

*Summer 2019: Tribute to Valparaiso University Law School (1879-2019)*

### The President's Comments

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## THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

*"If our American people are to retain their heritage, we must maintain their respect for the law, its dignity, its justice, its emphasis on equality. The practitioners of the law must be and remain the best representatives of all that is good, just, and honorable in our democratic way of life."*

The Rev. O.P. Kretzmann, former president of Valparaiso University, wrote these words in the inaugural issue of the *Valparaiso University Law Review*, published in the fall of 1966. He reminded us that the essence of the law is to protect the inalienable rights of women and men. Today, as I write this letter for the final issue of the *Law Review* and reflect on how best to honor the storied past of our Law School, my thoughts turn to more than a century of graduates and faculty and their unfailing quest to uphold what is right. Certainly, it is both necessary and appropriate to acknowledge the deep sadness I feel and share with the students, alumni, faculty, and staff of the Law School.

Yet, it is also important to remember and celebrate all the Law School's faculty, staff, students, and alumni have accomplished together over the course of 140 years. I celebrate the rigorous thinking of our graduates, the values they have upheld and shared, and the light they have shone on complex legal and ethical issues. The quality of the Law School is measured not only in the outstanding students we have graduated but also in the quality of our faculty and staff, the guest legal scholars who have contributed to academic life on campus, and to this *Law Review*. Most of all, I rejoice in thinking of all the lives made better, and injustices made right, over these many years because of the excellence of their work and their relentless pursuit of truth.

The heaviness of this moment is lightened knowing that the legacy of the Law School will only grow as our noble alumni and faculty continue to work across the country and around the globe—champions of "all that is good, just, and honorable." And I know that call for justice and the ethical values of the Law School live on throughout our University. The light will not go out. It burns bright. It illuminates hope for a better world. And that is what this Law School has always stood for: a better world.

And so I pay tribute to the women and men of the Valparaiso University Law School—forever members of the Valpo family—for living out their commitment to law as a calling to leadership and service.

MARK A. HECKLER, PH.D., PRESIDENT, VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY