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# Dean Martin Lindsey Cowen

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## DEAN MARTIN LINDSEY COWEN

Even a recent alumnus returning to this Law School might now observe that "nostalgia is not what it used to be." A year ago we moved into a sorely needed new building with ample space, functional classrooms, and elegant design. At least among those who experienced the transition, there is a feeling that the new facilities reflect a new phase in the development of the Law School. Yet a college is defined, as William James noted, not by its buildings but by those who inhabit them. The pace, direction, and quality of our institutional growth is better measured by its new leader — Martin Lindsey Cowen.

Dean Cowen brings to the Law School a rare combination of abilities and experience. After many years as a scholar, Dean Cowen is well acquainted with the peculiar processes and problems of academia. A native of Ohio, and now 52, the Dean received his J.D. from the University of Virginia, where he had served a term as Editor-in-Chief of the Law Review and was a member of the Order of the Coif. Following a brief period in private practice, Dean Cowen returned to the University of Virginia, where he remained for about 13 years as Professor of Law and later as Associate Dean, leaving only long enough to receive his LL.M. from Harvard. Then, before coming to Case Western Reserve he served for eight years as Dean of the Law School at the University of Georgia, where he led the school through a period of remarkable growth and advancement.

A specialist in problems of the federal courts and conflicts of law, Dean Cowen has published extensively. He has contributed to *Moore's Federal Practice* and has been an editor of its annual supplement. Even with the new demands of his office, Dean Cowen has remained active in scholarship; he served for seven years on the Georgia Commission of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, and has recently been appointed to the Ohio Commission. He also served as Chairman of the Georgia committee on a Uniform Law on no-fault insurance.

We are fortunate that Dean Cowen approaches legal education with a scholar's appreciation of what is involved in intellectual achievement. Furthermore, as an administrator he approaches the perplexing problems of law school operation with the resolution that draws those around him to affirmative action. He brings to legal education a combination of open-minded resourcefulness and

pragmatism that promise to give it creative direction. He believes that every student should have an opportunity for some clinical experience and backs that belief with concrete investigation of programs for counseling prisoners, assisting prosecutors, and offering legal services to middle-income individuals. As he works to build a larger faculty, Dean Cowen plans an expanded curriculum enriched with interdisciplinary perspectives. Additional courses in such areas as legal history and jurisprudence will be matched by new offerings taught in conjunction with the Department of Philosophy and possibly a new clinical program conducted under the combined guidance of the Law School and the School of Applied Social Sciences.

To an institution which has recently expanded the size and quality of its membership and its facilities, Martin Lindsey Cowan offers capable new leadership. We heartily welcome the Dean to CWRU.