&msrpn_PInfo=8-%7C0%7C1652393%7C0%7C2%7C3247%7C38%7C0%7C2824%7C52656%7C0%7C&dbOnly=_F00056ED%7C_F00056ED_x,_F0005708%7C_F0005708_x,_83004005%7C_83004005_x&uidh=mg9&pcat=34&fh=0&h=5097673&recoff=6%20%208&requr=294913&ur=262144) (last visited Oct. 20, 2012). This is likely the same Paul S. Short who in 1915

served as the first secretary of the Akron Law School,<sup>51</sup> witnessed many an Akronite commuting to Cleveland for a legal education and thought that law training should be available to Akron.

Thus, it is not surprising to read the following purpose for the School:

It is the purpose of the Akron Law School to train worthy young men and women to acquire a thorough knowledge of the law whose ci[r]cumstances would not permit them to leave the city without too much difficulty, otherwise resulting in added expense of time and money.<sup>52</sup>

The School sought to serve “several classes of men and women. . . .”<sup>53</sup> These included those who were studying law in an office, but wanted some assistance beyond that which practicing lawyers could give them; those who did not want to practice, but wanted to know law “as an aid to commercial life”;<sup>54</sup> and

[T]he youth of extreme energy, perseverance and industry who must devote his days to labor in some other line but who is willing to sacrifice his pleasure and devote practically all his leisure time in mastering the knowledge necessary to proficiency in the practice of

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and again in 1917 lived in Akron, Ohio and whose occupation in 1917 was listed as “principal.” *Paul S. Short, U.S. City Directories 1821-1989 (Beta)*, ANCESTRY.COM, [http://search.ancestrylibrary.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?rank=1&new=1&MSAV=0&msT=1&gss=angs-g&gsfn=Paul+S+&gsln=Short&msswpn\\_\\_ftp=Akron%2c+Summit%2c+Ohio%2c+USA&msswpn=52656&msswpn\\_PInfo=8-%7c0%7c1652393%7c0%7c2%7c3247%7c38%7c0%7c2824%7c52656%7c0%7c&uidh=zde&pcat=ROOT\\_CATEGORY&h=287871024&db=USDirectories&indiv=1](http://search.ancestrylibrary.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?rank=1&new=1&MSAV=0&msT=1&gss=angs-g&gsfn=Paul+S+&gsln=Short&msswpn__ftp=Akron%2c+Summit%2c+Ohio%2c+USA&msswpn=52656&msswpn_PInfo=8-%7c0%7c1652393%7c0%7c2%7c3247%7c38%7c0%7c2824%7c52656%7c0%7c&uidh=zde&pcat=ROOT_CATEGORY&h=287871024&db=USDirectories&indiv=1) (last visited Jan. 28, 2013). There is also a World War I draft registration card for 1917-18, which lists a Paul Stewart Short living in Akron who was born on February 20, 1874. *U.S. World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918*, ANCESTRY.COM, [http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=WW1draft&h=1805713&indiv=try&o\\_vc=Record:OtherRecord&rhSource=5763](http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=WW1draft&h=1805713&indiv=try&o_vc=Record:OtherRecord&rhSource=5763) (last visited Oct. 20, 2012). There is no record of him having attended the Akron Law School or taught there. There is a Harold Short ('33), ELEVENTH ANNUAL CATALOG, (Akron Law School, Akron, Ohio), 1931-32, but there is no apparent relationship with Paul Short. It is said the Paul Short attended law school in Cleveland, the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law; Cleveland State University Alumni Directory of 1987 lists graduates of the school from 1905-1987. A search of those graduates from 1905-1930 reveals no one named Paul Short. See CLEVELAND-MARSHALL COLLEGE OF LAW, CLEVELAND-MARSHALL COLLEGE OF LAW, CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI DIRECTORY OF 1987 (1987). Yet it is reported that Short received an LL.B. from Baldwin University and was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1902. PASCHEN, *supra* note 10, at 46. Baldwin College did not become Baldwin Wallace College until 1913. *History of Baldwin Wallace University*, BALDWIN WALLACE UNIVERSITY (2012), <http://www.bw.edu/quickfacts/history/>.

51. FIRST ANNUAL CATALOGUE, *supra* note 1, at 11.

52. *General Statement*, SIXTH ANNUAL CATALOG, *supra* note 44, at 4.

53. *Id.* at 6.

54. *Id.*

law.<sup>55</sup>

At the time, no college degree was required. A high school education was all that an eager student needed.<sup>56</sup> The school made a special plea to people involved in business, indicating that “it is almost imperative for young men or women who expect to be linked with the fiber of business transactions to have, at least a general knowledge of the law to succeed well in the business world.”<sup>57</sup> The “added power” of law was claimed to be so important “that an ambitious person cannot afford to be without it.”<sup>58</sup>

At that time, the School was housed in a stately building, which still stands at 57 East Market Street.<sup>59</sup>

Pictures of the times show students, mostly men, but a few women, sitting at student desks in high ceiling rooms with hanging electric lights.<sup>60</sup> Instructors are often seated at a larger desk in the front of the room and one can see bookcases filled with law books along the walls.<sup>61</sup> The men are all wearing suits with white shirts and ties.<sup>62</sup> The women are dressed in an equally formal fashion, in at least some cases with hats as well.<sup>63</sup>



One of the advantages touted by the School’s catalogue was that it was “in the heart of the city, and easily accessible by street car and bus from any portion of Summit and adjoining counties.”<sup>64</sup>

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55. *Id.*

56. *Id.*

57. *Id. Law and Business Relationship.* Several commas have been omitted from the original quote to make this more readable.

58. *Id.*

59. *Id.* at cover.

60. *Id.* at 15, 19.

61. *Id.* at 19.

62. *Id.* at 15, 19.

63. *Id.* at 19.

64. *Id. Advantages* at 6.



The core of the law library was made up of Judge Grant's personal library, which had been donated to the School. In the early years, classes were held for the first, second, and third-year classes on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings, beginning at 7:00 p.m. and ending at 9:00 p.m.<sup>65</sup> Fourth-year students had their classes at the same time, but on Tuesdays and Thursdays.<sup>66</sup> The tuition was \$100 per year if one paid in cash; \$110 if paid semi-annually; and \$120 if paid quarterly.<sup>67</sup>

It has been suggested that several technological changes combined to make evening law schools possible. These included "the typewriter and secretary which displaced the law student as copy-clerk" and the electric light.<sup>68</sup>

The method of teaching was the Dwight Method, originating at Columbia Law School.<sup>69</sup> This method was then being challenged by

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65. *Id.* *Hours for Lectures* at 12.

66. *Id.*

67. *Id.* *Fees and Expenses* at 18.

68. LEGAL EDUCATION IN AKRON, OHIO, *supra* note 40, at 13.

69. This method was developed by Theodore W. Dwight (1822-92) who founded the law school at Columbia. In 1891, when Columbia decided to use the case system, Dwight resigned from the Columbia Law School. See NEWMAN, *supra* note 45, at 177-178 (2009).

Langdell's (Harvard) case method of instruction.<sup>70</sup> Though the Harvard system would eventually win out, in the 1920s, Columbia's approach was still used in many schools nationwide. It consisted of students reading assignments for each class, giving recitations, and receiving explanations from the instructor. In what may have been a bow to the Harvard system, faculty lectures cited cases that the students were to read on their own.<sup>71</sup>

The courses are remarkably similar to the basics of a modern law school. The first year of study included lectures on Elementary Law, Contracts, Criminal Law, Domestic Relations, Negotiable Instruments, Partnership, and Torts.<sup>72</sup> The second year classes were Real Property, Bailments, Agency, Wills, Suretyship, and Sales.<sup>73</sup> The third-year students enrolled in Pleading, Evidence, Corporations, Equity, Jurisprudence, and Conflict of Laws.<sup>74</sup> The final year included courses in Procedure and Court Practice, Legal Research, Constitutional Law, Bankruptcy, and Receivership.<sup>75</sup>

If the fourth year studies appear light, that is because it included an 120 hour review of eighteen prior courses, and a forty-eight hour "general review."<sup>76</sup> This was all in preparation for a comprehensive "final examination" over all the subjects the students had studied during four years of law school.<sup>77</sup> Students who were successful received an LL.B. degree.<sup>78</sup>

By the Law School's fourth year of operation, the Charles R. Grant Law Club was organized.<sup>79</sup> In what appears to have been an early predecessor of the Charles R. Grant Chapter of Phi Alpha Delta or even the Student Bar Association, this was the Law School's first student organization. Its goal was "the promotion of social life, good

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70. ROBERT STEVENS, *LAW SCHOOL: LEGAL EDUCATION IN AMERICA FROM THE 1850S TO THE 1980S* (1983).

71. The 1928-29 Catalog suggests that the "case system" was "best adopted" to full-time students. *Method of Instruction*, EIGHTH ANNUAL CATALOG, (Akron Law School, Akron, Ohio), 1928-29 at 10.

72. *Courses of Instruction*, SIXTH ANNUAL CATALOG, *supra* note 44, at 13-14.

73. *Id.* at 14.

74. *Id.* at 14, 16.

75. *Id.* at 16.

76. *Id.* at 16-17.

77. *Id.* at 17.

78. In later years, alumni who had a four-year undergraduate degree were allowed to exchange their LL.B. degree for a J.D.

79. The catalogue of 1928-29 indicates "The Club" was founded on February 18, 1925. *The C.R. Grant Law Club*, EIGHTH ANNUAL CATALOG, *supra* note 71, at 16.

fellowship, spirit of co-operation and mutual improvement.”<sup>80</sup> Faculty support was publicly announced in the catalogue that indicated that the C.R. Grant Law Club “has the hearty endorsement of the school management and faculty.”<sup>81</sup> By 1928 there were over 200 students in the Akron Law School.<sup>82</sup>

The heart of Judge Grant’s law school, like the modern law school, lay not with its building or even its library, but with its faculty. It is unclear how the faculty was selected, but one can see Judge Grant’s hand in the selection of many. For example, his former partner, Lisle Buckingham, taught Criminal Law and Sales.<sup>83</sup> Ralph Burroughs, the brother of Lisle Buckingham’s future law partner, taught Real Property and Conflict of Laws.<sup>84</sup> Probate Judge Lewis D. Slusser taught Wills.<sup>85</sup> Joseph Thomas, a law partner of Judge Grant, later the Associate Dean of the Law School as well as General Counsel for Firestone, taught Negotiable Instruments and Evidence.<sup>86</sup> Colonel Willis Bacon taught Partnership and Bankruptcy & Receivership.<sup>87</sup> Ohio Edison’s Legal Counsel and future Presidential candidate Wendell Willkie taught Agency in the Akron Law School.<sup>88</sup> These individuals—all men when the profession was overwhelmingly male—were among the leaders of the bar. Four of them, Willis Bacon (1921-24), Wendell Willkie (1925-27), Joseph Thomas (1929-30), and Lisle Buckingham (1931-34) served as President of the Akron Bar Association.<sup>89</sup>

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80. *Id.*

81. *Id.*

82. KENFIELD, *supra* note 48, at 323.

83. *Courses of Instruction*, SIXTH ANNUAL CATALOG, *supra* note 44, at 13, 14.

84. *Id.* at 14, 16.

85. *Id.* at 14.

86. *Id.*

87. *Id.* at 16. Dean Samad indicates that other members of the faculty in 1926-27 included George E. Bailey (Contracts); C. F. Beery (Domestic Relations); Robert Guinther (Torts); Clarence R. Foust (Bailments and Suretyship); John C. Frank (Pleading); Chester G. Wise (Corporations); Charles E. Smoyer (Equity Jurisprudence, Procedure & Court Practice, and Legal Research). In addition, other members of the faculty during Judge Grant’s term as Dean included: Clarence W. May (1928-1939); Oscar A. Hunsicker (1928-1939); Judge J.E. Cox (1929-1931); E.A. Harper (1930-31); Judge E.D. Fritch (1933-1938); Judge W. B. Wannamaker (1933-1938); and Donald Gottwald (1931-1939). These names and dates are taken from faculty pictures in the Law School’s Room 133, which cover the years 1926 through 1931. Many of the people listed above 1926-27 continued to teach during this time. Further, it may be that the people listed with specific dates also taught either before or after these pictures, but no record is currently available.

88. Stanley A. Samad indicates that Willkie taught at the Akron Law School for two years, implying they were in the first two years of the schools existence 1921-22 and 1922-23. A HISTORY OF THE AKRON LAW SCHOOL, *supra* note 3, at 5. See also *Faculty*, FIRST ANNUAL CATALOGUE, *supra* note 1, at 3.

89. TELEPHONE DIRECTORY, (Akron Bar Association, Akron, Ohio), 2012, at 14-15.

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THE AKRON LAW SCHOOL

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Of the thirty students who started in September of 1921, twenty-six were in the first class which graduated in 1925.



The Graduating Class of 1925

Those twenty-six lawyers went off to distinguished careers. Leroy J. Contie was born on November 4, 1893 in Pennsylvania.<sup>90</sup> He was one of seven children. He had attended Carnegie Tech where he studied architecture. He made his living as a contractor and moved to Canton, Ohio, because he heard there were opportunities for builders in Canton.<sup>91</sup> He eventually married and had two children.<sup>92</sup> When he entered the class of 1925, Mr. Contie was twenty-eight years old and a Vice President of Peoples Bank in Canton.

After graduating, Attorney Contie went on to build a successful practice primarily in the field of real estate, estate planning, and personal

90. 37 WINFIELD SCOTT DOWNS, *ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY* 34 (1968).

91. Attorney Contie, his family, and a house he built in 1923 are mentioned in Mary Beth Breckinridge, *The Construction Side of Sears*, *THE BEACON JOURNAL*, Mar. 12, 2005, at E-1, E-3.

92. Leroy J. Contie, Jr., who was a close friend of the Law School and served as Law Director of Canton, was a U.S. District Judge, and Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.



injury work. He was one of the prominent lawyers of Stark County. Mr. Contie is believed to have been the first Italian-American lawyer in Canton. Prior to taking a position on the bench, Mr. Contie's son, Leroy J. Contie, Jr., practiced with him.<sup>93</sup>

Aileen Trusler, the first woman graduate of the school, was also the first woman to work as a lawyer in the Summit County Prosecutor's Office.<sup>94</sup>

The class of 1929 included Thomas M. Powers. Judge Powers went on to serve as an Akron Municipal Judge and President of the Akron Bar Association in 1938-39.<sup>95</sup> Judge Powers was the first member of the Akron Law School alumni to serve as President of the Bar Association.<sup>96</sup> Donald Mills was also a graduate of the class of 1929.<sup>97</sup> He was an expert in land titles, having been the Torrens Title Examiner in the Summit County Court, the first President of the Summit County Title Association, and the founder and President of Akron Abstract Company for over twenty-five years.<sup>98</sup> He also served as City Solicitor of Tallmadge.<sup>99</sup>

Judge Grant continued as Dean for almost eight years, until his death on May 27, 1929.<sup>100</sup> By then he was eighty-three years old. At the time of his death he was the senior partner in a law firm known as Grant, Thomas & Buckingham.<sup>101</sup> His partners were future General Counsel and Assistant Secretary of Firestone, Joseph Thomas and the founder of Buckingham, Doolittle, and Burroughs, Lisle Buckingham.<sup>102</sup> During his term as Dean, 112 students graduated from the Akron Law School.<sup>103</sup>

To return to an earlier thought, what caused Judge Grant to spend

93. Most of the information for this paragraph is taken from a 1997 interview of Judge Leroy Contie, Jr. by C. Michael Walsh ('91) who is currently the Court Administrator for the Ninth District Ohio Court of Appeals.

94. In 1996, Judge William Victor told Professor Richard L. Aynes that Judge, and later Dean, Oscar Hunsicker had made the arrangements for Ms. Trusler to hold this path-breaking job.

95. *Class of 1929*, SIXTH ANNUAL CATALOG, *supra* note 44, at 23.

96. PASCHEN, *supra* note 10, at 113.

97. *Graduating Class of 1929*, NINTH ANNUAL CATALOG, (Akron Law School, Akron, Ohio), 1929-30, at 22. Dean Grant was buried in Akron's Glendale Cemetery on May 21, 1929. His grave is located in Section 27, Lot 10.

98. Jerry Holub, *ABA Memorials*, AKRON BAR EXAMINER, 23 (Aug. 2000). Attorney Mills passed away on June 4, 2000 in Brooksville, Florida.

99. *Id.*

100. PASCHEN, *supra* note 10, at 46.

101. GRISMER, *supra* note 9, at 691.

102. *Id.*

103. See *Class of 1921*, THIRD ANNUAL CATALOGUE, (Akron Law School, Akron, Ohio), at 15 through *Graduating Class of 1928*, EIGHTH ANNUAL CATALOG, *supra* note 71, at 23.

the last years of his life as Dean of the newly founded law school? We have access to no record of his thoughts and so will never know. But a clue may be found in his own climb from humble origins to leadership in public service. While we do not know the reason, it may be that he wanted others to have the same opportunity that he did; that, in the words of the early catalogue, “youth of extreme energy, perseverance and industry who must devote [their] days to labor” might also pursue the American dream.

## II. THE NEALE YEARS: 1929-1941

Charles A. Neale served as Dean of the law school for twelve years.<sup>104</sup> Yet, perhaps because he did not hold public office and was not a member of the judiciary, his contributions to the school are somewhat unknown. He too was an active member of the community, belonging to the National Teachers' Association, the National Commercial Teachers' Association, the Masons, the Grotto, Odd Fellows, Woodmen of the World, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Disciples of Christ Church.<sup>105</sup>



Charles A. Neale

Neale played a key role in the establishment of the Law School. He recruited Judge Grant to serve as its first Dean, keeping his hand in the management of the school during Judge Grant's Deanship,<sup>106</sup> and was part of the leadership of the school in some of its most critical years.

Neale was born in Wingo, Kentucky on July 1, 1884.<sup>107</sup> His father

104. THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL BULLETIN, (Akron Law School, Akron, Ohio), 1957-58, at 5.

105. KENFIELD, *supra* note 48, at 344.

106. The pictures of the Law School faculty for 1925 and 1927 show Charles A. Neale in the center of the faculty next to Dean Grant. Neale had the title “Secretary.” In the 1928 picture Neale had the title “President” which we assume means President of the Board of Trustees. These pictures are all from the contemporaneous catalogues of those years. Duplicates are currently on display in the Law School's Room 133.

107. KENFIELD, *supra* note 48, at 340. See also *WWI, Draft Registration Card*, ANCESTRY.COM, [http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&db=WW1draft&rank=1&new=1&MSAV=0&msT=1&gss=angs-d&gsfn=charles+a&gsln=neale&dbOnly=\\_F0006EAE%7c\\_F0006EAE\\_x&uidh=mg9&msbdd=1&msbdm=7&pcat=39&fh=0&h=1802775&recoff=](http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&db=WW1draft&rank=1&new=1&MSAV=0&msT=1&gss=angs-d&gsfn=charles+a&gsln=neale&dbOnly=_F0006EAE%7c_F0006EAE_x&uidh=mg9&msbdd=1&msbdm=7&pcat=39&fh=0&h=1802775&recoff=), (last visited Oct. 20, 2012).

was a farmer who also bred “fancy blooded stock.”<sup>108</sup> Like Judge Grant, Neale was one of the few of his generation to obtain a college degree. Neale graduated from the Southern Normal School at Bowling Green in 1906.<sup>109</sup> He was the principal of a high school in Viola, Kentucky, where he had taught for three years.<sup>110</sup> He then entered the Bowling Green Business College where he worked for the degree of Bachelor of Commercial Science in 1911.<sup>111</sup>

This was the heyday of the business schools. Though in existence since the 1840s, it was in the 1890s when the concept of business schools began to take hold extensively.<sup>112</sup> In 1909-1910 there were 541 business schools across America.<sup>113</sup> That number rose to 902 by 1920 and to over 2,000 by 1929.<sup>114</sup> During that time, business schools were on the cutting edge of the concept that education could help prepare one for business. Among the graduates of such business colleges were Herbert Hoover, Henry Ford, John D. Rockefeller, Harvey B. Firestone, and Thomas J. Watson.<sup>115</sup> Business and commerce had always existed for graduates, but normally were the product of industry and character, not education.<sup>116</sup> There was a great educational movement to train men and women in commerce. Charles Neale was part of that movement. He taught at the West Virginia Business College and the El Reno [Oklahoma] Business College.<sup>117</sup>

But he also had an interest in law, a field that was also part of the educational movement. The end of World War I in 1918 led to the resumption of immigration and a great thirst for education. There were at least twenty veterans who served their country in World War I who graduated from the Akron Law School.<sup>118</sup> Across the nation law schools were founded, often in YMCA facilities.<sup>119</sup> These schools were

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108. KENFIELD, *supra* note 48, at 340.

109. *Id.*

110. *Id.*

111. *Id.* at 343.

112. BENJAMIN R. HAYNES & HARRY P. JACKSON, A HISTORY OF BUSINESS EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES 35-38 (South-western Pub. Co., Cincinnati 1935).

113. *Id.* at 37.

114. *Id.*

115. PAUL A. MORELAND, A HISTORY OF BUSINESS EDUCATION 48 (Toronto: Pittman Publishing 1977).

116. See for example the business accomplishments of Myra Bradwell, JANE M. FRIEDMAN, AMERICA'S FIRST WOMAN LAWYER: THE BIOGRAPHY OF MYRA BRADWELL (1993).

117. KENFIELD, *supra* note 48, at 343.

118. See the on-line listing of alumni, which indicates which alumni fought in World War I. *The Early History of The University of Akron School of Law: 1921-1959*, *supra* note 6.

119. STEVENS, *supra* note 70, at 80-81.

available to the working-class people who could attend classes only in the evening, which in turn served to facilitate upward mobility.<sup>120</sup>

Most aspiring lawyers were still studying law with individual mentor attorneys. Neale was no different, and he studied law in an office in Mayfield, Kentucky.<sup>121</sup> It is unclear whether he practiced law in Kentucky or not. When he came to Akron, he was still pursuing the call of business education.<sup>122</sup> He worked at the Hammel Business University, which had been part of the Akron community since 1881.<sup>123</sup> At the time it was on the cutting edge of bringing education for future businessmen and women.

