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Valparaiso University School of Law

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DEDICATION HIGHLIGHTS—LAW WEEK

Dean Brockopp, Walter Keller, President Schnabel, Dr. August Mennicke, Gloria Keller, Mrs. Mennicke, and Helen Schnabel at Barrister's Ball.

Frances Weaver '25 accepting award from Robin Smith '87 during dedication festivities.

Alumni Champagne Reception

SPECIAL DEDICATION ISSUE

Rite of Dedication of Wesemann Hall.

Historical Reflections by Professor Bartelt.
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni:

I begin this newsletter as the dedication activities of this past weekend come to a conclusion. Without a doubt, the dedication of the new Wesemann Hall was an exciting and noteworthy event.

On behalf of the Alumni Association, our activities began with the Annual Third Year Luncheon during which the Alumni Association offers its congratulations to the third-year graduating class and extends an invitation to them to become active members of the Alumni Association. Immediately following the Third Year Luncheon the Alumni Board held its spring meeting. The administration's report indicated that the application and admission process seemed to be holding steady, while the placement program demonstrated a 95.8% placement percentage for the class of 1986. The nominating committee for the Board presented an impressive list of potential candidates for consideration for election to the Board of Directors in the spring meeting. Each of whom will be contacted in the very near future. If any of you are approached I hope you will take the opportunity to become actively involved in the Alumni Association and agree to have your name included on the ballot.

The Board did adopt an amendment to the Association bylaws dealing with the election process. The following amendment was adopted in hopes that it would encourage geographic and class representation on the Board. The text of the bylaw amendment is as follows:

ARTICLE IV

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Nominating Committee. The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee from the membership of the Board of Directors in such number as the President shall deem appropriate, or in such number as prescribed by resolution duly adopted by the Board, for the purpose of nominating candidates for directors.

Such nominating committee shall select each year a list of at least (twelve) nine (persons) members for election to the Board of Directors. The nine members shall be selected on the basis of interest, and to promote geographic and graduating class chronological diversity among the Board as a whole. Twenty or more members may also nominate members for the Board of Directors by a writing signed and dated by them and filed with the secretary not less than five days prior to the day on which the ballots shall be mailed to each member. The Secretary shall mail ballots (shall be mailed) to each member at least thirty (30) days but not more than forty-five days prior to the date of the annual meeting. Ballots voted by the members shall be returned to the office of the Association at the Law School in an envelope provided for that purpose. Such ballots must be received no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the annual meeting in order to be elected. The seven (persons) members receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected and the results of the election shall be announced at the annual meeting with written notice of the results sent to the members by the secretary.

(DELETE MATERIAL): NEW MATERIAL

The activities on Friday culminated in the Alumni Association Champagne Reception in celebration of the new Wesemann Hall. Over 500 people attended this open house and were treated to good fellowship, good libation and the opportunity to inspect and admire the new facility. The formal dedication activities began on Saturday. The symposium which addressed the issue of the "Mission of a Church-Related Law School" was an enlightening program. Our own Alfred W. Meyer presented "The Lutheran Tradition"; Thomas L. Shaffer, former Dean of Notre Dame, "The Catholic Tradition"; Howard Alan Glickstein, Professor at Touro College of Law, "The Jewish Tradition"; and John Allen Eidsmoe, "The Fundamentalist Tradition". Each speaker addressed the question of whether or not a church-related law school should offer something more than a secular school and each presented his view as to whether or not church-related schools were fulfilling that mission. The insights and comments exchanged provided much food for thought.

