

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

Thanksgiving for the Administrative Spaces: Romans 12:3-8 (NRSV)

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Wesemann Hall Commemoration

THANKSGIVING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION SPACES ROMANS 12:3-8 (NRSV)

Dean David Cleveland, J.D. – Interim Dean & Professor of Law

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.

⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Since its opening in 1986, the faculty and staff of this Law School have used their gifts to serve. They have served the University, the Law School, the students, and each other. They have built a community, nurtured it, protected it, and committed to see it through. We have laughed, cried, fought, worried, hoped, and planned together – as families do.

When you look at the careers of faculty members, you realize the many and varied roles they played in the operation of this Law School over the years: teacher, scholar, committee chair, director, assistant and associate dean, advisor, and mentor. I am reminded of the many committee meetings, faculty meetings, and special events these rooms have held. Since the day I arrived here, I have always been impressed by their focus on the students and their willingness to do the labor of serving.

When you are here, day in and day out, you see the many roles that staff play, both official and unofficial, done out of care for the school and its students. They daily serve as student counselor, confidant, cheerleader, problem solver, and even Honorary Editor in Chief of the Law Review. During my time as Dean, I have come to realize the sheer magnitude of work that is done here, with professionalism and diligence, but also with love and sense of service to a shared mission.

No one moment can ably capture the administrative work that has been done here. But I am reminded daily of the many acts of service that people gathered here have done over the years; I will miss this place and these people – and I am grateful for them.