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Tribute to Oliver Schroder, Jr.

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Tribute to Oliver Schroeder, Jr.

In so many respects, the opportunities for future greatness which face this law school can be attributed to the efforts over two decades ago of Oliver Schroeder. Probably very few acting deans in the history of American legal education have played such a decisive role or have so-well prepared an institution for its future opportunities.

But when Ollie Schroeder became acting dean for administrative affairs of this law school in 1961, he assumed interim command of a leaky vessel. Neither he nor anyone else envisioned that his stewardship would last for nearly five years. The assignment which Ollie undertook in 1961, with the assistance of Maurice Culp (attending to academic affairs and the needs of individual students), was not one which either man would have sought. Nor did they find it particularly easy to work together as they struggled to help the institution survive and acknowledge the second half of the twentieth century.

The reputation that the law school had developed through the 1930's as one of the great law schools in America had been squandered before Schroeder became acting dean. A meddling president had demoralized the once-great faculty which was now understaffed and had alienated the alumni. The curriculum was thin, and most students focused more upon their thirty and forty hour-a-week jobs in small law firms than they did upon their school work. Little wonder, then, that the deanship of the law school was not an attractive one, and Schroeder's acting deanship extended longer than many deanships.

Unlike acting deans generally, however, Schroeder fortunately sought to change the institution, rather than merely conserve what little there was on the day he became acting dean. Although a traditional eastern Republican, Schroeder has always had the personality of a New Dealer: Try something, anything; if it works, retain it! If it doesn't work, discard it and try something else!

With the backing of a group of loyal and influential alumni, Schroeder confronted the university administration, something his predecessors were unable or unwilling to do. He insisted that law

school resources should not be diverted to the university but should benefit the law school program. The alumni backed him up, threatening to withhold gifts absent assurance that their contributions would remain with the law school. The Bok Commission, headed by then Professor Derrick Bok, was authorized to examine the law school and blueprint its regeneration. The Bok Commission endorsed Schroeder's message: the law school needed reasonable autonomy and support.

During Schroeder's acting deanship, the size of the faculty was increased and faculty salaries began to approach competitive levels. Most importantly, the law school began to exercise dominion over its own affairs. These efforts created an atmosphere that promised opportunity for the future which by late 1965 made the deanship of this school reasonably attractive. When the new dean arrived in 1966, he could undertake reconstruction of the law school not from ground zero but rather from firm foundations built by Professor Schroeder.

Fortunately for us, Ollie turned down a permanent deanship of his own out West in 1966. He remained the law school's most visible ambassador to the outside community and still is one of the most demanded and popular speakers in Ohio. He has placed his services at the call of his four successor deans and was the individual most responsible for convincing law firms and alumni to support the law school's Merit Scholar program.

In addition to cherishing Ollie as a colleague and friend, I have a personal debt of gratitude to Oliver Schroeder. In the early 1970's he was approached by Banks-Baldwin Law Publishing Company to author a text on Ohio's new criminal code and criminal rules. As a member of the technical advisory committee, Schroeder was the logical choice. He decided, however, that the new two volume work would be entitled *Schroeder-Katz Ohio Criminal Law*, and even through Oliver has retired from the law school and the books, the two volume work will remain as long as I am the author *Schroeder-Katz*.

