

12-1-1950

Dean's Letter

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Recommended Citation

Dean's Letter, 5 U. Miami L. Rev. Iss. 1 (1950)

Available at: <http://repository.law.miami.edu/umlr/vol5/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:

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I am able to report that the School of Law has been moved from its old quarters at LeJeune Road and Alhambra Circle to new quarters in the Merrick Building on the main campus. The classrooms, Dean's office, and faculty study room are located on the third floor and the library and stack rooms are located on the second floor. The Merrick Building is the finished "old skeleton building" and is now one of the most beautiful school buildings in existence. For the first time, since the opening of the University, the Law School has satisfactory classrooms and library study facilities.

Although we have moved into our new quarters, this does not mean that we have given up the drive for funds to construct a new Law School building. It is hoped that sufficient funds will be available in the not too distant future. We hope that the Alumni will continue to send in their contributions to build a suitable home for the Law School, because it is only then that we can set up a legal center which would give our practicing attorneys in this area the service to which they are entitled.

CURRICULUM

We have changed our curriculum in order to meet the changing demands on the present day lawyer.

The pleading courses have been consolidated into two three hour courses. They will cover Florida Law Pleading and Florida Equity Pleading, with emphasis on the new court rules, Florida Probate and Criminal Procedure, and Federal Procedure and Practice with attention to the Federal Rules.

We have increased our offerings in Taxation, since the lawyer has to constantly face more serious tax problems in his practice. We now offer ten hours in Taxation which include two hours in accounting and financial analysis, Florida property, estate and gift taxes, federal taxes and tax problems. The present day lawyer finds it exceedingly difficult to practice without a solid knowledge of taxation.

We have expanded our Latin-American program to include Latin-American Comparative Law, Latin-American Commercial Law, Roman and Civil Law and Study of the History of the Legal System of South America.

FACULTY

We have added Mr. Ramon Francisco Espinosa and Mr. David S. Stern to our faculty this year as full time teachers, Mr. James W. Hunt and Mr.

Thomas Maxey, as part time teachers, and Dr. Rafael Belaunde, visiting professor from Peru. The faculty now consists of twenty-four full time teachers, eight part time teachers and one visiting teacher. Eighteen different law schools are represented by these faculty members.

MIAMI LAW QUARTERLY

The Miami Law Quarterly is now being handled entirely by students, with a faculty member acting only in an advisory capacity. The articles, of course, are written by outstanding specialists in their particular fields, but the comments, case notes, synopsis of Florida cases and summary of the opinions of the Attorney General of Florida are written by students. Book reviews are written primarily by faculty members of the University.

STUDENT BODY

The student body has increased in size every year since the war. Today we have 983 in the day division and 181 in the evening division, which includes some students who are taking law under a combination degree, either B.B.A. - LL.B. or A.B. - LL.B. About 75% of the student body is still veterans. This percentage carries through all of the first, second and third year classes, although some of the veterans are paying their own way. We have 243 beginning freshmen in the day division and 45 beginning freshmen in the evening division. Together with the continuation freshmen, this makes a total of 449 in the day division and 117 in the evening division. This would indicate that we still will have a student body between 800 and 1000 for the next two or three years.

It is interesting to note also that a large percentage of our graduates are now going back to their home states to practice law.

Last year we had all but one state represented in the student body, but this year we have dropped to 43 states, District of Columbia, and eight foreign countries. It is extremely interesting to note that the students attended for their pre-legal work 243 different schools, colleges and universities in the United States and foreign countries. This shows that we are rapidly becoming a national and inter-national Law School. There are more than thirty foreign students taking law.

LIBRARY

The library has continued to grow under the direction of Miss Harriet French, until we now have more than 50,000 volumes. These volumes include, in addition to the reports, digests and encyclopedias, fine libraries on Latin-American Law, Labor Law, Taxation, Legal Philosophy and Jurisprudence. Also included in the library are more than 300 legal periodicals. All of the current legal periodicals printed in the English language and many periodicals printed in foreign languages are subscribed to. The library contains more than 5,500 volumes of British Empire material. It is not only an

excellent working library, but a very fine research library, and the Alumni should use it. The library is open every evening during the week.

Honorable Cody Fowler, President of the American Bar Association, was the principal speaker at the Law School's Annual Alumni Homecoming Breakfast. The breakfast was held on November 25, 1950, in conjunction with the other homecoming festivities of the University of Miami. This affair always affords a splendid opportunity to renew old friendships, so all Alumni and their guests were urged to attend.

This is a standing invitation to all of the Alumni to visit the Law School, and to those Alumni who live here, the facilities of the Law School are at your disposal.

Sincerely,

R. A. RASCO,

Dean of the School of Law