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## The Beginning of the *Duquesne Law Review* [reflection]

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## The Beginning of the *Duquesne Law Review*

*Peter J. King*

I am both proud and honored to have been a part of Duquesne Law School's very first Law Review. Candidly, I never expected to succeed in my first year of Law School. I was extremely surprised and pleased to have come out of those first final exams having fared relatively well. By virtue of this modest achievement, I was approached at the beginning of the 1961 school year by Professor Don Kiley who was in the process of creating the inaugural staff of the Law Review.

That first staff was comprised of four day division students and four evening division students. I was named Articles Editor, while a member of the evening division was named as the Editor-in-Chief. The task of actually creating a Law Review from scratch was a daunting one. I am certain that my fellow-staff members were equally challenged by the prospect of creating a publication that was not in existence, much less a type of publication with which none of us were truly familiar. Still, ignorance is bliss, as they say, and I suppose it was lucky that none of us knew the amount of time, effort, and personal sacrifice that would be required of us in creating the *Law Review*.

We began by formulating a sort of mission statement. Simply put, we jointly viewed the *Law Review*, as a task that absolutely had to be done, must be done, and we determined that we would complete the publication no matter what sacrifices it entailed. With this mission as our focus, we were sent to the University of Pittsburgh School of Law to learn what had to be done in order to function as a Law Review staff and to create the *Law Review* itself. The *Law Review* staff at Pitt were kind and helpful. There is no doubt that they were instrumental in educating us on the essentials of Law Review writing, and I know that I can speak for my first edition colleagues when I say that I have been eternally grateful for the help that the Pitt students provided to us that first year.

My specific obligation as Articles Editor was to contact persons throughout the United States to ask them to write an article for the Law Review. I nearly did not know where to begin in terms of writing letters to attorneys and legal scholars of the caliber that

we were seeking. After all, as a law student, what do you say to a famous professor, a law school Dean, a judge, or accomplished legal authority? This assignment posed several unforeseen challenges. First, I was a horrendous typist. Second, in the days before computers, each of these letters had to be painstakingly created on a typewriter where every error meant starting over from the beginning. Finally, it was a test of my skills of persuasion, to say the least, to convince such lofty individuals to work on and submit an article for a publication that did not yet exist. While the last of these challenges was mine alone to confront, I would be remiss without acknowledging the assistance of my dear wife Dolly who acted as typist and secretary for this effort.

Believing that I might as well set the loftiest possible goals in terms of the source of submissions, I contacted the legal mind that I most admired in the country, Robert Kennedy. At the time, Robert Kennedy was the United States Attorney General, serving under his brother, President John F. Kennedy. Amazingly, Attorney General Kennedy was receptive to my request, and assigned the task of writing the *Law Review* article to one of his top assistants who, in turn, submitted a tremendous article for Volume One of the *Duquesne University Law Review*. In addition to the Kennedy-sponsored article, the main article for Volume One was written by prominent contract law expert Dr. Walter Jaegar, a professional predecessor of Duquesne's own esteemed Dr. John Murray.

The publication of Volume One was a momentous event in the history of Duquesne University Law School. Upon its official release, I was stunned to discover that I had been listed not as Articles Editor, but as Co-Editor-in-Chief. Initially believing this title to be an error, I later learned that the rest of my *Law Review* colleagues had insisted on this distinction because of the work that my wife and I had done to see the first volume come to fruition, an unexpected and gratifying acknowledgement.

Following law school and, I believe, due in large part to my participation on the *Law Review*, I was hired by a large Pittsburgh law firm where I worked for seventeen years before going into private practice with my daughter, Linda King (also a proud graduate of the Law School).

I am extremely grateful to have been included in this commemorative issue of the *Duquesne Law Review* and to participate in the larger celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Law School. I often look with amazement on the exceptional publication that the *Law Review* has become, am humbled to have played a small part

in its beginning, and look forward to its continued success in the future.

