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Dean's Letter

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DEAN'S LETTER

Dear Alumni and Friends:

After having been chased from pillar to post for thirty years, our Law School has finally acquired, through the generosity of Baron de Hirsch Meyer, a new modern group type of building composed of four single purpose structures—the library, the classroom building, the administration building, and the student lounge.

It is easy to understand what effect these new facilities have both upon our students as well as upon the faculty. As Judge Barns puts it, "We can do much better work with much less effort."

I am also glad to tell you that our Law Quarterly has developed, after one decade of service to the School and to the profession, its own character. As I understand it, the plan is that the first issue each year will discuss legal topics of a general nature which are, of course, always of interest to lawyers in Florida. The second and third issues will, in legislative years, publish the now widely known and appreciated Survey of Florida Law, while in non-legislative years these issues will publish discussions of interest to students and practitioners alike. Finally, every year the summer issue will be devoted to inter-american legal studies. You have noticed, of course, our first Inter-American Symposium published this summer. Our new plan is to dedicate the entire fourth issue of the Quarterly to one country and to its law. This year we decided on Mexico; next year it will probably be Cuba. In addition to contributors from these countries and from our own specialists in the field, we will present contributions by our own graduate students engaged in research in inter-american law.

On the other hand, our Quarterly will not devote its space to contributions which would ordinarily be available under our Insurance Program, this in view of the fact that the Insurance Law Journal regularly carries papers presented at our Annual Insurance Law Conference. Of course, our Tax Program and Tax Conferences will also make valuable contributions to our Quarterly.

In addition to our publishing plans, we are engaged in a successful exchange program with three institutions of higher learning in Latin America: with the Free School of Law in Mexico, with the Faculty of Law of the National University in Mexico and with both Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Social Sciences and Public Law of the National University of Havana. Shortly we hope to put into operation a new method in inter-american legal studies. We plan to offer at our School a course in Mexican Law of Commerce given by three or four outstanding specialists from the

Faculty of Law in Mexico. Those specialists will teach in cooperation with our instructors in this field. I believe that this experiment, like so many others we have successfully started, will open new vistas in our ever growing field of research and teaching.

Our Inter-American Law Program has received, I am glad to report, a stimulating grant from the Ford Foundation. I am sure that our School, deeply grateful for the significance of the grant, will prove by its work in this field that initiative, industry and devotion, in many instances, guarantees success. The same I hope for our expanded graduate Inter-American Law Program, which starts next spring.

Moreover, I would like to point out that our Graduate Program is expanding. Our strict standards combined with intensive methods of instruction are already showing results in the quality of our graduate students' professional and scientific achievements.

I am also happy to say that we have a very fine entering freshman class, both in the evening and day divisions. As an innovation, after a successful experiment last year, we are now offering to our freshmen a course in legal writing which is designed to teach them not only to brief and understand cases, to analyze problems and to find solutions, but also how to express, orally as well as in writing, conclusions in a lawyer-like manner.

Before this letter will be in your hands, you will have, no doubt, attended our Annual Homecoming Alumni Breakfast, with the Honorable William Stuart Symington, Senator from Missouri, as the principal speaker.

Summing all this up, it seems to me that the University of Miami—and the Law School—have had an exceptionally good year and the future looks even brighter.

Wishing all of you the best of health and the finest of success . . .

RUSSELL A. RASCO
DEAN