While in Akron, working at the Hammel Business College, Neale decided to pursue a more formal legal education. He received his LL.B. degree from Baldwin College of Berea in 1926, which may have been affiliated with the Cleveland Law School.<sup>124</sup> Paul Short died in 1923 and responsibility for the school passed completely into the hands of Neale.<sup>125</sup>

It was apparently the inconvenience of the commute to Cleveland and the sight of other Akronites in the class that gave Neale the idea of establishing the Akron Law School. The synergy between the Hammel Business College and the Akron Law School undoubtedly helped the fledgling law school. It no doubt borrowed upon the business background and support of Neale who worked for the Business College. Indeed, it appears that by 1928, while Judge Grant was President of the Board of Trustees and Dean of the Akron Law School, Neale was President of the Law School.<sup>126</sup> Though Neale's titles sometimes

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120. *Id.*

121. *Id.* at 323.

122. *Id.*

123. THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL BULLETIN, *supra*, note 104, at 9.

124. The Cleveland Law School, founded in 1897, merged in 1946 with the John Marshall Law School, founded in 1916, to become the Cleveland-Marshall Law School. From 1963 to 1967 the School was affiliated with Baldwin Wallace College. The law school, in turn, merged with Cleveland State University to become the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law in 1969. CLEVELAND-MARSHALL COLLEGE OF LAW CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI DIRECTORY vi (1987). If Charles A. Neale graduated from the Cleveland Law School or Baldwin-Wallace, he must have had a thirst for legal education. Records of the Ohio Supreme Court indicate that he began study at the Akron Law School on September 15, 1926, and he registered with the Ohio Supreme Court on October 15, 1926. If Dean Neale passed the bar or represented individuals as counsel, we have been unable to find documents to that effect. This includes a search of the records of the Ohio Supreme Court as well as a Lexis "counsel" search. It has been stated that Neale "never practiced as a lawyer . . ." PASCHEN, *supra* note 10, at 46.

125. A HISTORY OF THE AKRON LAW SCHOOL, *supra* note 3, at 1.

126. EIGHTH ANNUAL CATALOG, *supra* note 71, at first unnumbered inside page.

changed,<sup>127</sup> he was always involved in the management of the School.

Nevertheless, Neale continued to have duties with the Business College while he was Dean of the law school, and does not appear to have taught any courses at the law school.<sup>128</sup> The faculty that taught under Judge Grant continued to teach.<sup>129</sup>

But many significant changes took place in 1930-31 under Neale's Deanship. By then, Neale had become both the President of the Board of Trustees and the Dean of the School.<sup>130</sup> But, as noticed elsewhere, Judge Grant's law partner and General Counsel for Firestone, Joseph Thomas, became the Assistant Dean of the School.<sup>131</sup>

The catalogue for 1930-31 continued to make it clear that both men and women were welcome at the School. In a restatement of its ideals the catalogue set forth the following goal: "To the teaching of men and women to be true to the highest traditions of our profession; to attain its idea of service; to perform its duty to—humanity—to all of these this school is dedicated."<sup>132</sup> At the same time, the catalogue set forth a truth about the student's responsibility for his/her education, which has echoed since as legal education became more developed: "While the law schools must assume in a large measure the responsibility for maintaining and perpetuating the honored traditions of the legal profession, yet a great lawyer [cannot] be made by teaching. He makes himself by the exercise of his natural gifts."<sup>133</sup>

During this time, the first course in "Legal Ethics" was added as a required course.<sup>134</sup> In addition, apparently in response to new rules by the Ohio Supreme Court requiring people wanting to re-take the bar examination to have additional schooling, the law school established a "Special Review Class" with 114 hours of instruction taught by George E. Bailey and Lloyd L. Ecrement.<sup>135</sup> The class was open to people who

127. See THIRD ANNUAL CATALOGUE, *supra* note 103, at 1 (listing Neale as Secretary and Treasurer); SEVENTH ANNUAL CATALOG (Akron Law School, Akron, Ohio) 1927-28, at 1 (listing Neale as President).

128. This is true up to and including the 1932-33 catalogue. See THIRD ANNUAL CATALOGUE, *supra* note 103, through TWELFTH ANNUAL CATALOG, (Akron Law School, Akron, Ohio) 1930-31.

129. *Id.*

130. TENTH ANNUAL CATALOG, (Akron Law School, Akron, Ohio) 1930-31.

131. *Id.*

132. *Id. Historical Sketch* at unnumbered second page.

133. *Id.* at 6.

134. *Id. Courses of Instruction* at 11. The text for this course was the "Canons of Professional Ethics." At a time when most courses were listed as thirty hours, this course, like Bankruptcy and Receivership, was assigned only ten hours. It appears to have been the equivalent of what today we would call a one credit-hour course, meeting one hour per week.

135. This feature does not appear in the 1932-33 catalog and apparently disappeared. *Id.*

had initially failed the bar examination and to seniors who were eligible to sit for the bar and who could obtain the approval of the dean.<sup>136</sup> Regular tuition was charged for this class.<sup>137</sup>

In the catalogue for 1930-31, Neale also explained the cooperative relationship the School had with the Cleveland Law School.<sup>138</sup> This led to the conferral of a Master's Degree, through Cleveland Law School, for those who had acquired a Bachelor of Law.<sup>139</sup> At the cost of \$140 tuition and the completion of an acceptable written thesis, a student could obtain a Master's Degree after one year's residence for the following course of study: "Reading and examination on: Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, *The Common Law*, Austin's or Holland's *Jurisprudence* and Wheaton's *International Law*."<sup>140</sup>

The prospective student was also required to "study" comparative Constitutional Law.<sup>141</sup> There were lectures and examinations in Federal Jurisdiction and Procedure.<sup>142</sup> Bankruptcy required lectures, study, and an examination.<sup>143</sup>

By 1931 Judge E. D. Fritch had taken over the late Judge Grant's course in Elementary Law and Clarence W. May had taken over Constitutional Law.<sup>144</sup> The first catalog after Judge Grant's death shows Joseph Thomas as Assistant Dean, the first such title to be held among the law faculty.<sup>145</sup> This was no doubt a position created to allow Neale to continue with his duties to the Business College and to give

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*Special Review Class at 9.*

136. *Id.*

137. *Id.*

138. During the early 19th century, only certain schools had the authority to grant degrees. But it was common for schools to "loan" their degree granting authority to others. Thus, Baldwin Wallace had "loaned" its degree granting authority to the Cleveland Law School. This meant that graduates of the Cleveland Law School would actually receive a degree from Baldwin Wallace. At some point, the Cleveland Law School obtained degree-granting authority itself. It, in turn, "loaned" its degree to the Akron Law School in 1924. See *General Information*, EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT, (Akron Law School, Akron, Ohio) 1938-39, at 5. As a consequence the early graduates of the Akron Law School actually had a degree that stated Cleveland Law School. It was apparently common at this time and caused no problems in the careers of the students. It did, however, cause some confusion as to the source of one's education. An Akron graduate with a Cleveland Law School diploma might list his degree granting school as either Akron or Cleveland. Similarly, many prior Cleveland Law School graduates listed themselves as Baldwin Wallace graduates. The Akron Law School eventually received its own degree granting authority.

139. *Masters Degree*, TENTH ANNUAL CATALOG, *supra* note 130, at 12.

140. *Id.*

141. *Id.*

142. *Id.*

143. *Id.*

144. *Courses of Instruction*, ELEVENTH ANNUAL CATALOG, *supra* note 50, at 13.

145. *Id.* at 7.

responsibility for the day-to-day administration to Assistant Dean Thomas. Thomas had been a law partner of Judge Grant, but by 1947 Thomas was General Counsel and Assistant Secretary of Firestone Tire and Rubber Company.<sup>146</sup>

In addition to Judge Fritch and Clarence May, one other new member on the faculty in the 1930-31 academic year was attorney Oscar A. Hunsicker. Hunsicker would later become the third Dean of the Akron Law School,<sup>147</sup> and in that same year, Hunsicker was elected Judge of the Court of Common Pleas.<sup>148</sup>

By 1934, the Akron Law School, in conformity with the Rules of the Ohio Supreme Court, required two years of college education before enrollment in law school.<sup>149</sup> The School still adhered to the Dwight method and was proud of the fact that eight of the twelve faculty members who were selected when the school was founded still taught there.<sup>150</sup> The library was described as “a complete working library, fully equipped for the needs of the student,” which was “available day and evening.”<sup>151</sup> It was estimated that forty percent of the graduates worked in law and sixty percent in business.<sup>152</sup>

The Law School was formally incorporated in 1931.<sup>153</sup> In 1933,



Akron Law School Faculty 1931-36

146. *Looking Back . . . August, 1947 (50 Years)*, AKRON BAR ASSOC. EXAMINER MAGAZINE (Akron Bar Assoc., Akron, Ohio) August, 1997, at 18.

147. TENTH ANNUAL CATALOG, *supra* note 130.

148. GRISMER, *supra* note 9, at 803.

149. 3 CARRINGTON T. MARSHALL, A HISTORY OF THE COURTS AND LAWYERS OF OHIO 679 (1934).

150. *Id.*

151. *Id.*

152. *Id.*

153. EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT, *supra* note 138, at unnumbered inside cover page.

Joseph Thomas's title changed from Assistant to Associate Dean.<sup>154</sup> Also, for the first time, Pernie M. Martin appeared under the School of Law's officers as "Secretary."<sup>155</sup> Among the School's articulated goals was that its graduates would be "a source of benefit to the community."<sup>156</sup>

The Great Depression apparently had no lasting effect upon the School. Its 1934-35 catalogue lists over one hundred students.<sup>157</sup> The statements of aspiration for the Law School continued to evolve. In outlining the quality of its faculty, the catalogue observed that:

The students who graduate under [such a faculty's] direction will be lawyers in the proper sense of the—word—masters not only of legal formulae but also of the fundamental principles underlying all law, men who enter upon their careers with such sound principles of moral and civil law that they will be a credit to their school, an honor to their profession, and a safeguard to the ideals of American citizens.<sup>158</sup>

This year resulted in a change in the catalogue, which also signaled that the Langdell method was gaining ascendancy over the Dwight method. After dividing legal education methodology into three parts—lectures, text-books, and cases—the Akron Law School indicated that it did "not adapt any of these to the exclusion of the others."<sup>159</sup> Indeed, the official pronouncement of the School indicated that: "Experience has seemed to indicate to the Faculty that the best results are attained by a combination of the three methods."<sup>160</sup>

This year also saw specific attention to the Moot Court in which

154. TWELFTH ANNUAL CATALOG, *supra* note 128; THIRTEENTH ANNUAL CATALOG, *supra* note 2.

155. THIRTEENTH ANNUAL CATALOG, *supra* note 2. We have been unable to find any information concerning Ms. Martin. There is a "Pernie Martin" in the 1920 and 1930 census. This Pernie Martin was born in Kentucky in about 1901. In the 1920 census she was nineteen years old and was living with her parents and other family members in Roseville, Barren County, Kentucky. *1920 United States Federal Census about Pernie Martin*, ANCESTRY.COM, [http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&db=1920usfedcen&rank=1&new=1&MSAV=0&msT=1&gss=angs-d&gsfn=pernie+&gsln=martin&mswpn\\_\\_ftp=roseville+kentucky&uidh=mg9&pcat=35&fh=0&h=96882293&recoff=](http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&db=1920usfedcen&rank=1&new=1&MSAV=0&msT=1&gss=angs-d&gsfn=pernie+&gsln=martin&mswpn__ftp=roseville+kentucky&uidh=mg9&pcat=35&fh=0&h=96882293&recoff=) (last visited Oct. 21, 2012). In 1930, she was twenty-nine years old, single, and living with her younger brother in Akron, Ohio. Her occupation is listed as "teacher." *1930 United States Federal Census about Pernie Martin*, ANCESTRY.COM, [http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=1930usfedcen&h=69212429&indiv=try&o\\_vc=Record:OtherRecord&rhSource=6061](http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=1930usfedcen&h=69212429&indiv=try&o_vc=Record:OtherRecord&rhSource=6061) (last visited Oct. 21, 2012).

