

Dedication of the Law Building

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Repository Citation

Marquette University, *Dedication of the Law Building*, 9 Marq. L. Rev. 52 (1924).
Available at: <http://scholarship.law.marquette.edu/mulr/vol9/iss1/8>

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DEDICATION OF THE LAW BUILDING

Marquette University dedicated the new Law School Building on Wednesday, August 27, 1924. The dedication ceremonies were held in the moot court room with Dean Max Schoetz, Jr., presiding. Medals were struck to commemorate the occasion, a picture of which appears on this page. These were distributed to the guests and students.

The architectural style of the new building is Collegiate Gothic of the Tudor period, three and one-half stories high, being L-shaped, fronting 100 feet upon Grand Avenue and extending sixty-one feet south on Eleventh Street. It is fireproof throughout, built of reinforced concrete framework with brick and tile walls. The exterior is faced with brick and trimmed with Bedford stone.

On the first and second floors are recitation rooms, offices, and a moot court room appropriately furnished and having ample room for



spectators. The third floor and the mezzanine floor of the west wing are used for the library and stack room with a capacity of 50,000 volumes. The third floor of the east wing is devoted to a reading room known as the Grimmelman Memorial Hall. It is approximately sixty feet long and thirty feet wide. The roof is high pitched, and there are large ornamental windows at either end. Directly opposite the entrance is an immense stone fireplace. The general design of the room is similar to the Old Hall of the Middle Temple, Inns of Court, and other collegiate buildings in England.

The dedication ceremonies commenced with the pronouncement of an invocation by Rev. Hugh B. MacMahon, S.J., regent of the Law School. The president of the university, Rev. Albert C. Fox, S.J., then presented the keys to the dean with the following remarks:

The Marquette University Law School, despite its humble housing during thirty years, has achieved a notable and enviable record. Continue then, in the future as in the past, to inspire your students with a

due reverence for "the eternal immutable laws of good and evil to which the Creator Himself, in all his dispensations conforms, and which he has enabled human reason to discover so far as they are necessary for the conduct of human action."

Teach them, in the future as in the past, that it is the law which has made us free and that there is no freedom deserving the name, save under the law. Teach them that there never was a nation truly great that did not reverence the law; that no nation can exist and endure without cohesion; and that there can be no cohesion without law.

Liberty under the law! It was this thought that inspired the martyrs of old with a constancy that endured to death. It was for liberty under the law that heroes in every land and in our own land fell valiantly fighting as their lives ebbed out on the crimson tide of their own heart's blood. It is our knowledge of liberty under the law that enables us to do and to dare for home and loved ones in our chosen avocations and our daily tasks, and we can close our weary eyes when darkness falls in peaceful trust and contentment only because of our abiding knowledge and unwavering assurance that all we have and hold most dear are safe because of the freedom which is theirs and ours under the law, human and divine.

The dean in response, after commenting upon the happiness this day brings him in the realization of a dream, said:

We have always felt and do now feel that a law school is not merely an imposing structure containing a law library, class rooms, and men whose business it is to teach those who come to it for legal education. A law school must be imbued with the spirit of service in the laws search for the Truth, with a desire to take the oft-times crude material that comes for instruction, turning out men first, and lawyers secondarily—lawyers who are well trained in the living law dedicating themselves to the public service, and to the pursuit of Truth, in the real sense of the word for the good of the community, the state and the nation of which they are to become such a large part. Such a law school Marquette has always tried to be, and now that we have this imposing structure to house us, and a more elaborate equipment we can all the better carry on and on the spirit of service and our search for the Truth which has been the keynote of our founders.

The dedicatory address was delivered by Hon. Burr W. Jones. He referred to the world-wide conditions of unrest, the vital problems of readjustment, reconstruction, and progress, and emphasized that in the face of these problems, there was need for broad vision, calm thinking, and the habit of reasoning to sound conclusions only after careful analysis. He believed that the legally trained mind had peculiar potentiality for public service in assisting in the solution of present-day difficulties. Lack of space prohibits publishing his entire address.¹

We see in one of the spacious halls of the structure we dedicate to-day many reminders of one of those classic rooms in one of the

¹ The complete dedicatory addresses will be published in pamphlet form.