Professor Victor G. Rosenblum from Northwestern University and President of the American Association of Law Schools presented the keynote address during the University Convocation at the Dedication of Wesemann Hall. During Professor Rosenblum's provocative remarks, he challenged the law schools and law educators to educate lawyers to serve society rather than to become overwhelmed by what he perceived as the current trend to emphasize billable hours and fee generation. Professor Bartelt presented a historical reflection of the various locations and facilities in which the law school has been located since its inception. The Convocation was followed by the Rite of Dedication of Wesemann Hall in the Law School Atrium. The ceremony would not have been complete without acknowledging the fact that the building was constructed on time and under budget and the university offered its special thanks to the construction contractor, Sverdrup Corporation. The Barrister's Ball Saturday night was the gala celebration of the weekend. The Alumni Association presented to Professor Bartelt an inscribed, leatherbound volume of the Valparaiso Law Review, which contained the issue dedicated to him, in recognition of over 38 years of service to the university. He will be sorely missed by the students, faculty and administration alike. However, we all wish him well in his retirement.

The dedication festivities concluded with the Ecclesiastical Convocation at the Chapel of the Resurrection on Sunday morning. The convocation featured the remarks of Dr. August Mennicke, Vice President of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The theme of his sermon was that freedom is best exercised under law.

In acknowledging the success of the dedication weekend, I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to recognize a few individuals who made it all possible. At the risk of neglecting some, a very special thanks goes to Katharine Welhing who successfully handled the awesome task of attending to all the details and logistical concerns. Congratulations to Kathy on a job well done! Also a special thanks to Gail Peshel, Jonathan Potter, Assistant Dean Curt Cichowski, Associate Dean Bruce Berner and Dean Ivan Bodensheiner. Thanks to all members of the Dedication Committee at large and the University Administration. It was certainly a festive occasion in celebration of a facility which represents the hard work and efforts of students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the University. I hope that all alumni will have the opportunity at some point to visit and admire Wesemann Hall. We can all be very proud of our new law school building.

Barbara A. Young
President
Law Alumni Association
Dear Alumni,

Now that the new law building has been completed and dedicated, it is appropriate to reflect upon the long-range implications of both the facility itself and the continuing efforts to fund it. Clearly we now have an excellent facility, maybe one of the best, for our educational program which we believe is very solid. Just as important, the building campaign has demonstrated that the law school has a core of extremely loyal, generous alumni with the ability to make substantial financial contributions. We have also learned that these alumni are very generous with their time and willing to assist in fund-raising efforts. For all of their efforts and support, we are grateful.

The other encouraging information, learned through both the building campaign and the annual giving campaign initiated in 1985, is that there is a growing number of alumni who are willing to support the law school but have not yet reached the point where they can make substantial monetary contributions. This is encouraging because it is very important that we have a significant percentage of our alumni contributing on a regular basis. Obviously, we are also grateful to this group.

Unfortunately, the news is not all good. Less than twenty percent of our alumni contribute to the law school on an annual basis. We will be continuing our efforts to increase this percentage. As soon as the fund-raising efforts relating to the building are completed, we must direct our attention to scholarships, endowed professorships, and normal operating expenses.

As part of the building campaign, Dick Duesenberg ('53) suggested a plan whereby a goal is established for the graduates practicing in a particular region. They are then contacted by a volunteer from the region soliciting contributions. There are several regions in the country where we have twenty or more alumni and such a plan is feasible. Through receptions we will be introducing this concept in a number of these regions in the near future.

In late March, William Thorne ('49) assisted the law school in sponsoring a reception for all graduates in the South Bend/Elkhart area. This was well attended, and we are very thankful to Bill. Additional receptions are scheduled in Fort Wayne in conjunction with the April Indiana State Bar Association meeting and in Chicago this spring. Herb Stride ('57) is assisting with the Chicago reception. A number of you will be contacted for assistance in implementing a "regional plan" in the near future. Of course, it is not necessary to wait until we contact you—contributions can be sent to the School of Law at any time!

We look forward to expanding the substantial base of support which has developed during the building campaign. Only with the continuing support of its alumni can the School of Law maintain its excellence in these days of higher costs and a nationwide decline in the number of law school applicants.

Ivan E. Bodensteiner
Dean, School of Law

Keynote Presentation by Victor G. Rosenblum, President of the American Association of Law Schools.

Professor Alfred Meyer presenting "The Lutheran Tradition" at Saturday symposium.

Brass Ensemble at the Rite of Dedication of Wesemann Hall in atrium.