156. *Historical Sketch*, THIRTEENTH ANNUAL CATALOG, *supra* note 2, at 4.

157. FOURTEENTH ANNUAL CATALOG, (Akron Law School, Akron, Ohio), 1934-35.

158. *Id. Advantages* at 6.

159. *Id. Methods of Instruction* at 7.

160. *Id.*



students “prepare all the pleadings, impanel a jury, and conduct the trial. . . .”<sup>161</sup> Though this activity was pictured in prior years, this was the first year in which the school provided a narrative of the event.<sup>162</sup> Tuition had risen to \$150 per year.<sup>163</sup>

During Neale’s term as Dean, the Akron Law School became one of the founders of what was to become a state accrediting society, the Ohio League of Law Schools on July 1, 1934.<sup>164</sup> This required the School to make changes to meet the standards of the League.<sup>165</sup>

Vern L. Oldham (’35) and his brother, Albert H. Oldham, formed a partnership in 1947 that specialized in intellectual property.<sup>166</sup> F.W. Spicer graduated from the Law School in 1935.<sup>167</sup> He is the father of retired Common Pleas Judge Mary F. Spicer (’65) and the uncle of retired Probate Judge Willard F. Spicer (’72).

In 1937, Pernie Martin’s title was expanded to be both Secretary and Registrar.<sup>168</sup> In surveying the then current status of legal education, the 1937-38 catalogue indicated:

The need of comprehensive legal training is now greater than ever before. With the rapid growth of the country and the consequent complexity of business affairs, the demand for thoroughly-equipped law schools has greatly increased.<sup>169</sup>

Further,

The profession of law is properly regarded as a learned profession, and

161. *Id. Procedure and Court Practice* at 7.

162. *Id.*

163. *Id. Fees and Expenses* at 11.

164. Twelfth article of the Articles of Association. A copy is on file with the University of Akron School of Law.

165. SIXTEENTH ANNUAL CATALOG, (Akron Law School, Akron, Ohio), 1936-37.

166. HAL D. COOPER & THOMAS M. SCHMITZ, A HISTORY OF INVENTIONS, PATENTS AND PATENT LAWYERS IN THE WESTERN RESERVE (1993). Albert H. Oldham’s son, Edwin (“Ned”) W. Oldham graduated from The University of Akron’s School of Law in 1966. Ned played a key role in bringing the National Inventors Hall of Fame to Akron. He was also key in offering Intellectual Property courses to law students at the school for approximately 20 years, and he helped found the school’s Intellectual Property Center. See Richard L. Aynes, *Ned Oldham: A Leader For Our Minds, A Tribute*, AKRON LAW, THE ALUMNI PUBLICATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON SCHOOL OF LAW, Vol. 5, Issue 1, at 13 (2011). Ned’s son, Scott M. Oldham (’91) is currently practicing Intellectual Property as a partner in Hahn, Loeser & Parks L.L.P. and is Chair of the school’s Intellectual Property Advisory Council. One of the other lawyers once associated with the Oldham firm is Bruce H. Wilson (’63) who, in addition to his practice, currently directs the IP Clinic of the University of Akron.

167. FOURTEENTH ANNUAL CATALOG, *supra* note 157, at 22.

168. SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CATALOG, (Akron Law School, Akron, Ohio), 1937-38, at 2.

169. *Id. General Information* at 5.

only the most rigid and systematic instruction can prepare the student for a successful career in this very complex science. . . .

Only those of extreme energy, perseverance and industry, who after mature consideration and adequate preparation are seriously determined to complete the entire four-year course with creditable grades, are desired as students.<sup>170</sup>

By 1936, the School could boast that its alumni included not only practicing lawyers, but also members of the legislature, judges, mayors, and other public officials.<sup>171</sup>

In the 1930s, as would occur periodically in future years, there was concern about whether the job market would support new lawyers. The 1937-38 catalogue spoke directly to that issue, indicating that the field of employment for those with legal training “was constantly expanding.”<sup>172</sup> The School pointed to increasing opportunities in “state and federal quasi-judicial agencies, boards and commissions” as well as in executive positions in business, finance, industry, and corporate law departments.<sup>173</sup> “Success in the law, as in everything else, depends upon thorough preparation, together with other success qualities.”<sup>174</sup>

The 1935-1936 school year appears to have marked the beginning of a course in legal research called “Legal Bibliography.”<sup>175</sup> The following school year, beginning in 1936, the tuition was discounted to \$144 for students who paid cash within thirty days of entering school.<sup>176</sup> But it cost \$150 for those paying by each semester and \$160 for those paying in eight equal monthly installments.<sup>177</sup>

The catalogue of that year boasted of the following public officials: Ohio State Senator H.D. Byrne ('34), Medina Superintendent of Schools W. E. Conkle ('35), Medina Mayor T. V. Foskett ('32), Akron Municipal Judge C. M. Kelly ('26), Sidney Ohio School Superintendent Dr. C. E. McCorkle ('29), Portage County Probate Judge G. G. McClelland ('33), former Municipal Judge J. P. Riddle ('28), Cuyahoga Falls City Solicitor A. L. Sidnell ('28), and Medina County Prosecutor

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170. *Id.*

171. *Id. Alumni* at 6.

172. *Id. Law and Business Relationship* at 7.

173. *Id.*

174. *Id.*

175. *Courses for the Degree of LL.B.*, FIFTEENTH ANNUAL CATALOG, *supra* note 8, at 9. This course was ten hours.

176. *Fees and Expenses*, SIXTEENTH ANNUAL CATALOG, *supra* note 165, at 11.

177. *Id.*

R. E. Snedden ('34).<sup>178</sup>

By 1938-39, Cleveland Law School's Dean Judge Lee E. Skeel was listed as a Trustee of the Akron Law School.<sup>179</sup> In 1939, the staff of the Law School expanded as Joseph Thomas assumed the Presidency of the Board of Trustees and George E. Bailey became Vice President.<sup>180</sup> Neale retained the position of Dean and Pernie Marin had the new title of Secretary-Treasurer. G. M. Gaumbardner was added as the Registrar. The Trustees consisted of Chairman Chester G. Wise,<sup>181</sup> Pernie Martin, Joseph Thomas, George Bailey, Charles Neale, and Cleveland Law School's Judge Lee E. Skeel.<sup>182</sup> The same trustees are listed for the following year.<sup>183</sup>

The class of 1939 included Harvey Smith.<sup>184</sup> Mr. Smith was employed by Firestone and retired as its comptroller. After his retirement he returned to the law school under Ohio's sixty-plus program. Beginning in the spring of 1990, he enrolled as an auditor and took over eighteen law-related courses. "Harvey said (often with tears in his eyes) how much he enjoyed being in the classroom, learning from fellow students, and the experience of keeping up with learning the law."<sup>185</sup>

The graduating class of 1940 consisted of ten people, nine men and one woman. That woman was Thelma C. Furry.<sup>186</sup> Attorney Furry was admitted to the bar in 1941 and was said to be the "first female trial lawyer in Akron."<sup>187</sup> She was in private practice. In 1959 she won a self-incrimination case before a unanimous U.S. Supreme Court.<sup>188</sup> She

178. *Id. Alumni* at 19.

179. EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT, *supra* note 138, at 3.

180. NINETEENTH ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT, (Akron Law School, Akron, Ohio) 1939-40, at 2.

181. Wise had been President of the Akron Bar Association in 1919-20. *Our Past Presidents: Past Presidents of the Akron Bar Association*, AKRON BAR ASS'N, <http://www.akronbar.org/abouttheaba/ourpastpresidents.page> (last visited Oct. 24, 2012).

182. NINETEENTH ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT, *supra* note 180, at 2.

183. *See* TWENTIETH ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT (Akron Law School, Akron, Ohio) 1940-41.

184. *Roster of Students*, EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT, *supra* note 138, at 16.

185. Interview with Lauri S. Thorpe, Dean, University of Akron School of Law, Akron, Ohio (Mar. 19, 2012) (relating her recollections of Mr. Smith).

186. In 1992 the University of Akron alumni magazine ran a six-page story about Attorney Furry, with many pictures. Joette Dignan Weir, *Red Portia Redeemed*, AKRON LAW ALUMNI (University of Akron, Akron, Ohio), Spring 1992, at 20-25.

187. *Obituary: Thelma C. Furry*, BEACON JOURNAL, Mar. 24, 2000. Attorney Furry passed away on March 22, 2000 at the age of 90.

188. *Raley v. Ohio*, 360 U.S. 423 (1959). Attorney Furry also had other cases successfully appealed to the United States Supreme Court. *See Krakoff v. Weaver*, 387 U.S. 235 (1967); *Slagle v. Ohio*, 366 U.S. 259 (1961); *Morgan v. Ohio*, 358 U.S. 863 (1958); and *354 U.S. 929* (1957).

practiced law for fifty-two years. In 1981, she received the School of Law's "Outstanding Alumni Award," and in 1994, she received the Women's History Projects Mary Perkins Rogers Award for Pioneering.<sup>189</sup>

Neale's last year included the graduation of the late Harold Hutchinson ('41). Mr. Hutchinson worked at Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. When the position of Assistant Secretary to the Board of Directors became available, Mr. Hutchinson applied for the position. He was told he could have the job, but the requirements were that he be a lawyer or a law student. With this incentive, he enrolled in law school. Mr. Hutchinson indicated that there were ten men in his class and that they all passed the bar examination.<sup>190</sup> During World War II, Mr. Hutchinson was in the U.S. Navy as a member of the Judge Advocate General's Staff. He stayed in the navy after the war, making it a career. Upon his retirement from the Navy, he began work at Wells Fargo, on the West Coast, where he was a Vice President.<sup>191</sup>

Dean Neale continued to serve as Dean of the Law School until 1941 when he was succeeded by 9th District Court of Appeals Judge Oscar Hunsicker.<sup>192</sup> During Neale's tenure as Dean, the Akron Law School graduated 198 students.



### III. THE DEANSHIP OF OSCAR HUNSICKER: 1941-1959

There is a certain symmetry about Oscar Hunsicker, like Charles Grant, a Judge of the 9th District Ohio Court of Appeals, becoming the third Dean of the Law School.<sup>193</sup>

Judge Hunsicker was born in Wooster, Ohio on January 30, 1898.<sup>194</sup> He was educated

Judge Oscar Hunsicker

189. Penny Fox, *Thelma C. Furry, 1910-2000*, AKRON WOMEN'S HISTORY, [http://www3.uakron.edu/schlcomm/womenshistory/furry\\_t.htm](http://www3.uakron.edu/schlcomm/womenshistory/furry_t.htm) (last visited Oct. 24, 2012).

190. All information in this paragraph comes from an interview by Richard L. Aynes, Professor, University of Akron School of Law, in Akron, Ohio (May 31, 1995).

191. Attorney Hutchinson was born May 29, 1913 and died March 13, 2000. He graduated from the University of Akron where he played football. *Death Notice, Harold Hutchinson*, AKRON BEACON JOURNAL, Mar. 16, 2000, at B7.

192. TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT (Akron Law School, Akron, Ohio), 1941-42 at 3.

193. THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL BULLETIN, *supra* note 104, at 5.

194. *Persons Born 30 January 1898 in the Social Security Death Master File*, SOC. SEC. DEATH MASTER FILE, [http://ssdmf.info/by\\_birthdate/18980130.html](http://ssdmf.info/by_birthdate/18980130.html) (last visited Oct. 24, 2012).

in the public schools.<sup>195</sup> He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Akron in 1919.<sup>196</sup> He attended law school at Case Western Reserve College of Law and received his LL.B. in 1922, when he was admitted to practice in Ohio.<sup>197</sup> He began his law practice in the Kenmore area and from 1923-1927 served as solicitor.<sup>198</sup> He was elected prosecuting attorney for Summit County in 1926 and served until 1928.<sup>199</sup> As prosecutor, Hunsicker's term "was marked by frequent clashes with racing and gambling interests."<sup>200</sup>

He lost the election in 1928 when Al Smith was heading the Presidential ticket for his party, but was elected Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in 1930.<sup>201</sup> Judge Hunsicker was next elected to the 9th District Court of Appeals in 1946,<sup>202</sup> where he served until his death in 1983.<sup>203</sup>

Judge Hunsicker was active in a number of professional and civil organizations. His activity included the Akron Bar Association, the Ohio State Bar Association, Free and Accepted Masons, American Legion, President of the Better Akron Federation, trustee of the Akron YMCA, and a trustee of the Family Services Society.<sup>204</sup> He was also campaign chair for the Community Chest drives (1932-33, 1939-40, and 1943-44), its President (1933-35 and 1936-42), and a member of the Board of Trustees of its successor, the United Community Chest. He was active in Boy Scouts, Elks, and Eagles.<sup>205</sup> Judge Hunsicker had been a member of the law school faculty since at least 1928.<sup>206</sup> In 1928-29 he taught a thirty-six hour course on Sales.<sup>207</sup> In 1930-31, Hunsicker taught Criminal Law and Sales.<sup>208</sup> In 1937-38 he also taught Domestic

195. Much of the biographical data is taken from HISTORY OF THE COURTS AND LAWYERS OF OHIO, *supra* note 149, at 161-162, and Richard McBane, *Retired Judge Dies at 85*, AKRON BEACON JOURNAL, Apr. 18, 1983, at D1-D2.

196. This was then the Akron Municipal University, a predecessor of the current University of Akron. Judge Hunsicker had been a member of the Lone Star Fraternity in College. McBane, *supra* note 195, at D2.

197. GRISMER, *supra* note 9, at 802.

198. *Id.*

199. *Id.*

200. McBane, *supra* note 195, at D1-D2.

201. GRISMER, *supra* note 9, at 802.

202. *Id.*

203. Though Judge Hunsicker retired, he continued to sit by assignment until his death on April 18, 1983. Tributes to Judge and Dean Hunsicker are found in 17 AKRON L. REV. 2-8 (1983).

204. HISTORY OF THE COURTS AND LAWYERS OF OHIO, *supra* note 149, at 161.

205. McBane, *supra* note 195, at D1-D2.

206. EIGHTH ANNUAL CATALOG, *supra* note 71, at 7.

207. *Id. Courses of Instruction* at 9.

208. *Courses of Instruction*, TENTH ANNUAL CATALOG, *supra* note 130, at 10.

Relations.<sup>209</sup>

When Judge Hunsicker assumed the Deanship of the Law School, some significant changes had taken place. With Judge Hunsicker as Dean, Charles Neale assumed the title Assistant to the Dean.<sup>210</sup> Pernie Martin continued with a title of Secretary.<sup>211</sup> The Trustees of the School were Chester A. Wise (*Chairman*), Judge Hunsicker, Charles Neale, Pernie Martin, Joseph Thomas, and Cleveland Law School's Judge Lee Skeel.<sup>212</sup> This year saw the addition of Frank Kaufman as a member of the faculty teaching contracts.<sup>213</sup> Standards for law schools in Ohio had now been put in place by the Ohio League of Law Schools, of which the Akron Law School was a charter member. In December of 1938, the school became a non-profit organization, which was a requirement to becoming a member of the League of Ohio Law Schools.<sup>214</sup> The School moved from 57 West Market Street to 2 East Market Street in 1941.<sup>215</sup>

New members of the faculty included Lloyd L. Ecrement, the Valedictorian of the Akron Law School class of 1928,<sup>216</sup> probably the first Akron Law graduate to teach in a law school, and Common Pleas Court Judge Walter B. Wanamaker.<sup>217</sup>

While continuing its commitment to "both men and women,"<sup>218</sup> the

209. *Courses of Instruction*, SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CATALOG, *supra* note 168, at 10.

210. TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT, *supra* note 192, at 3.

211. *Id.*

212. *Id.* The Board continued this composition in 1948-49. In 1950-51, Wise remained as Chairman and Thomas and Keel remained on the board. State Senator H.D. Byrne, Samuel Koledin, and Mark L. Felber joined the Board. Charles Neale had the title of Executive Secretary of Administration and Pernie Martin the title of Registrar. This organization with these same people appears to have continued through at least 1956-57. In 1958-59 Harland Paige ('32) was added to the trustees.

Thomas was listed as President of the School, Hunsicker as Dean, Neale as Secretary-Treasurer, and Miss Bessie Patterson as Registrar-Clerk. In addition, Richard Marshall ('54) became the Assistant Dean.

213. TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT, *supra* note 192, at 5. His son, Philip Kaufman, is a member of the Class of 1971, served as a member of the University of Akron Board of Trustees, and was Chairman of the Board 2008-2010. *See Chairs of the Board of Trustees*, UNIV. OF AKRON, <http://www.uakron.edu/bot/pastChairs.dot> (last visited Oct. 24, 2012).

214. *See generally* EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT, *supra* note 138; 1938-39 CATALOGUE, (Akron Law School, Akron, Ohio), 1938-39. Prior to this time, it was a for-profit corporation owned by Neale and Paul Short. Upon Short's death, Neale acquired Short's interest.

215. A HISTORY OF THE AKRON LAW SCHOOL, *supra* note 3, at 13.

216. EIGHTH ANNUAL CATALOG, *supra* note 71, at 15.

217. TWENTIETH ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT, *supra* note 183, at 5.

218. By 1948-49 the inside cover page of the catalogue read:

Akron Law School

Co-Educational

*See* TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT, (Akron Law School, Akron Ohio) 1948-1949 at 1.

catalogues of the Hunsicker era continued to stress the difficulty of studying law.<sup>219</sup> Judge Hunsicker continued to teach Criminal Law and added Domestic Relations and Practice and Procedure as other courses he taught.<sup>220</sup>

The cost of education had increased to \$150 a year under the cash plan. Tuition was \$155 under the semester plan and \$160 under the monthly payment plan.<sup>221</sup>

The success of the case method of study may be gauged by the changing outline of instruction at the Akron Law School. No longer adhering exclusively to the "Dwight System," the 1941-42 catalogue acknowledged that "there are several systems of instruction" in the U.S. and concluded that "[w]e do not feel any one system is superior to the other."<sup>222</sup> As a result, the faculty used case, lectures, textbooks, history, the mastery of principles, and the ability to apply those principles to actual cases as parts of instruction.<sup>223</sup>

The class of 1942 included Alfred N. Lamonica.<sup>224</sup> Like so many of the School's graduates, Lamonica was a person of many talents. He was "an accomplished musician" whose talents included the ability to play the piano, harp, French horn, trumpet, and trombone.<sup>225</sup> He played with several "big bands" in the early 1940s.<sup>226</sup> He was also a composer who prepared musical arrangements for "the Rhythm Boys," a group that was popular before World War II.<sup>227</sup> During the war, he was an attorney for the U.S. Army and U.S. Army Air Corps. Simultaneously, he played in the United States Army Band.<sup>228</sup> Apparently, while attending law school, he worked during the day in the Office of Price Administration. After the war, he operated the A & A Novelty Company, a wholesaler importer, and also practiced law as a self-employed attorney.<sup>229</sup>

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219. Similar to what was written in the Seventh Annual Catalog, *see supra*, note 127, the Twenty-First Annual Announcement stated, "The profession of law is regarded as a learned profession, and only those of extreme energy, perseverance and industry, who after mature consideration and adequate preparation are seriously."

219. TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT, *supra* note 192, at 4.

220. *Id. Courses of Instruction* at 6.

221. *Id. Fees and Expenses* at 11.

222. *Id. Method of Instruction*.

223. *Id.*

224. *Id. Register of Students* at 14.

225. Jerry Holub, *In Memoriam . . .*, AKRON BAR EXAM'R, Oct. 1995, at 15.

226. *Id.*

227. *Id.*

228. *Id.*

229. *Id.*

In December of 1941, Dean Hunsicker began a one-year term as the President of the Ohio League of Law Schools. At the time, there were twelve law schools in Ohio.<sup>230</sup> In 1941, the School's first African-American graduate, Alexander Young Russell ('44) entered the Akron Law School.<sup>231</sup> Mr. Russell had been born in Gaffney, South Carolina in 1900. He moved to Akron in 1928. His prior education included one year at Howard University and two years at Meharry Medical College.<sup>232</sup> Graduating in 1944, he took the Ohio bar examination where he placed second in the state out of six hundred applicants.<sup>233</sup> In 1945, he applied to become a member of the Akron Bar Association. His sponsors were attorneys Harold Slabaugh and Charles Sacks ('26). At the time he indicated that he was engaged in the full-time practice of law and that he had offices at 90 South Howard Street, in Akron, Ohio.<sup>234</sup> Later in life he devoted much of his time to the sale of real estate.<sup>235</sup> Attorney Russell's sense of humor and pragmatism is seen from a story recounted in a 1963 newspaper article:

To the guy with the deed it seemed like a safe, if dishonest, way to make a fast buck.

So he took his problems to attorney Alex Russell, whom he had known slightly when both worked in the Firestone plant. The fast buck artist's father had just died and left a house. There were three children. But our man had a deed signing the home over to him and supposedly signed by the father nine months before his death.

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230. Stanley A. Samad, *Standards of Legal Education and the League of Ohio Law Schools*, 10 W. RESERVE L. REVIEW 234, 234 (1959).

231. The late Dean Stanley Samad indicated that the early school was open to both women and people of all races. It is certainly true that the early catalogues make it clear that education was available to women and Aileen McMurry Trusler ('25) graduated in the first class. It is also true that there is nothing explicitly stated preventing African Americans or any other race from enrolling in the Akron Law School. This might have been consistent with Judge Grant's philosophy since he was a Union soldier in the Civil War and his brother Frederick M. Grant eventually became an officer in an African American unit. However, the lack of African American graduates until 1944 and the lack of an explicit statement with respect to race, as there was with gender, leaves unanswered questions. Perhaps this is explained by the fact that there was a longer and stronger history of African American males attending law school than there was with respect to women and it was thought that an explicit statement was needed only with respect to women. It is unclear whether population trends had any effect upon minority enrollment.

232. This information is taken from his Application for Membership to the Akron Bar Association.

233. James Callaghan, *Alex Mixes Lessons and Laughter*, AKRON BEACON JOURNAL, July 7, 1963.

234. *Id.*

235. *Id.*



All he wanted Alex to do was notarize the deed as if he had been there at the signing. Alex looked at the man dead-panned and said: “This is kind a special deal and I can’t handle it. But if you go to the man at this address on S. High St. he’ll take care of it.”

He wrote out the address and the man departed. Within a half an hour the phone rang.

“Russell,” the man said, “You sent me to the jail.”

