



2-1-1949

# Dean Konop: A Quarter of a Century at Notre Dame

Aaron H. Huguenard

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarship.law.nd.edu/ndlr>



Part of the [Law Commons](#)

## Recommended Citation

Aaron H. Huguenard, *Dean Konop: A Quarter of a Century at Notre Dame*, 24 Notre Dame L. Rev. 145 (1949).

Available at: <http://scholarship.law.nd.edu/ndlr/vol24/iss2/1>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by NDLScholarship. It has been accepted for inclusion in Notre Dame Law Review by an authorized administrator of NDLScholarship. For more information, please contact [lawdr@nd.edu](mailto:lawdr@nd.edu).

# NOTRE DAME LAWYER

*A Quarterly Law Review*

---

---

VOL. XXIV

WINTER, 1949

No. 2

---

---

## DEAN KONOP: A QUARTER OF A CENTURY AT NOTRE DAME

*The school year of 1948-49 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of Dean Emeritus Thomas F. Konop's professorship at Notre Dame. In commemoration of his long and loyal service to the University, the College of Law, the profession, the alumni, and in particular to the students of the college and to THE NOTRE DAME LAWYER, THE LAWYER has asked Mr. Aaron Huguenard, prominent South Bend attorney, long a friend and formerly a teaching colleague of Dean Konop, to write an appreciation of the Dean and his work both at Notre Dame and in his other endeavors.—EDITOR.*

Notre Dame lawyers residing in South Bend are most fortunate in the opportunity of knowing and living with men who are on the faculty of the Notre Dame Law School. This privilege is not always appreciated until we travel afar and meet old classmates who avidly devour all news of their alma mater and who especially crave with unfeigned nostalgia detailed information about their old law professors. Comparisons sometimes lead to needless offense but I am sure that none of Dean Konop's fellow teachers will be resentful when I record that during my wanderings over many years always and everywhere Notre Dame lawyers have in particular inquired solicitously about his health and well-being. This is as it should be.

Many men will reach three score years and ten; many will accumulate more worldly wealth than Dean Konop has. Of

course there will be for most men families and all the problems of raising children. Some men will achieve the honor of high office; others will become prominent lawyers. For still others there will be the rarefied atmosphere of great scholarship. But in the decathlon event of life's Olympic games there will be few records equal to Dean Konop's.

Perhaps the success of a family is accidental. I don't think so. And while I would be the last to deprive Mrs. Konop of the credit which is a mother's due, I think in the litany of the Dean's virtues there should be first mentioned the monument which is forever evidence in three fine sons and a lovely daughter. Refined, courteous, good, able children just do not happen. They are only the product of living and forever sacrificing parents, father as well as mother.

Dean Konop has always had a profound and abiding love for his fellow men. His interest has never been the superficial pattern of the professional greeter. It is something real and extremely sincere. No one ever talked to the Dean without knowing a deep sympathy. No one's appeal for aid has ever been refused.

His sense of humor is delightful. His skill at narrating the humorous episode makes men hang on his lips. His recollection of things past is amazing. And the twinkle that comes into his eyes when he dips in the reservoir of a rich and active life to illustrate a point is positively magnetic.

Many able lawyers feel that they cannot afford to give of their time for the good of society. Not so with the Dean. Although the children were small and Washington was expensive and a law practice had to be suspended, the Dean spent six years as a congressman. They were active years when momentous legislation was enacted. They included the four years of Wilson's first term.

There was much controversy over our early workmen's compensation laws. Socialism was taking over the government, so the opposition said. Strong men were needed to ad-

minister such experimental and radical statutes. And Dean Konop again left his law practice to serve the state and society. For five years he was a member of the Wisconsin Industrial Commission.

In between times, the Dean was a trustee of his home state's Board of Vocational Education and a trustee of Stout Institute. We pass hurriedly over numerous clubs and societies in which he was constantly giving of himself.

And then, after twenty-five years of practicing law and law making and law administration, the Dean came to Notre Dame to assume his greatest assignment, the responsibility of administering the law school. A quarter of a century, looking ahead, seems a long time; but I know that looking backward, the years between 1923 and 1941 in particular sped by for the Dean. They were busy years, years of action and achievement and anxiety for the success of young men ambitious to succeed in the law. They were the years which saw Notre Dame meet the standards of the Association of American Law Schools; which saw *THE NOTRE DAME LAWYER* born and grow to an outstanding legal periodical; which saw the faculty increase and the student enrollment double; which saw the present building of the law school built; which saw the education and graduation of hundreds of successful Notre Dame lawyers. While the Dean retired from the active administration of the law school in 1941, being succeeded by Clarence Manion, the present Dean, he stayed on as Dean Emeritus and Professor of Law, and his inspiration and learning have continued to influence the law school, its students, and its professors.

I might dilate at length on the Dean's virtues as an administrator; on his tact in handling men and teachers; on his learning in the law and his excellence as a lecturer. But such things go without saying. I prefer rather to emphasize the extremely rare gift which the Dean possesses: the gift of imparting to young men an appreciation of the fact that they

are going to follow a noble and a dignified profession. There are many men who do not appreciate the importance of their vocation in a democratic society. Those men did not procure their education in the halls where Dean Konop has so long held forth.

The Dean's countless friends hasten to congratulate him on the completion of his twenty-five years of great service at Notre Dame and wish him and Mrs. Konop many long and happy years.

*Acron H. Huguenard.*