School of Law Professors: Michael Straubel, Rosalie Levinson, Carol Kaesbier, Paul Brietzke, Lawrence Albrecht, Bruce Berner, David Myers, Philipp Brockington, Charles Ehren, Richard Stith and Mary Persyn.
Valparaiso University hosted the 1987 American Bar Association/Law Student Division Midwest Regional Client Counseling Competition on the weekend of Feb. 27, 1987. Teams representing the following law schools were present: Notre Dame, University of Illinois, Northern Illinois, Loyola/Chicago, John Marshall, IIT Chicago Kent, and DePaul. There were twenty-seven judges and nine client actors, all volunteers from the Valparaiso community. The competition is designed to give law students legal practice oriented experience.

We are pleased to announce the winners of the competition are two Valparaiso University first year law students, Lisa Wyatt and Barbara Bolling. Valparaiso's client counseling team was assisted by board members, Mark Jones, Brian Bauer and Ron Kurpiers. The team was coached by professor Ruth Vance.

V.U.'s team proceeded to the National Competition and competed against the eleven other regional champions on March 27-28. That competition was hosted by the University of Toronto in Ontario, Canada.
1936
Walter A. Christopher of River Forest, IL was conferred the title of Senior Counselor by the IL State Bar Association at its annual meeting June 24, 1986, in recognition of 50 years of honorable service. He currently practices law with his son, Scott, of Oak Park, IL.

1942
Ann (Bangert) and Edwin Kurtz of St. Charles, MO traveled this fall for Ed's 50th high school reunion to Massachusetts. The Kurtzs have 3 sons, who are in the family quarry business, one daughter, who is involved in local hospice programs, and six grandchildren.

1950
John Bolgert, Circuit Judge in Sheboygan County Wisc. will not seek re-election to the judgeship which he has held for the past 18 years.

1952
Kenneth Roeh, Senior Vice President and Executive Trust Officer of Mercantile National Bank of IN and his wife, Suzanne, have recently moved to Hammond, IN.

1953
John H. Krueckeberg relocated his law offices to downtown Naples, FL. He is a partner in the Fort Wayne, IN firm of Krueckeberg & Smith and is listed among the nation's recommended insurance attorneys in the prestigious Best's.

1956
Paul Lacy has become a partner in Touche Ross & Co. He provides international tax consulting in the firm's office in Tokyo, Japan where he lives with his wife, Kazuko, and their sons.

1962
Patricia Tabor is the executive director of Social Services Agency in Valparaiso, IN. The chief program is to provide sites for visits between non-custodial parents and their children.

1963
Angelo A. Buoscio of Merrillville, IN was elected president of the Lake County Bar Association.

1967
Donald E. Martin accepted an appointment by Ingham County Circuit Court judges as county prosecutor. He is also serving his second term as President of the congregation of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Lansing, MI.

1969
Steven E. Wermcrantz has recently relocated to Springfield, IL, having accepted the position of chief counsel of the Illinois Dept. of Transportation.

1971
Stephen Rathke has gained a great deal of recognition for his work as prosecuting attorney in Brainerd, Minnesota. He has been named as special prosecutor several times throughout his career and has donated a lot of time to fighting child abuse.

1972
Tom Guelzow of Eau Claire, Wisc. acted as a faculty member at a personal injury litigation seminar held by the Wisc. Academy of Trial Lawyers in Feb. of 1987.

1973
David Sawyer was elected to the Michigan Court of Appeals in 1986.

Cletus F. Eppele was promoted to Vice President and Senior Trust Officer by Calumet National Bank in Hammond, IN. He joined Calumet as a trust officer in 1978.

1976
Barbara Young of Hoeppner, Wagner and Evans was the keynote speaker at the annual meeting of the Memorial Society of Northwest Indiana on Sunday, March 29. The focus was on Tax Reform/Personal Finances and Estate Planning.

1977
Andrea Knish accepted an appointment as guest lecturer in the Dept. of History and Political Science at Purdue/Calumet.

