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From the Dean

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F R O M T H E D E A N



n June 1, 1998, I began my 24th year as dean of our law school. In 1995, when I agreed to continue as dean for a fifth term, I asked that this be my last term. Consistent with that intent, I have asked the provost to begin the search for my replacement.

People have asked me why I would retire when I still have so much energy and excitement for my work. The answer is, I have no intention of retiring any time in the near future. I have many good years and ideas in me, and I intend to work in the field of Catholic higher education for as long as I believe I can be effective. I am, however, anxious to pass on the baton of the deanship to someone else so that I can pursue some new and exciting opportunities.

From a personal standpoint, I am ready for some new challenges. I feel very good about the mission we put together for the Law School, as well as about the team we have assembled to fulfill our collective "dream" of being a great Catholic law school. I believe that our team of faculty, students, staff, University administrators, alumni and friends is so strong that the momentum established so far will inevitably continue to grow. But for me, it is time to answer other calls.

Institutionally, I believe it is also time for a new team leader. This institution has many positive attributes — a clear and challenging mission, a great faculty, a talented and committed student body, a supportive University plan, and, of course, loyal alumni and friends. The ninth dean of the Notre Dame Law School will inherit a strong institution that he or she can take to new heights in the next millennium. The new dean will have a wonderful opportunity to lead a team already at the top of its game.

I do appreciate the compliments paid by a number of you who have asked me to reconsider my decision that this be my last term as dean. On deep reflection and with prayerful guidance, however, I remain firmly resolved. Therefore, as noted above, I have asked the provost to begin a dean search with enough lead time so that the University can attract the very finest candidates and have an orderly transition without the awkwardness of appointing an interim dean. In response, Provost Nathan O. Hatch has appointed a committee consisting of himself as chair, and Associate Dean Fernand N. "Tex" Dutilleul '65 J.D., Vice President and Associate Provost and Professor of Law Carol Ann Mooney '77 J.D., and Professors Gerard V. Bradley, Alan Gunn and Jay Tidmarsh '79 as members. They have begun the process of looking for my successor, and I know they will welcome your input — either in identifying specific candidates or in conveying the personal and professional qualities you would like to see in the next dean of our law school.

I have not yet decided on what new challenges to pursue. But there is one opportunity that, considering the content of this issue of *Notre Dame Lawyer*, I want to share with you. For years, our Law School has enjoyed a reputation as being among the leaders in teaching the law with an emphasis on ethics — in educating lawyers who practice their art with, in the words of the late Dean Joseph A. O'Meara, "professional competence inspired by enduring values." I, personally, have taught applied ethics since the early days of my deanship. And in the last few years, I have written and spoken on a perspective of the law as a healing profession. So one of the projects that I will pursue with greater intensity as dean emeritus will be a scholarly undertaking that combines my decades of work in applied ethics with my research on law as a healing profession.

The University has agreed to establish an institute on the ethics of the legal profession. In addition, the Fetzer Institute of Kalamazoo, Michigan, which is well known for its work on "Healing and the Mind," has awarded me a grant to sponsor my research on "Healing and the Law." As you will see in my article beginning on page 4, I believe that returning the law to its roots as a healing profession necessarily will bring about a sea change in the ethical behavior and attitudes of many attorneys. Many of you have heard me speak on this subject. Now, many others will hear these ideas as well. Hopefully, my work at our law school will be a catalyst for much-needed change across our profession.

I will write to you further about my experiences as dean and my hopes for the future of our law school. For the present, suffice it to say that I love this place and all of the Notre Dame family. I love being dean, and I will continue to serve as long as it takes to install my successor. But I am looking forward to turning my experience into scholarship and my scholarship into practice as soon as possible. Not many people get the opportunity to bring about significant change in the ethos of their chosen profession. Thanks to the University and the Fetzer Institute, however, I'll soon have that opportunity.

In the coming months, I will elaborate upon my deep gratitude to all of you for making my service as dean so enjoyable and fulfilling. For now, however, I want to tell you how much I truly appreciate all you have done — not only to help me, but also and especially, to make Notre Dame Law School the great place it is.

With warm wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your family, I remain

Yours in Notre Dame,

David T. Link
Dean and Professor of Law

NOTRE
DAME

LAWYER

FALL/WINTER 1998

lawyers as
healers and
peacemakers



Dear Notre Dame Lawyer,

AS YOU WILL READ ON PAGE 3 OF THIS MAGAZINE, this coming year will bring some dramatic changes for your law school with Dean David T. Link '58, '61 J.D. becoming dean emeritus and returning to full-time teaching and research.

I am sure you will agree with me that, in the last quarter-century, Dean Link has made Notre Dame a law school of which we can all be proud. He has taken a good teaching institution and made it a force for justice — not just in the United States but around the world. He became dean when the Law School conferred just one degree, the J.D., on approximately 140 students every year; today, the Law School annually confers the J.D. on approximately 180 students every year, but also confers two LL.M. degrees — one on campus through the Center for Civil and Human Rights and one in the London Law Programme — and one J.S.D. degree in international human rights on a total of two dozen or so international students every year. He has increased the size of the faculty by more than 30 percent, and under his leadership the quantity and quality of their scholarship has grown tremendously. He also has the distinction of being the longest-serving law-school dean in the country.

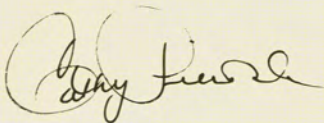
Whether as student, teacher, dean or friend, Dean Link has touched innumerable lives during his years at Notre Dame and through his community service and volunteer work with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and the South Bend Center for the Homeless. In an upcoming issue of this magazine — perhaps as early as this summer — we will honor his life and his work.

If you have a story about Dean Link that you'd like to share — whether heartwarming or humorous, short or long — please send it to me in care of this magazine. I'd like to include as many personal stories about Dean Link as possible, to make that special issue of the magazine a fitting tribute to the man who has been our dynamic leader and creative visionary, and indeed, the driving force behind this Law School's progression to greatness. No one can tell the story of what Dean Link has meant to Notre Dame better than the thousands of us who have known him. And I'm sure nothing would mean more to him than hearing from those whose lives he has touched.

I hope to hear from a lot of you. As always, you can contact me by phone, fax or e-mail as indicated below.

With best wishes for a happy holiday season and a healthy and peaceful new year, I remain

Yours in Notre Dame,



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P.S. The insert at the centerfold contains a good synopsis of law school demographics as well as current programs and activities. You may want to save it for reference should you come in contact with a prospective student, potential employer or other person who might have an interest in the state of your law school.

1998-99 FALL/WINTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 19, 1998, through January 10, 1999

Christmas Break (University offices
closed from December 24 through
January 3)

January 6, 1999

Notre Dame Lawyer Dinner
American Association of
Law Schools Annual Meeting
New Orleans, Louisiana
(location TBA)

February 15, 1999

Deadline for submissions for *Notre Dame
Lawyer*, spring 1999 issue

March 6-14, 1999

Spring Break

April 2-5, 1999

Easter Break (University offices closed)

April 21-24, 1999

University Alumni Senate
Notre Dame Law Association Spring
Meeting

May 13, 1999

Alumni Reception
Ohio State Bar Association Annual
Convention
Renaissance Hotel
Cleveland, Ohio

May 14-16, 1999

Commencement Weekend

June 4-6, 1999

University Reunion '99
Law School Continuing Legal Education
Program

June 15, 1999

Deadline for submission for *Notre Dame
Lawyer*, summer 1999 issue