

12-1-1949

Dean's Letter

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Recommended Citation

Dean's Letter, 4 U. Miami L. Rev. Iss. 1 (1949)

Available at: <https://repository.law.miami.edu/umlr/vol4/iss1/3>

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DEAN'S LETTER

A LETTER TO THE LAW ALUMNI OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, INCLUDING OUR ADOPTED ALUMNI, THE BENCH AND BAR OF DADE COUNTY.

Dear Alumni:

With the advent of another school year it is a genuine pleasure for me to report to you concerning progress in the School of Law.

Perhaps one of the most significant developments of the current year is the continued increase in enrollment. A recent national survey indicated that, almost without exception, law school enrollment declined with the opening of the fall semester. Enrollment in the University of Miami School of Law, however, *increased* more than 20 per cent. There has been a corresponding increase on a state representation basis, forty-three states now being represented in the student body as against forty in 1948. Marked percentage increases occurred, for example, in New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts. Such increases would indicate that, in point of national service, the School is performing a valuable function. Although students from Florida comprise only 14 per cent of the student body, this again represents an increase from the 1948 figure, indicating that the School is also performing a valuable service to the legal profession in Florida. In addition, students from foreign countries now make up 2½ per cent of our total enrollment. This overall increase makes the School the largest in the entire South and one of the ten largest approved law schools in the United States. Total enrollment in October 1948 was 829. In October 1949 the figure rose to 1035. It should be emphasized at this point that qualitative standards have been firmly maintained, in accord with the requirements of the Association of American Law Schools and the American Bar Association.

Growth of the School as a whole has been accompanied by growth of the Evening Division. In order to insure the continued maintenance of high standards in that Division, several members of the regular law school faculty are now teaching there, thus supplementing the already high calibre of the Evening Division faculty.

In May 1949 the School moved to its present quarters, located at Alhambra and Lejeune Road in Coral Gables. This move was accomplished solely through the efforts of the student body on a purely voluntary basis. Each student gave his time and labor unselfishly. This incident, I feel, is symbolic of the spirit of the School, and I am proud to report such a fine thing to you. The Administration, with its usual foresight, has air conditioned the

classrooms. On behalf of the students and faculty let me express profound appreciation for this and other improvements. Dr. Ashe has simply demonstrated once again that he has the welfare of the students at heart.

Although present facilities are an improvement over former facilities, they are still inadequate. The observation has been made that a great law school consists of three ingredients: a fine student body, an excellent faculty and an adequate physical plant. I know that you will agree with me that we already possess the first two of these three ingredients. The third—an adequate physical plant—is sorely needed. With this thought in mind, a drive for a new law building was launched this fall, again on the initiative of the student body. Land, near the student union building on the new campus, has already been dedicated. The Administration has announced the anonymous donation of \$100,000 to start the drive. \$300,000 more is needed. Students, faculty and friends of the Law School are now contributing. The faculty has already pledged almost \$15,000. I would like to request at this time your wholehearted support for something we can all be proud of in years to come.

It is also my pleasure to report to you at this time two strong additions to an already strong faculty, bringing our total faculty to 25 in number. Justice Paul Barnes, who had a long and distinguished record as a member of the Circuit and Supreme Courts of Florida, resigned from the bench to join us this fall. His wide knowledge and experience should prove invaluable in training our young lawyers. We were also fortunate in obtaining the services of Thomas A. Thomas, an honor graduate of the Harvard Law School. It is my sincere feeling that the addition of these two men makes this faculty one of the finest in the country.

On November 19, 1949 the annual Alumni Breakfast was held in honor of the Class of 1929, the first class to graduate from the School of Law. Over 600 persons were in attendance. Dr. Ashe introduced Justice Elwyn Thomas of the Florida Supreme Court and Dr. Julian Eaton, member of the Class of 1929 and now Chairman of the Board of Trustees, as principal speakers. The breakfast was conducted under the auspices of the Law School Alumni Association and the Student Bar Association.

Perhaps at no time in history has our Good Neighbor Policy taken on such importance. And since the termination of the war our enrollment of Latin American students has increased over 400 per cent. The University of Miami School of Law has the largest enrollment of Latin American students in the nation. The aforementioned factors made it not only desirable but imperative that our curriculum be expanded so as to perform a distinct service to our neighbors to the South. Accordingly a course in Latin American Comparative Law was inaugurated in 1946. The Latin American aspects of our curriculum have as their primary objective the cementing of relations between the members of the legal profession in the two Americas. This ob-

jective can be accomplished in two ways: first, by training Latin American students so that they will be able either to practice law here or return to their own country to practice or enter some field of business endeavor with a better understanding of North American culture and mores; second, by training our North American students capably to handle Latin American business originating either here or in Latin America. Intense interest has been shown in the course, and a prize for the student preparing the best paper on a phase of Latin American law has been offered by Pan American World Airways. It is perhaps significant that one of the first prizes to be offered in the School concerns our Latin American neighbors. In addition, the School of Law will participate this year, for the first time, in the Hispanic-American Institute, conducted for many years by the University.

The past year has witnessed further expansion of the library, which now contains over 40,000 volumes and is the largest law library in the state. The number of "working" books has been greatly increased, and the School continues to welcome attorneys seeking aid in research. Research for legal scholarship purposes has been similarly benefited by additions to our English, Latin American, and Australian collections.

Continued publication of the student-operated *Miami Law Quarterly* on an expanded basis provides a unique service, both to the School and to members of the legal profession. Mr. L. L. Robinson has been appointed as Chairman of the Dade County Bar Association Committee for the *Quarterly*. He will be aided by the other members of this committee, including Mr. Sidney Berger, long a friend of the *Quarterly* and the School. Other publications include the *University of Miami Lawyer*, annual pictorial magazine, and the *Barrister*, weekly school paper. Like the *Quarterly*, both of these publications are student operated.

It is my earnest hope, and I know yours also, that the School will continue this progress.

Sincerely,

R. A. Rasco,

Dean of the School of Law