Nova Law Review

Volume 17, *Issue* 4 1993 *Article* 4

Don Llewellyn and Bruce Rogow, 1978-79

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> It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way.

Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities

The 1978-79 academic year was all of those things at Nova Law Center. The University's financial position was dire, and a substantial bequest upon which the Law Center was depending had become the subject of litigation. The faculty became convinced that too high a percentage of Law Center revenues was being siphoned off by the University, and relations with the central administration were strained nearly to the breaking point. Student morale plummeted, and wishful thinking of secession abounded. We were, in the meantime, still housed, as joint tenants with an odoriferous science lab, in a temporary structure that we knew would never be acceptable to the American Bar Association; our building plans, so long in the making, were scuttled by our fiscal morass.

It was a marvelous time to be alive.

It was against (and largely because of) this background that Professors Don Llewellyn and Bruce Rogow rose to the positions of "Acting Co-Deans" in the fall of 1978, and our spirits ascended with them. A wonderful sense of unity of purpose pervaded that academic year, joined by an exhilarating feeling of democracy; our leaders, dedicated but untainted by personal ambition, were also our peers. Don was the administrator of in-house details; Bruce was our minister of external affairs. A more capable team would be hard to imagine.

It's amazing how much was accomplished during that academic year. A "new" building was located, leased, and renovated; the Law Center's relationship with the University was greatly improved; a new dean was hired for the ensuing academic year; and, last but by no means least, faith was

restored. In the sunny spring of 1979, we were able to hire five new faculty members, including some who remain among our brightest stars.

Is it perverse to remember a time of struggle and adversity with such fondness? Perhaps so. But what is certain is that it was a critical period in the life of our law school, and that we will be forever indebted to Bruce and Don for their leadership during those challenging times.