1978
Robert Rucker was appointed public defender for Marshall Circuit Court January 1, 1987. Bowen is a former county court judge.

1980
Michael L. Davis has been promoted to the position of managing attorney for Hyatt Legal Services. He and his wife, Lori, reside in Hammond, IN.
Michael V. Drayton and his wife, Janet, were married on October 10, 1981. A son was born in 1984. Michael is a partner with the law firm of Saltwasser and McCain in LaPorte, IN.

Clifford Johnson spent five years with the Department of Justice and has moved to South Bend, IN where he is an assistant U.S. attorney.

1981

Paul Chael has been appointed a standing trustee in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Gary, IN. He is practicing bankruptcy law in Crown Point, IN and spends most of his time with troubled farmers on the verge of bankruptcy.

Patrick Schuster and his wife, Tricia, of Crown Point, IN announce the birth of their first child, Kristen Marie. Patrick has joined the law firm of O'Connor & O'Connor in Hammond, IN.

1982

Chris Potts and Sheri Herrold ('83) will be married on April 25, 1987 in South Bend, IN.

Robert McCune, Jr. has accepted a position as assistant attorney general for the State of Florida and has relocated in Lakeland, Florida. In May of 1986 he earned his LL.M. at Emory.

1983

Miles Stipanovich has been promoted to manager of the Tax Dept. of U.S. Diversified Group.

Cynthia Horvath has become associated with Vedder, Price, Kaufman & Kohnholz in Chicago, IL.

Keith Wallace has become a partner with the new firm of Jones & Wallace in Evansville, IN.

Perry Rocco and his wife, Bobbi are proud to announce the birth of their son, Kyle Perry, born on Dec. 24, 1986.

James L. Todd has recently celebrated his first anniversary in practice with classmate Michael A. Pianowski ('79) in the Elkhart, IN firm of Daniels, Sanders & Pianowski.

1984

Katherine Ratliff Forbes has moved to Valparaiso and been named a Porter County deputy prosecutor.

Rocco De Grasse has accepted a position with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Raleigh, N.C.

David G. Brown is Deputy District Attorney for Contra Costa County, California. He was admitted to the Bradley Hall of Fame for track in 1984 and currently resides in Alameda, California.

1985

John E. Longwell has accepted a position as an assistant state's attorney in Effingham County State's Attorney's Office.

Dugal Sickert accepted a judicial clerkship with Judge William G. Conover ('51) of the Indiana Court of Appeals.

Jennifer Stocker is presently associated with the law firm of Hammond, Clark & White and is serving on the commission for the celebration of the Bicentennial of the Constitution. She was elected president of the Loveland Legal Aid. Jennifer is planning to marry Jeff Farmer in May of 1987.

Mark Doty has joined the office of the Public Defender in Elkhart, IN.

Michael Metzger has joined the legal department of the Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington D.C. Mike has just concluded a clerkship with Judge Neal of the Indiana Court of Appeals.

Cornell Boggs will move in August of 1987 to Washington D.C. to join the Justice Department, Civil Division, Tort Branch, where he will try toxic torts and federal environmental cases. He is presently concluding a clerkship with Judge William G. Conover ('51) of the Indiana Court of Appeals.

Chris Fitzpatrick is presently teaching Law & The Legal System, a graduate level course, in the School of Public & Environmental Affairs at Indiana University/Indianapolis. He is also clerking full time for Judge Staton of the Indiana Court of Appeals. Chris will join the New Albany, IN office of the Louisville based firm of Brown, Todd & Heyburn following his clerkship.

1986

James Devine has joined the Trust Dept. of Florida National Bank.

Michael Lygnos has joined the firm of Levine & Lygnos in Fort Lauderdale, FL where he will practice in the areas of admiralty, criminal defense, personal injury and wrongful death.

Brian Nelson is associated with the firm of Katz, McAndrews, Durkee, Balse & Lefstein in Rock Island, IL.

