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The School of Law: A Progress Report

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THE SCHOOL OF LAW

. . . a progress report

By VERNON X. MILLER, A.B., LL.B., J.S.D.

Dean of the School of Law

In July 1954, the University's School of Law moved from the campus to a new home. The move was not easy. The old home had been a good one for many years; but law schools in the District of Columbia thrive in downtown locations, and the School moved downtown.

For a long time, the School of Law of Columbus University was maintained at 1323 Eighteenth Street, Northwest, near the Mayflower Hotel. The Columbus School was approved by the American Bar Association in 1944. With the good wishes of the Association's Council on Legal Education, the Columbus Law School was absorbed by The Catholic University of America; and the University's Law School has been installed in the Columbus properties.

There has been much rebuilding, renovating, and reconditioning in progress at the Eighteenth Street building. Former students of Columbus University would be surprised by the transformation. The library reading rooms are attractive and adequate. A stack room has been constructed on the basement level. Five classrooms have been reconditioned, offices have been constructed for all of the full-time faculty men, a separate room has been assigned to the *Law Review*, and the whole building has been repainted and re-tiled. The physical condition of the building is good, and the students are comfortable.

Columbus University maintained an evening division. Since the merger, The Catholic University School of Law is maintaining an evening division for the first time. The location of the School is convenient for students who can attend on a part-time schedule in the evening. Classes in that division

begin at 6:30 o'clock. During the current academic year, a separate program has been maintained for Columbus students, but a beginning first-year class was admitted to the evening division. By next year, the two evening programs can be integrated, and the School will offer the same curricula and maintain the same standards with the same faculty personnel in the day and evening divisions.

Among the extracurricular activities available to the students are the *Law Review* and the moot court program, which are designed to stimulate research and increase the general knowledge of law and procedure. The *Review* is edited and managed by students, and the most recent volume received a great deal of acclaim for the high level of editorial content. The intensive moot court program of the past year will be enlarged, and widespread inter-school moot court competition is planned for the future.

The local members of the Law Alumni Association have offered assistance and guidance to the dean and to the faculty members while they are learning to live in the new home. Most of the part-time lecturers are alumni of the two schools, Columbus and Catholic University. An Alumni Advisory Committee is helping the students to support the *Law Review*.

Many other things can be described in a progress report like this. Some of it is the report of ordinary occurrences, but nothing else which happens this year can match the importance of moving to a new home with all that it entails, including the moving of many books. The two libraries have been consolidated. Because there was much duplication, many of the books which were at the University have been sold

to book publishers and dealers. That has produced a large fund which our librarian will use in the building of a greater library.

A great deal has been accomplished during the past year. It is evident that the change to the downtown location and the merger with Columbus University has resulted in many improvements and benefits. There has been a rejuvenation during the past year which has caused everyone concerned to increase his efforts in achieving and maintaining a standard which is second to none. Special emphasis is being placed upon the library, the faculty, and the calibre of students.

In line with this new program, three new appointments to the full-time faculty have just been announced. They are Mr. Arthur John Keeffe, Mr. Eli M. Spark, and Dr. Joseph F. English.

Mr. Keeffe of New York is serving currently with the Federal Housing Administration in Washington. For fifteen years, he was a member of the faculty of the Cornell Law School and served as Professor of Law for eleven years. During the academic year 1953-1954, he was a visiting professor at the New York University School of Law. Mr. Keeffe has contributed to a number of law journals, and he is a department editor on the *Journal* of the American Bar Association. He served as President of the United States Navy Court Martial Sentence Review Board in 1946-1947. He is a graduate of the College and the Law School of Cornell University. He is a member of the Bars in New York and Tennessee.

Mr. Spark, originally of New York, is serving currently as special assistant to the Attorney General on the Hoover Commission. He was engaged in practice in the city of New York for twenty

years, until in 1949 he accepted an appointment as Professor of Law to the faculty of the Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia. During the academic year 1953-1954 he served as a visiting professor of law at the University of Puerto Rico. Mr. Spark has contributed to a number of law journals, and he has served as an arbitrator in many cases for the American Arbitration Association. He is a graduate of the College of the City of New York, where he was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa Society, and he is a graduate of the School of Law of Fordham University. He is a member of the New York and Georgia Bars.

Dr. English is a graduate of the College and the School of Law of The Catholic University of America. At The Catholic University he earned the degrees of Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Laws, and Master of Laws. He earned the degree Doctor of the Science of Law at New York University. Dr. English is a member of the Pennsylvania and District of Columbia Bars, and he has practiced in each area. He has served as a part-time lecturer on the faculty of the School of Law of The Catholic University since 1949. He has spent much of his professional life in government service. His most recent appointment was that of Solicitor for the International Claims Com-

mission under the direction of the State Department.

As roots begin to sink in the new place, the School will grow, and it will reach more people than ever before. Even this year, many persons have indicated interest in the new program. The number of inquiries addressed to the dean has been encouraging. Although it has been difficult to write to everyone personally, we have tried to acknowledge every request for information and to thank everyone for words of good will. The work of re-adjustment and expansion demands much from the office staff. Even here, change and growth are in order. It is too early to know how far we have reached, but the future looks bright.



(Left to right) Dr. Vernon X. Miller, Dean of the Law School, comments on the Law with Most Rev. Bryan J. McEntegart, Rector, Hon. Sheldon D. Elliott, Director of the Institute of Judicial Administration, New York University, and Hon. Paul W. Brosnan, Judge, U. S. Military Court of Appeals