“I know,” Alex answered, “That’s where you’re going anyway if you try this deal only thing is you’re not taking me with you.”<sup>236</sup>

In 1947, he was one of fifteen Black attorneys who formed the Akron Barristers Club that is still in existence today.<sup>237</sup> Included in that group was Rufus L. Thompson (’48) who served as the police prosecutor.<sup>238</sup>

One of the graduates during this time was Mary Cacioppo (’45) who, notwithstanding the women who had graduated before her, was still a pioneer with much path-breaking to be done. In one of her first classes, where she was the only woman, her instructor told her that he was opposed to having women in the legal profession and he would “make it his business” to insure that she did not pass the course.<sup>239</sup> She told him she would make it “her business” to pass the course, which she did. Her first job came because an older lawyer was indignant over the way his male colleagues refused to give her a job. She had many firsts to her credit.<sup>240</sup> In 1947 she and Patricia O’Donnell formed a partnership, which is thought to have been the first all female firm in Akron.<sup>241</sup> Attorney Cacioppo went on to become a referee in the Domestic Relations court and then a Judge of the Ninth District Court of Appeals.<sup>242</sup> Though she has retired from the court, as of the date of this publication she is still hearing cases by the assignment of the Chief

236. *Id.*

237. Steven A. Maurer, *Minority Lawyer Association Membership Increasing*, AKRON BAR EXAM’R, Mar. 1996, at 26.

238. Another founding member of the Barristers was Luther Johnson. The class of 1944 graduated a Luther R. Johnson who may be the same Luther Johnson who helped found the Barristers. *See id.* at 27.

239. This information is based upon a conversation with Judge Cacioppo in March of 1996. Interview with Mary Cacioppo, Judge, Ninth District Court of Appeals, in Akron, Ohio (March 1996).

240. *Id.*

241. *Looking Back . . .*, AKRON BAR EXAM’R, Sept. 1997, at 18.

242. Zachary Jackson, Mary Cacioppo, AKRON WOMEN’S HISTORY, [http://www3.uakron.edu/schlcomm/womenshistory/cacioppo\\_m.htm](http://www3.uakron.edu/schlcomm/womenshistory/cacioppo_m.htm) (last visited Oct. 24, 2012).

Judge of the Ohio Supreme Court.<sup>243</sup>

Among the graduates of 1947 was General Tire worker William Schultz.<sup>244</sup> Schultz was in private practice until 1950 when he became head of the Civil Division of the Summit County Prosecutor's Office.<sup>245</sup> In 1999, when Summit County Prosecutor Maureen O'Connor became Lt. Governor, Schultz was named as the Interim Prosecutor. Described as a man with a "congenial Irish wit, and love of the Boston Red Sox," when asked about becoming prosecutor at the age of eighty-two, Schultz replied: "I guess the senior attorney is the logical choice."<sup>246</sup>

The law library included over 2,000 volumes, some 600 of which had come from the libraries of Judge Grant, Judge Doyle, and Colonel Willis Bacon.<sup>247</sup> By 1949, the library boasted of more than 4,000 volumes, and by 1957, 10,000 volumes.<sup>248</sup> That same year indicated that electives had been added to the curriculum, they included: Administrative Law, Labor Law, Mortgages, Municipal Corporations, Suretyship, Taxation, Legal Research, and Elementary Law.<sup>249</sup>

By 1948, Dean Hunsicker had won election to the Ninth District Court of Appeals.<sup>250</sup> That same year, he brought to the faculty Ninth District Court of Appeals Judge Arthur W. Doyle.<sup>251</sup> Tuition had, by then, increased to \$225 a year.<sup>252</sup> During this time, required courses made up most of the curriculum.<sup>253</sup> The required courses were Business Associations, Conflicts of Law, Constitutional Law, Contracts, Criminal Law, Domestic Relations, Equity, Evidence, Legal Ethics, Negotiable

243. See *id.* See also *Past Judges of the Ninth District Court of Appeals*, COURT OF APPEALS OF OHIO NINTH APPELLATE DISTRICT, <http://www.ninth.courts.state.oh.us/Judges.htm> (last visited Oct. 24, 2012).

244. Carol Biliczky, *82-year Old to Take Over County Office*, AKRON BEACON JOURNAL, Jan. 4, 1999, available at [http://iw.newsbank.com/iw-search/we/InfoWeb?p\\_action=doc&p\\_theme=aggdocs&p\\_topdoc=1&p\\_docnum=1&p\\_sort=YMD\\_date:D&p\\_product=NewsBank&p\\_docid=0EB6D755CBBBB38D&p\\_text\\_direct-0=document\\_id=\(%200EB6D755CBBBB38D%20\)&p\\_multi=ABJB&s\\_lang=en-US&p\\_nbid=N5FV55HKMTM1MDc1OTkzNi4yMjQxMjY6MT0xMT0xMzAuMTAxLjEuMA](http://iw.newsbank.com/iw-search/we/InfoWeb?p_action=doc&p_theme=aggdocs&p_topdoc=1&p_docnum=1&p_sort=YMD_date:D&p_product=NewsBank&p_docid=0EB6D755CBBBB38D&p_text_direct-0=document_id=(%200EB6D755CBBBB38D%20)&p_multi=ABJB&s_lang=en-US&p_nbid=N5FV55HKMTM1MDc1OTkzNi4yMjQxMjY6MT0xMT0xMzAuMTAxLjEuMA) (last visited Oct. 22, 2012).

245. *Id.*

246. *Id.*

247. *Library*, TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT, *supra* note 192, at 12.

248. THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL BULLETIN, *supra* note 104, at 7.

249. *Id.* *Outline of Curriculum* at 15.

250. *Past Judges of the Ninth District Court of Appeals*, COURT OF APPEALS OF OHIO NINTH APPELLATE DISTRICT, <http://www.ninth.courts.state.oh.us/Judges.htm> (last visited Oct. 24, 2012).

251. TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL CATALOGUE, *supra* note 218, at 4.

252. *Id.* at 7.

253. *Id.* at 8.

Instruments, Personal Property, Pleading and Practice, Real Property, Torts, Trusts, and Wills. Electives included Administrative Law, Labor Law, Mortgages, Municipal Corporations, Suretyship, Taxation, Legal Research, and Elementary Law.<sup>254</sup>

The year 1950 saw the inclusion on the faculty of John R. Quine, for whom the Law School's Quine Award for Outstanding Adjunct Teaching was named and also future Judge Evan L. Reed.<sup>255</sup> That same year, the law library was boasting 5,000 volumes.<sup>256</sup>

The first married couple to graduate from the Akron Law School was Robert P. and Emily Beasley, members of the class of 1954. It is said that when Robert Beasley decided to attend law school, Emily complained to her mother that she, Emily, would have nothing to do while he was in class. Emily's mother responded that Emily should go to law school too, which she did.<sup>257</sup>

In 1956, the library collection passed the 10,000 mark. Plans were already being made public to seek accreditation by the American Bar Association.<sup>258</sup> Sometime in the 1950s, the class schedule was changed from two hours to three hours. Classes began to be scheduled Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30.<sup>259</sup> The annual tuition that year was \$400.<sup>260</sup>

A veteran of the Marine Corps who served two years in the South Pacific during World War II, William R. Ferguson graduated in the class of 1956.<sup>261</sup> He was the Valedictorian and Class President.<sup>262</sup> He also served as the President of the Akron Bar Association 1980-81.<sup>263</sup>

The Board of Trustees of the School consisted of nine members in 1950.<sup>264</sup> They were all prominent members of the community.<sup>265</sup> Among the trustees were: Mark L. Felber, newspaper publisher; Samuel Koledin ('48), Referee in the Domestic Relations Division of the Court

254. *Id.*

255. THIRTIETH ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT, (Akron Law School, Akron Ohio) 1950-1951 at 4.

256. *Id.* at 5.

257. This information comes from an interview by Richard L. Aynes with a friend of Mrs. Beasley.

258. THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT, (Akron Law School, Akron Ohio) 1956-1957 at 6.

259. *Id.* at 10.

260. *Id.* at 8.

261. Jerry Holub, *ABA Memorials*, AKRON BAR EXAMINER, Aug. 23, 2000. Attorney Ferguson passed away on June 22, 2000.

262. *Id.*

263. *Id.*

264. A HISTORY OF THE AKRON LAW SCHOOL, *supra* note 3, at 12.

265. *Id.*

of Common Pleas; and Dr. H.D. Byrne, attorney, prominent member of the Legislature, Professor of Political Science at Kent State, and, for a portion of his life, Registrar of the Akron Law School.<sup>266</sup>

By 1956-57, the School was planning on applying to the American Bar Association for accreditation.<sup>267</sup> As a prelude to that action, it hired three full-time faculty members in 1956-57: William L. Hart, Jr., Richard C. Marshall, and Elmer J. Selman.<sup>268</sup> By 1957-58, Richard Marshall ('54) had been appointed Assistant Dean, and he played a critical role in the future of the School.<sup>269</sup> In 1957, two of the founding instructors from the original 1921 faculty were still serving: Ralph Burroughs and Chester G. Wise.<sup>270</sup> One of the graduates in 1957 was Norman Purnell. Mr. Purnell served in the U.S. Army in Korea. He was a police officer while attending the Akron Law School, and served as an Assistant Summit County Prosecutor and a Referee in the Akron Municipal Court.<sup>271</sup> He was also in private practice for many years.<sup>272</sup>

Bedford H. Biles ('58) received three purple hearts for his service in World War II.<sup>273</sup> Upon his return to the United States when the war ended in 1945, Biles received his undergraduate degree from Duke University and, after graduation, lived in Akron to work for Roadway Express as a terminal manager.<sup>274</sup> Not long after moving to Akron, Biles enrolled in Akron Law School and continued working for Roadway Express on the dock during the nightshift.<sup>275</sup> Upon graduation from law school, Biles entered private practice and went on to enjoy a successful career in the practice of law until his retirement in 1988.<sup>276</sup> Biles is an ardent supporter of Akron Law. He served as Akron Law's commencement speaker in 2008 and received an Outstanding Alumni Award in 2009.<sup>277</sup>

In 1958, the first Alumni Association was formed. J. P. Riddle ('28) was President, and the first Alumni Dinner was held on March 1,

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266. *Id.*

267. *Id.* at 16.

268. THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT, *supra* note 258, at 4

269. THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL BULLETIN, *supra* note 104, at 3.

270. *Id.* at 4.

271. *In Loving Memory of Norman Purnell*, AKRON BAR EXAMINER, Jan. 1997 at 14.

272. *Id.*

273. *An Officer and Lawyer: Bedford Biles ('58)*, AKRON ALUMNI MAGAZINE (The University of Akron, Akron Ohio) Spring 2008, at 31, available at [http://www3.uakron.edu/law/flipbooks/Akron\\_Law\\_Spring\\_2008/](http://www3.uakron.edu/law/flipbooks/Akron_Law_Spring_2008/).

274. *Id.*

275. *Id.* at 32.

