FOREWORD

Ernest Hemingway once wrote to a friend that “If you are lucky enough to have lived in Paris as a young man, then wherever you go for the rest of your life, it stays with you, for Paris is a moveable feast.” In much the same way over three thousand living American lawyers and judges have been at Notre Dame as young men and it stays with them because Notre Dame, too, is a “moveable feast.” In the centennial year of the Law School, we record the highlights of the first one hundred years so that we understand better why this place “stays with us.”

In December of 1968, on the eve of our Centennial Celebration, I asked Father Philip Moore to write our law school history. Not expecting he could possibly do it in less than a year, I was surprised when six months later he told me the work was done and he wished to discuss publication. This is typical of the author—direct, competent, he works seriously and straightaway.

Probably no person at Notre Dame has been in better position over the years to observe the law school’s development. Most of his distinguished career as philosopher and historian have been spent at Notre Dame. As head
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of the Department of Philosophy, Dean of the Graduate School, Vice-President of Academic Affairs, and Assistant to the President, he has watched from a high perch overlooking the law school. He was a college student here during the last years of the first dean and he has known personally the men and the period of which he writes. He brings to the task the penetrating insights of the philosopher, the careful reporting of a medieval historian and the warmth of a true son of Notre Dame. Compassionate in his evaluation of deans and deeds, he presents a candid chronicle of the first one hundred years at the law school.

The school, as you will read, has had a long and difficult emergence. Unlike Notre Dame’s athletic fortunes, the law school has not come to meteoric prominence with one “star” or with one “team.” It has pursued a slow, plodding course upward, always upward.

We are indeed grateful that Philip Moore has been here to savor and write about our “moveable feast.”

William B. Lawless, Dean
Notre Dame Law School

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