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Introduction to Roscoe Pound's, "The Case for Law"

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Recommended Citation

Richard Stith, *Introduction to Roscoe Pound's, "The Case for Law"*, 53 Val. U. L. Rev. 987 (2019).
Available at: <https://scholar.valpo.edu/vulr/vol53/iss4/17>

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INTRODUCTION TO ROSCOE POUND'S ARTICLE, *THE CASE FOR LAW*

Richard Stith*

The very first volume of the new *Valparaiso University Law Review* contained this sweeping jurisprudential and historical essay by the great comparatist Roscoe Pound, former dean of Harvard Law School, someone who stood out among those that VUSL's then-dean Al Meyer would often call the "giants" who once walked our earth. With an erudition spanning the many ages both of Romano-Germanic civil law and of Anglo-American common law, Pound manages in this brief encapsulation of his work to hold fast to the valid sociological insights of the early legal realists while resisting their later reductions of law to mere politics. Gaining still more enemies, no doubt, he seeks an actual "science of law," following thus in the footsteps of his then-ridiculed nineteenth-century formalist forebears, but now in his hands jurisprudence has become a grand science not just of rules and principles but also of social and even biological reality. Read him now and be amazed.

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