276. *Id.*

277. *Id.*

1958, at the University Club.<sup>278</sup> In addition to judges,<sup>279</sup> the local newspaper felt it significant to note those who had used their law degrees outside of the legal profession.<sup>280</sup> Among those included were Rev. Thomas J. Taylor ('40), Chaplain of Our Lady of the Elms School; Dr. M.D. Ailes, former Akron City Health Director; Harland E. Paige ('32), President of First National Bank; Charles F. Burke ('30), Assistant to the President of General Tire & Rubber Co.; Harold Vincent, Superintendent of the Madison, Wisconsin School system;<sup>281</sup> and Fred Albrecht ('51) of Acme Stores. In this snapshot, the library had increased to 12,000 volumes and was growing by 1,000 volumes each year.<sup>282</sup> At the time, the enrollment ranged between 125 and 150. In explaining a high attrition rate, the newspaper indicated that "the school's work load is heavy and its hours long. . . ."<sup>283</sup>

The classes of the 1950s read like a veritable who's who of prominent members of the bar. Fred Albrecht ('51) President of the Acme Grocery chain and, working with University President Norman Auburn, established an Akron tradition with the Acme Zip football game.<sup>284</sup> The class of 1952 produced three outstanding judges, Judge Sam H. Bell, who served upon the benches of the Cuyahoga Falls Municipal Court, the Court of Common Pleas, the 9th District Court of Appeals, and the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio. Judge Bell was the first University of Akron School of Law graduate to

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278. Other officers included private practitioner Daniel E. Falkner ('26), Law School Assistant Dean Richard C. Marshall ('54), Court of Appeals staff person Gene Huenstein ('29), Ticket Committee Chairman Municipal Court Clerk Larry Walsh ('55), and Banquet Co-Chairmen O. H. Corvington ('25) and H. G. Binns ('50). See *Akron Law School Organizing Alumni, Riddle is President*, AKRON BEACON JOURNAL, Feb. 24, 1958.

279. Judges include Thomas M. Powers, Akron Municipal Court; Charles Jenney, Barberton Municipal Court; and Windsor Kellog of the Medina Common Pleas Court. See *id.*

280. *Id.*

281. The article in the *Akron Beacon Journal* indicates that Mr. Vincent attended the dinner, not that he had graduated from the school. *Id.* The Milwaukee County Historical Society reports Vincent served as Milwaukee School Superintendent from 1950 until 1967. An article in *The Milwaukee Journal*, Aug 3, 1966 about Harold S. Vincent: "Vincent was born in Knox, Ind., Nov. 9, 1900. He is a graduate of Greenville College (Ill.), and has a Master of Arts degree from Ohio State University, Columbus. He completed all work, except the dissertation, for a doctor of philosophy degree at Western Reserve University, Cleveland, has two years toward a law degree at Akron law school." See Kevin Abing, *Harold S. Vincent, 1918-1968*, MILWAUKEE COUNTY HIST. SOC.'Y (Feb. 25, 2011), <http://www.milwaukeehistory.net/manuscript/harold-s-vincent-1918-1968/>. There is no record that he was ever admitted to the bar.

282. *Akron Law School Organizing Alumni, Riddle is President*, *supra* note 278.

283. *Id.*

284. *Obituary: Frederick Ivan Albrecht*, OHIO.COM, (Mar. 25-27, 2008), available at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/ohio/obituary.aspx?n=frederick-ivan-albrecht&pid=106301247&fhid=4396#fbLoggedOut>.

serve as a U.S. District Court Judge.<sup>285</sup> Also, in that class was William P. Kannel. Kannel served as a Judge of the Summit County Juvenile court for seventeen years.<sup>286</sup> Their classmate, Harold F. White, served as a Judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for over forty years—the longest serving Bankruptcy judge in history.<sup>287</sup>

Philip G. Barnes ('53) served as the Chief of the Akron Police Department.<sup>288</sup> Robert W. Blakemore ('54) was the Chairman of the Summit County Democratic Party and lead partner in the firm of Blakemore, Meeker, Varian, Bowler & Henretta Co., LPA. William E. Fowler ('54) has served as a Judge of the Transportation Administration for over thirty-five years.<sup>289</sup> George Pappas ('54) became legendary as a trial attorney.<sup>290</sup> James P. Winter ('55) served as a Judge on the Akron Municipal Court and the Summit County Court of Common Pleas. Richard D. Case ('57) was a prominent businessman in Georgia. Monte Mack ('57) served as a Judge of the Akron Municipal Court.<sup>291</sup> Max Rothal ('57) has served as the Akron City Law Director for twenty-two years.<sup>292</sup> W. Don Reader ('58) was a Judge on the Fifth District Court of Appeals.<sup>293</sup> Charles F. Zodrow ('58) served as the CEO of Roadway Trucking.<sup>294</sup>

285. Richard L. Aynes, and Margaret Andreeff Matejkovic, *A Tribute to The Honorable Sam H. Bell*, 44 AKRON L. REV. 801, 802 (2012); See also the Special Session of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio paying tribute to the life of Judge Bell. 756 F. Supp. 2nd XLV, XLI-LXIII (2011).

286. *Obituary: William P. Kannel*, OHIO.COM (Dec. 24-25, 2002), <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/ohio/obituary.aspx?pid=154969588#fbLoggedOut> (stating The Honorable Judge Kannel was appointed Judge of the Summit County Juvenile Court in May 1971, and was elected and then re-elected two more times before retiring on August 31, 1989).

287. Jennie Bell & Margaret Andreeff Matejkovic, *"The People's Judge" Remembering the Life and Legacy of The Honorable Sam H. Bell ('52)*, THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON: SCHOOL OF LAW, <http://www.lawalum.uakron.edu/Page.aspx?pid=521&frcrld=1> (last visited Jan. 16, 2013).

288. Stephanie York, *Akron Officer Russell Bassett Named Optimist Officer of the Year*, CITY OF AKRON: NEWS RELEASES (June 6, 2012), [http://www.ci.akron.oh.us/news\\_releases/Display.asp?RecNum=549](http://www.ci.akron.oh.us/news_releases/Display.asp?RecNum=549).

289. *Paying Tribute to NTSB's Gentleman Jurist*, NAT'L TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD, [http://www.nts.gov/legal/Judge\\_Fowler.html](http://www.nts.gov/legal/Judge_Fowler.html) (last visited Oct. 25, 2012).

290. *Obituary: George Pappas*, LEGACY (July 2, 2012), <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/ohio/obituary.aspx?n=george-pappas&pid=158339328#fbLoggedOut>.

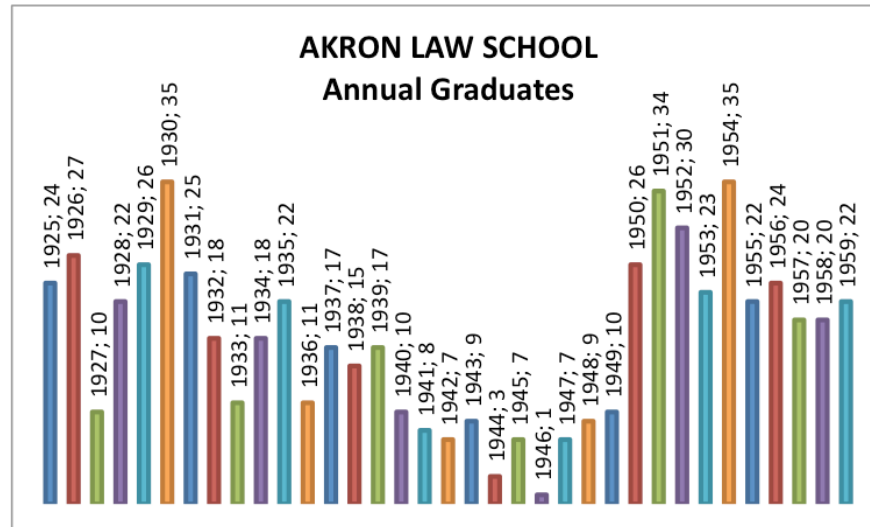
291. Tom Reynders, *Ohio Chairman Backs New Democratic Coalition*, THE BLADE, Mar. 31, 1969, at 3.

292. *Akron Law Director to Retire*, CITY OF AKRON: NEWS RELEASES (Aug. 14, 2009), [http://www.ci.akron.oh.us/News\\_Releases/2009/0814.htm](http://www.ci.akron.oh.us/News_Releases/2009/0814.htm).

293. *OCAN Board of Directors: Board Members*, OCAN, <http://www.ohiocan.org/the-network-2/ocan-board-of-directors/> (last visited Oct. 25, 2012).

294. *GAR Foundation Establishes Zodrow Endowed Fund*, THE UNIV. OF AKRON (Feb. 22, 2002), [http://www.uakron.edu/about\\_u/news\\_media/news\\_details.dot?newsId=8836&pageTitle=UA+News&crumbTitle=GAR+Foundation+Establishes](http://www.uakron.edu/about_u/news_media/news_details.dot?newsId=8836&pageTitle=UA+News&crumbTitle=GAR+Foundation+Establishes)

Nine part-time faculty taught in the School.<sup>295</sup> While Judge Hunsicker was Dean, 316 graduates received degrees from the Akron Law School. It appears that at various times consideration was given to merging with either Kent State University or the University of Akron.<sup>296</sup> The end of Judge Hunsicker's Deanship closed one chapter in the history of the Akron Law School and opened another. During its existence from 1921-1959, 626 students were graduated from the school.<sup>297</sup>



Numerous others, lost to history, received some education at the school and used it to help prepare them for the practice of law without receiving a formal degree. Twenty-three of these graduates (3.7%) were women. Twenty graduates were veterans from World War I, seventy-seven were veterans of World War II. Two were veterans of both WWI and WWII, and four were veterans of the Korean War.

It is impossible to do justice to the impact of those lawyers upon the worlds of law, business, and public service, yet perhaps some sense of the impact of the Akron Law School can be found in the following list of its graduates from this time who had the privilege to be called to the bench:

+Zodrow+Endowed+Fund.

295. TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT, *supra* note 192, at 5.

296. A HISTORY OF THE AKRON LAW SCHOOL, *supra* note 3, at 19.

297. *The Early History of The University of Akron School of Law: 1921-1959*, *supra* note 6.

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THE AKRON LAW SCHOOL

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Judge A.A. Wendt '25  
Coshocton County Court of Common  
Pleas, Coshocton Ohio

Judge Donald B. McFadden '50  
Summit County Common Pleas Court,  
Akron, Ohio

Judge Charles M. Kelly '26  
Akron Municipal Court  
Akron, Ohio

Senior Judge Sam H. Bell '52  
U.S. District Court Northern  
Akron, Ohio

Judge Charles Sacks '26  
Akron Municipal Court  
Akron, Ohio

Judge Roger R. DiPaolo '52  
Ravenna Municipal Court  
Ravenna, Ohio

Judge Thomas M. Powers '27  
Akron Municipal Court  
Akron, Ohio

Judge William P. Kannel '52  
Summit County Juvenile Court  
Akron, Ohio

Judge Jeter P. Riddle '28  
Akron Municipal Court  
Akron, Ohio

Judge Harold F. White '52  
U.S. Bankruptcy Court  
Akron, Ohio

Judge E.D. Graybill '28  
Massillon Municipal Court  
Massillon, Ohio

Judge James V. Barbuto '54<sup>298</sup>  
Summit County Common Pleas Court  
Akron, Ohio

Judge Nathan Koplin '31  
Summit County Probate Court  
Akron, Ohio

Judge William E. Fowler, Jr. '54  
National Transportation Safety  
Washington, D.C.

Judge James F. Leonard '31  
Summit County Probate Court  
Akron, Ohio

Judge Robert F. Martin '54  
Tulsa District Judge  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Judge George G. McClelland '33  
Portage County Probate Court  
Ravenna, Ohio

Judge George E. Martin '55  
Summit County Common Pleas Court  
Akron, Ohio

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298. We regret that historical accuracy requires us to report that Judge James V. Barbuto was removed from the court and disbarred as a member of the U.S. Supreme Court. *See In Re Disbarment of Barbuto*, 449 U.S. 990 (suspension) (1980) and *In re Disbarment of Barbuto*, 450 U.S. 975 (1981).