Frederick M. MacDonald is now associated with Pruitt, Gushie and Koch in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Laura Sever has accepted an associate position with Squire, Sanders & Dempsey in Phoenix, Arizona, and will join the firm at the conclusion of her clerkship with the Arizona Court of Appeals.

Gwendolyn Morgan has joined the Fort Wayne law firm of Wyss, Myers, Stucky & Stauffer as a partner.

Steven C. Brown has accepted a position with the firm of Cross, Marshall, Schuck, Dewees, Cross & Feick in Muncie, IN.

Beth North has joined the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office in Lafayette, IN.

Philip Houk was married to Lynda M. Sizen in Feb., 1987.

IN MEMORIAM

OSCAR DALLAS SMITH, J.D., 1912, died August 7, 1986 at the age of 100. Oscar lived in Columbus, Georgia where he began practicing law in 1919 and was a retired bankruptcy judge. He is survived by his widow, Corrine, two sons, Judge Oscar D. Smith, Jr. and Dr. G. Bertling Smith, three daughters, Louise Thornton, Jean Alexander, and Emma Wilson, 16 grandchildren, and 12 great grandchildren.

STEVEN J. HENRY, J.D., 1975, died at the age of 40 of an apparent heart attack. Steven was a lawyer and deputy city attorney for Michigan City in Indiana and served as president of the Board of Works and attorney to the Police Civil Commission. Steven was also the president of the Michigan City Bar Association.

DAVID DIERSSEN, J.D., 1980, died of cancer. He was employed with State Farm Insurance.

Wendell Goad, Sr. standing beside commemorative plaque of Robert H. Moore, '07.

Nancy Kohlhoff, Mark Bates '81 and Julie Hughes at Barrister's Ball.

WE'RE INTERESTED!
We're interested in news of career advancement or change, professional accomplishments or activities, awards, marriages, births, change of address, or any other news item you would like to share with us.

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Different address from mailing label?  .... Yes  .... No

Please return to the Valparaiso University School of Law, Valparaiso, Indiana 46383, to the attention of the Editor, School of Law Alumni News.
JUDGE WESLEY W. RATLIFF ELECTED CHIEF JUDGE

The Judges of the Indiana Court of Appeals have elected Judge Wesley W. Ratliff, Jr., of Bloomington, Indiana, as the new Chief Judge. Judge Ratliff is replacing former Chief Judge Paul H. Buchanan, Jr., a member of the Court of Appeals since January, 1970.

Chief Judge Ratliff has been a member of the Court of Appeals since 1980. He is a native of Knightstown and is a graduate of Ball State University. He attended Valparaiso University School of Law and is past president of the V.U. School of Law Alumni Association. Valparaiso University has extended awards to Judge Ratliff for outstanding professional achievement. Prior to assuming his duties at the Court of Appeals he served as Judge of the Henry Circuit Court and as Deputy Prosecutor of Henry County.

Currently Judge Ratliff is a member of the Indiana State Bar Association, the Indiana Judges Association and the American Judicature Society. He is a former chairman of the Indiana Judicial Study Commission and serves as vice-chairman of the Disciplinary Commission of the Indiana Supreme Court.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CAUCUS ESTABLISHED

In February of this year Professor Robert F. Blomquist founded and organized a new student organization: The Midwest Environmental Law Caucus. At a founding meeting of the Caucus—where 58 law students and faculty members signed the Charter and By-Laws—Professor Blomquist gave an address entitled "Trials and Tribulations of an Environmental Lawyer: Trying the Big Case." The Caucus will invite speakers knowledgeable on topics of environmental law and policy to address audiences at the law school; publish occasional papers in the area of environmental law and policy; and undertake other public interest activities involving Midwest environmental problems. Early this year Professor Blomquist also helped found a statewide non-profit organization known as the Indiana Hazardous Waste Minimization Council (IHWMC). This group consists of members of industry, the academic community, and the bar, interested in encouraging source reduction of hazardous waste in the state of Indiana as part of a larger national strategy of waste minimization. Professor Blomquist has just finished an extensive book review on William Rodgers' Environmental Law: Air & Water and an extensive theoretical article on citizen suits.