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A Tribute to Dean Lindsey Cowen

I received the news of Lindsey Cowen's impending resignation as Dean of Case Western Reserve University School of Law with feelings of pride, friendship, and nostalgia. In spite of the many years since my last meeting with Dean Cowen, I well remember his wise counsel, guidance and leadership as Dean of the University of Georgia School of Law.

Lindsey Cowen arrived at the University of Georgia the year I was elected President of the Student Bar Association. One of the Dean's first actions was to meet with student leaders to discuss his plans for the Law School. He requested our help with such infectious enthusiasm that everyone was excited for the future of the Law School. Later, he met privately with me. He said that he expected me to be the spokesman of the students and that I should always express directly to him any grievances of the students, whether directed toward the faculty or administration. He assured me he would be impartial in deciding any legitimate disputes between the students, faculty, and administration.

I confess, at that initial meeting with the Dean, I listened with more interest than conviction. During the balance of the year, however, I learned that fairness and impartial judgment were not just words to Lindsey Cowen, but principles by which he lived and worked. The students did not prevail in all the disputes mediated by the Dean, but we never departed his office without a feeling of having been permitted a fair hearing.

In the past, the administration of the Law School had been negative toward student projects and ideas. Dean Cowen's approach was simple. If the project were worthwhile and contributed to quality legal education, he would support it. If it were calculated to improve the school, he would find the funds—somewhere. A law review, a student periodical, a host of student programs and participation in local, regional, and national law student organizations emerged from this alliance of Dean, faculty, and students. That the Law School at the University of Georgia is a nationally recognized institution is primarily a result of the efforts and devotion of Dean Cowen and his total commitment to an unwavering standard of excellence.

So many of us owe so much to Dean Cowen. Those of us who

had the privilege of working with him readily recognize his extraordinary qualities. But many who came after he departed were deprived only of the personal relationships which we so enjoyed and from which we benefited. Dean Cowen's legacy of quality legal education at the University of Georgia School of Law remains and endures with a continuing impact on students and faculty. For myself and many others, "Thank you Dean Cowen. Our best wishes go with you on your return to teaching."

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