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Judge Charles W. Jenney '37  
Barberton Municipal Court  
Barberton, Ohio

Judge James P. Winter '55  
Summit County Common Pleas Court  
Akron, Ohio

Judge Bernard J. Roetzel '37  
Summit County Juvenile Court  
Akron, Ohio

Judge Adam L. Gadanac, Jr. '56  
Barberton Municipal Court  
Barberton, Ohio

Judge W. L. Fry '37  
Federal Administrative Law Judge

Judge Monte E. Mack '57  
Akron Municipal Court  
Akron, Ohio

Judge Lester L. Campbell '42  
Ravenna Municipal Court  
Ravenna, Ohio

Judge W. Don Reader '58  
5th District Court of Appeals  
Canton, Ohio

Judge Mary Cacioppo '45  
9th District Court of Appeals  
Akron, Ohio

This important past was acknowledged in the 1996-97 year in the celebration of the School's 75th Anniversary. Beyond a variety of other events, a seminar room in a portion of the current building was dedicated as the Akron Law School Seminar room.<sup>299</sup> All the graduates of the old School, pictures of the three Deans, many of the faculty of the School, class pictures, and other similar memorabilia were displayed in this room.<sup>300</sup>

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By 1959, the Law School was thirty-eight years old. With that foundation, the school proceeded for the next fifty-three years under the leadership of Dean Stanley S. Samad, Interim Dean Albert S. Rakas, Dean Donald M. Jenkins ('64), Dean Isaac C. Hunt, Jr., Dean Richard L. Aynes, Dean Martin H. Belsky, and Interim Dean Elizabeth A. Reilly ('78). Though the story of the School of Law's progress under their deanships will have to wait for some new opportunity, a brief sketch is provided in the January 1998 issue of *Juris Alumnus*, the School's

299. *Special Events: Seminar Room Dedicated*, JURIS ALUMNUS (The University of Akron, Akron Ohio), Jan. 1998, at 13.

300. *See id.*

Alumni Magazine.<sup>301</sup>

The next chapter for Akron Law began in 1959. The Akron Law School merged with The University of Akron and was renamed The University of Akron School of Law.<sup>302</sup> By the 1960 commencement exercises, Akron Law School was fully integrated into The University of Akron.<sup>303</sup> Nickolas P. Andreeff ('60) was very proud, always with a knowing smile on his face, to say that he was "the first graduate of The University of Akron School of Law" (as his last name was the first alphabetically of the 1960 graduates).<sup>304</sup> As is the case with many of our alumni, Nick went on to enjoy a successful career as in-house counsel and also in private practice.<sup>305</sup> His professional career was made possible through the opportunities afforded by Akron Law.<sup>306</sup> Nick received an Outstanding Alumni Award from Akron Law in 2007.<sup>307</sup>

#### IV. CONCLUSION

There is, in our society, a popular reference to core concepts and values that we call "the American dream." Historian James Truslow Adams popularized the phrase "American Dream" in his 1931 book *Epic of America*:

But there has been also the *American Dream*, that dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for every man, with opportunity for each according to his ability or achievement. . . . It is not a dream of motor cars and high wages merely, but a dream of social order in which each man and each woman shall be able to attain to the fullest stature of which they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are, regardless of the fortuitous circumstances of birth or position.<sup>308</sup>

Though in many ways we are a land and a people of multiple dreams, though people may dispute the meaning of the term, and though some people may even ridicule it, the fact remains that there are widely shared values about the ability of people to act freely in seeking the

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301. *Akron Law Deans*, JURIS ALUMNUS, *supra* note 299, at 7-8.

302. A HISTORY OF THE AKRON LAW SCHOOL, *supra* note 3, at 19.

303. THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL CATALOGUE (The University of Akron, Akron Ohio), 1960-1961.

304. Statement by his daughter, Associate Dean Margaret Andreeff Matejkovic, Jan. 15, 2013.

305. *UA News Home*, THE UNIV. OF AKRON, [http://www.uakron.edu/news/articles/uamain\\_1751.php](http://www.uakron.edu/news/articles/uamain_1751.php) (last visited Oct. 24, 2012).

306. *Id.*

307. *Id.*

308. JAMES TRUSLOW ADAMS, EPIC OF AMERICA 404 (1931).

opportunity for improvement in their own lives and that of their families. Many people would trace this back to the Declaration of Independence itself, which envisions not only liberty and equality, but also the right to pursue happiness.

Over a course of thirty-eight years 626 individuals graduated from the Akron Law School. If we are correct in inferring Judge and Dean Grant's goals, they included allowing others to have the same opportunity to become a lawyer, to serve the community and the nation, and to increase their ability to provide for their families as he had received. Indeed, one of the early catalogues of the school states that the intention is to produce lawyers who can affect "the destiny of the city and the nation."<sup>309</sup> As one looks at the history of that school and these vignettes of some of its alumni one can conclude that that goal was met. Along with Judges and legislators, one of the School's graduates, Edward O. Erickson ('50), served as a city councilman and then Mayor of Akron.<sup>310</sup> At a time when women were barred from entering law schools, such as Harvard,<sup>311</sup> the Akron Law School began with a woman as a member of its first class and made it clear that women were welcome at the law school.<sup>312</sup> Though no class had what we consider today to be a "critical mass" of women until the class of 1978, over this time period there were twenty-three women who graduated from the Akron Law School.<sup>313</sup> We can also identify at least four African Americans who graduated from that same school long before the decisions of the United States Supreme Court banned segregation.<sup>314</sup>

These graduates included those who had put their lives in harm's way to protect what the leaders of the nation had determined was the national interest in self-defense, as stated previously, at least 108 (17.7%) of these lawyers have served in the military.

Going to law school was not an easy task. As the catalogue had

309. *Historical Sketch*, THIRTEENTH ANNUAL CATALOG, *supra* note 2, at 4.

310. *History of Akron: Mayors Edward O. Erickson*, CITY OF AKRON, <http://www.ci.akron.oh.us/history/mayors/1962.htm> (last visited Oct. 24, 2012).

311. *See 1871 to 1950: Waiting for the HLS Doors to Open*, HARVARD LAW BULLETIN (Harvard University), Spring 1999, available at <http://www.law.harvard.edu/news/bulletin/backissues/spring99/article2.html>.

312. *See supra* note 231 and accompanying text.

313. *The Early History of The University of Akron School of Law: 1921-1959*, *supra* note 6.

314. Of course, as a private institution the Court's decision would have no effect upon the Akron Law School. See the law school desegregation cases, where claims were brought against state schools under the state action provision of the Fourteenth Amendment. *See, e.g.*, *Sipuel v. Bd. of Regents of the Univ. of Ok.*, 180 P.2d 135 (Ok. 1947), *rev'd* 332 U.S. 631 (1948); *State ex rel Gaines v. Canada*, 113 S.W.2d 783 (Mo. 1937), *rev'd* 305 U.S. 337 (1938); *Pearson v. Murray*, 182 A. 590 (Md. Ct. App. 1936).

warned they needed “extreme energy, perseverance and industry” and further, they were the ones who “must devote [their] days to labor. . .” (emphasis added).<sup>315</sup> As it is today, the task of the evening student was made all the more difficult because many had spouses, children, and perhaps even parents for whom they cared. As human beings with different goals, different view points, and different talents, they went forth to contribute not only to their own and their families welfare but also to that of the city and the nation. Many stayed in Northeast Ohio, but others moved on to other regions.<sup>316</sup> Many used their law degree to further their then current positions. Some were called into government service. Others went into private practice. Out of the seventy-one individuals who have received the Outstanding Alumni Award from the University of Akron School of Law, fifteen of those were graduates of the Akron Law School.<sup>317</sup>

Justice Holmes, who was on the bench during the law school days of some of these graduates, told of his own days as a young lawyer working in a legal office in Boston. He recounted how a client would come into the office burdened down by the cares of the world but leave that office with a lightened burden because the responsibility for that problem had been assumed by one of the lawyers in the office. No matter what profession the graduate pursued, no matter what specialty

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315. *General Statement*, FIFTEENTH ANNUAL CATALOG, *supra* note 8, at 5-6.

316. Examples of such graduates includes: Robert Hause ('51), who worked for the Goodrich Patent Department and then moved to Buffalo, N.Y. to work for the National Gypsum Company; Chief Judge William E. Fowler ('54), who worked for the National Transportation Safety Board in Washington, D.C. and Judge Robert F. Martin, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

317. Plaques dedicated to these individuals are on display in the current law school building. The individuals from this era who received the award are, in the order of their receipt, as follows:

Abraham P. Feldman ('28)  
 Judge Nathaniel Koplin ('31)  
 Judge Thomas Powers ('27)  
 Judge Sam H. Bell ('52)  
 Judge Harold F. White ('52)  
 Judge William P. Kannel ('52)  
 Russell A. Eberly ('50)  
 J. Robert Wilson ('46)  
 Ralph C. Young ('50)  
 Philip C. Barnes ('53)  
 Judge Mary Cacioppo ('45)  
 Thelma C. Furry ('40)  
 Judge W. Don Reader ('58)  
 George Pappas ('54)  
 Bedford H. Biles ('58)

Given the relatively small size of those classes and the fact that this award was not given until the 1980s, this is a large percentage of the total recipients from the Akron Law School.

those who practice law developed, they all contributed to the betterment of our world by lifting the burden from their clients' shoulders. In doing so, they contributed much to society and, at the same time laid the foundation for what would become The University of Akron School of Law.

During its thirty-eight years of existence the school's largest graduating class was the class of 1930, which had thirty-four graduates. The smallest class, affected by the war effort in World War II, was the entering class of 1942, which graduated in 1946. As Dean Donald Jenkins ('64) used to like to introduce him, J. Robert Wilson, the future CEO of Roadway was the "class of 1946." It was always a small school. Portage County Municipal Judge Roger F. DiPaolo ('52) referred to the faculty as "wonderful teachers" and stated: "I'm beholden to dear old Charlie Neale, Oscar Hunsicker and the rest who made it possible for an immigrant like me to join a noble profession."<sup>318</sup> As Daniel Webster said in his famous argument concerning the charter of Dartmouth College, "it is a small school, but there are those who love it."<sup>319</sup>

While paying tribute to those who went before us, we must also ask whether we are worthy successors. Will what they created endure so that that opportunity will be available to those who follow? It is said that after the U.S. Constitutional Convention someone asked Benjamin Franklin what kind of government he and the convention had created. Franklin replied: "A republic, if you can keep it."<sup>320</sup> The Akron Law School was a beacon of opportunity. It is such a beacon of opportunity, if we can keep it.

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318. Statements from an undated alumni questionnaire on file with the authors.

319. Daniel Webster, Peroration: The Dartmouth College Case at Dartmouth College in Hanover New Hampshire (Mar. 10, 1818) *available at* <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~dwebster/speeches/dartmouth-peroration.html>.

320. 104 CONG. REC., PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108TH CONGRESS FIRST SESSION, pt. 21, at 28629 (Nov. 12, 2003 – Nov. 19, 2003); *Respectfully Quoted: A Dictionary of Quotations*, BARTLEBY.COM, <http://www.bartleby.com/73/1593.html> (last visited Oct. 24, 2012).