Inns of Court. It was a happy thought to thus give some recognition to those historic buildings which have played so great a part in the formation of the common law and the sources from which it sprang.

That system of law had slowly developed through the centuries from the customs and needs of our ancestors became ours so far as it was adapted to our own jurisprudence. This was in spite of the opposition of some of the lawyers of the time who had little reverence for the system of law which as they claimed had been the cover for so many abuses practiced by judges who had been the servile creatures of the Crown. Those lawyers preferred to adopt the principles of the Civil law which France, our Revolutionary ally, had received from Rome.

Our forefathers may not have fully accepted the old saying that the common law is the perfection of human reason, but they were too wise to disregard the experience of their ancestors, the great lawyers and judges who for centuries have devoted their lives to the problems involved in determining what is justice, and what are the best means of securing justice between man and man, and so, although they repudiated allegiance to the King and Parliament, they enthroned the common law so far as it seemed applicable to the new system of government which they founded.

Hence we shall expect that the young men and women who may come to this temple of learning during the generations to come will come as earnest students of the common law. Such study will be not only a condition of their success in their profession, but a patriotic duty, since many of the fundamental principles of that system of law are woven into the very fabric of our government and are essential to the liberties we enjoy. Long before the adoption of our constitution the Anglo-Saxon race had extorted from unwilling monarchs these priceless guarantees for the security of property rights and the preservation of liberty, so vital to the happiness of a free people, and those guarantees were embodied in our fundamental law.

Those who shall here pursue their studies will find that there is no short cut, no easy path to distinction in their chosen profession. In order to win that distinction, they must study profoundly the principles of the common law because it embodies the experience of the ages and the wisdom of the founders of our liberties. The common law, inherited by us, and as modified and adapted to our needs is ever present. It is in the air we breathe: it attends us in our waking and sleeping hours: in health and in sickness: in prosperity and in disaster.

* * * * *

It is not enough that the law school acquaint its students with knowledge of the law and impart the mental discipline which is necessary to enable them to cope with the legal and social problems which will arise: it should inspire love and enthusiasm for the loftiest ideals of a great profession.

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* * * we have the right to cherish the thought that those who have gained the right to minister in the courts of justice should have the

mobility of intellect and the nobility of heart which alone fit them for their honorable calling.

This massive and beautiful building did not spring up in an hour at the beckoning of some magician's wand. It stands here because men and women with hope and vision were willing to give their time, toil and money for the public weal. We dedicate this structure to-day, trusting and expecting that their hopes may be realized; that during centuries to come it may be a temple and nursery of learning for those who are earnest and who are eager to enter a great profession; that as they leave its halls they will put on their armor as champions, not only for their clients but for the cause of good government among men; of peace among the nations of the world; of that even handed justice which is the greatest and most God-like virtue known to mankind; that they may be mindful of the sacred proverb:

The path of the just is as the shining light that shineth unto the perfect day.

Following Justice Jones' address Wm. D. Thompson, president of the Wisconsin Bar Association, complimented the university on behalf of the bar association and extended the best wishes of the bar and people of our state. Congratulatory addresses were given as follows: for the city of Milwaukee, Cornelius Corcoran, acting mayor; for the bench, Hon. Edward T. Fairchild, Circuit Judge of Milwaukee County; for the alumni, George Burns, of the Milwaukee Bar; for the students, Joseph Witmer, '24; for the Milwaukee law class, A. K. Stebbins, of the Milwaukee Bar.

The students of the law school presented the library a set of the Canadian Reports as a token of their good wishes and earnest desire to fill the library to 50,000 volumes in a short while.²

² See also "History of the Marquette Law School" in 8 MARQUETTE LAW REVIEW 298.