LEWIS R. KATZ*

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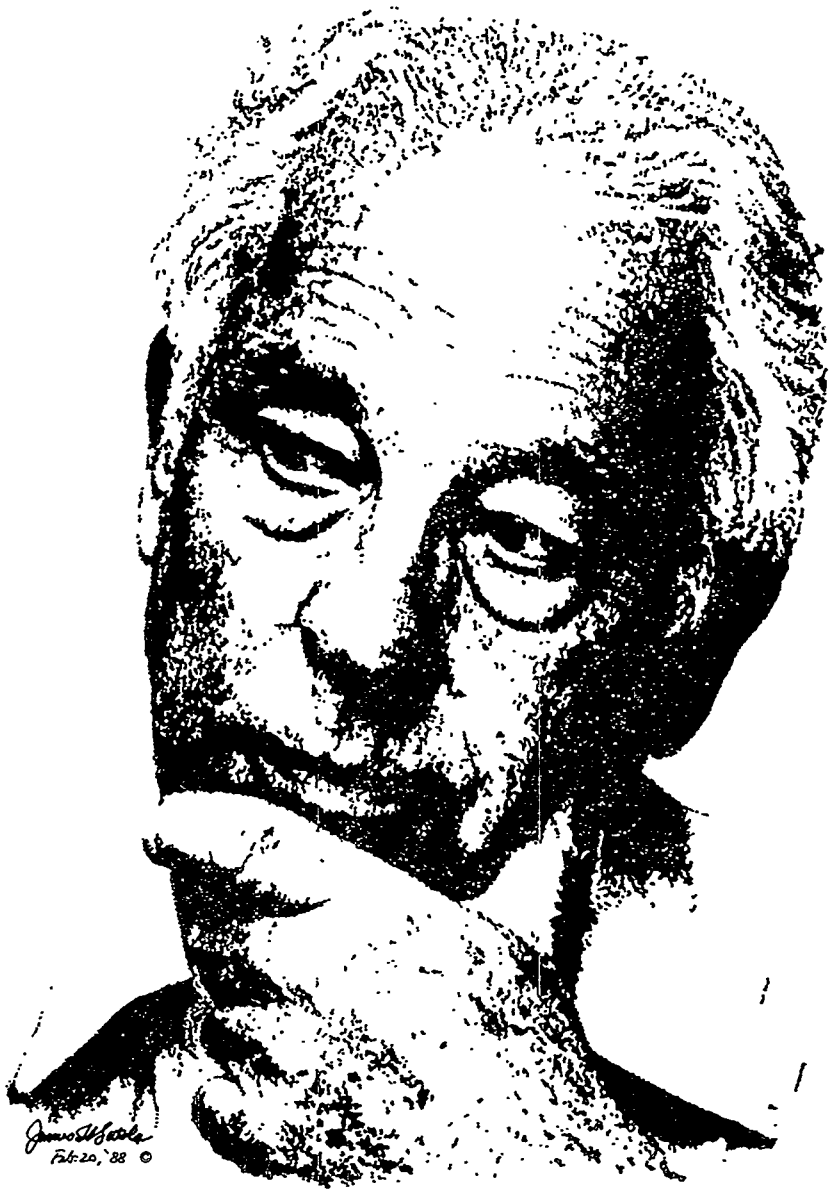
This issue is dedicated to
SUSAN E. FRANKEL
Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid
Case Western Reserve School of Law

Her exuberance in admissions convinced many of us to
come here and her efforts in financial aid enabled many
to stay. We will all miss her.

1951-1988

This issue is dedicated to
PROFESSOR THOMAS I. EMERSON
Augustus E. Lines Professor Emeritus of Law, Yale University

Standing firm in his defense of civil liberties, he provides standards of scholarship, diligence, and dedication to which we all aspire. We are significantly richer for his efforts.



THOMAS IRWIN EMERSON

I would like to extend my thanks and best wishes to the Case Western Reserve Law Review Editors and Staff for the honor which they bestow upon me. I am truly appreciative of their efforts.

The import of this issue, however, strikes much deeper. The scholars of the First Amendment have come together to discuss values essential to any democratic society. These values touch all aspects of our lives and grow only through such debate. I commend these scholars for their thoughts and efforts, and I thank them.

Thomas I. Emerson

Acknowledgment

“Most influential on [Thomas Emerson] . . . was Professor Lee Tulin whom Emerson describes as having ‘shocked me out of my fuzzy complacent thinking to a much more skeptical analytical type of thinking.’”*

The Editors of the Case Western Reserve Law Review gratefully acknowledge the selfless devotion of Douglas W. Tulin, '88, grandson of Professor Lee Tulin and personal friend of Professor Thomas I. Emerson, without whom this issue would not have been possible.

* Waltuch, *Thomas I. Emerson*, 3 YALE L. REP. NO. 1, at 32, 33-34 (1957).

