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GALVIN'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE LAW SCHOOL

by

*Roy R. Ray**

THE resignation of Charles Galvin as dean created a shock wave throughout the entire Law School community. Deaning these days is a tough, demanding, frustrating, and thankless job. In recent years, the average tenure of a dean has been about five years. Dean Galvin, however, had served with great distinction and effectiveness for some fifteen years, and most of us assumed that he would continue in the position of leadership for many more years. His unexpected decision to relinquish the administrative post caused a great sense of loss and apprehension for the future.

Charles's connection with the Law School spans a period of thirty-seven years. After graduating from SMU with a B.S.C. degree in 1940 and from Northwestern University with an M.B.A., both with high honors, he enrolled in the SMU School of Law in 1941. He left at the end of his first year to enter the Navy. Following four years of service and after attaining the rank of Lieutenant Commander, he completed his law studies at Northwestern University Law School, from which he received the J.D. degree in 1947. The next five years were spent with a prominent Dallas law firm specializing in taxation. He developed a burning desire to teach and in 1952 made the difficult decision to leave a promising career in practice for the academic world. We were fortunate to have him join our faculty. After several years of teaching Charles felt the need for further study and in 1956, at considerable financial sacrifice, he went to Harvard Law School as an Ezra Ripley Thayer Teaching Fellow. In addition to teaching a course, he was able to pursue graduate courses leading to an S.J.D. degree, which was conferred in 1961 after completion of his thesis. Upon his return to the law faculty in 1957 he devoted his efforts exclusively to teaching, research, and writing. He became an excellent classroom teacher, highly regarded by his students, and an industrious and productive scholar. This is evidenced by the publication of numerous articles and papers on various legal subjects between 1957 and 1963.

When the deanship became vacant in the fall of 1963, Galvin was selected by the president and board of trustees for the post. This turned out to be an extremely wise decision. He was the right man at the right time for the job. Charles had a dream that SMU could become a great private independent law school, and during the ensuing fifteen years he devoted

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his entire energies to making that dream a reality. A recital of the accomplishments during those years demonstrates that in large measure he succeeded. Building on the foundation laid by his predecessors, he took a good regional law school and developed it into one of distinction and national repute, whose graduates are sought by leading law firms. His act will be hard to follow. Among the major developments of his administration were: (1) The part-time evening division that had become an economic drain on the school's resources was discontinued and the regular day program was strengthened. (2) The admission standards have been continually raised, resulting in higher quality students with diverse backgrounds. In 1977-78 some 182 undergraduate institutions and sixteen foreign countries were represented in the student body. Pressures to enlarge enrollment were resisted and the entering class was restricted to 225 students. (3) The size of the faculty was increased by approximately one-third, through the addition of brilliant young scholars with diverse backgrounds in training and experience. All except five of the present thirty full-time faculty have been recruited during Galvin's administration. Salary scales have been greatly increased to the point where they are now competitive with the major law schools around the country. The curriculum has been constantly revised and enriched and new programs developed with more emphasis being placed on clinical education. (4) A chapter of the Order of the Coif, National Honor Society, was obtained in 1966, thus attesting to the high academic quality of the school. (5) The physical plant has been greatly enlarged and improved. The magnificent Underwood Library, recognized as one of the finest facilities in the country, was completed in 1970. It has space for 430,000 volumes, with carrels and comfortable seating for all students. The collections have been increased from 87,000 volumes in 1963 to over 230,000 in 1978, and it is now one of the two dozen largest law school libraries in the country. Other physical plant improvements include the complete remodeling of Florence Hall into a modern classroom building, the redecoration and refurnishing of Lawyers Inn, and the renovation of Storey Hall to provide more and larger faculty offices. The total result is a physical plant second to none in the Southwest. All of these new facilities were made possible by funds obtained almost single handedly by Dean Galvin in the form of gifts from friends and foundations, and grants and loans from the federal government. (6) Unrestricted gifts by alumni and friends to the Annual Law School Fund, which are used primarily for financial aid to deserving students, reached a new high of \$168,000 in 1977-78. This was in addition to gifts of some \$17,000 to the Library Fund, and gifts for endowment and grants for clinics and research. The first endowed chair, the William Hawley Atwell Professorship of Constitutional Law, was obtained by Dean Galvin. (7) An outstanding placement program for graduates has been developed. It brings to the School each fall representatives of law firms from across the country who interview senior students for job openings and second year students for summer clerkships. The placement rate is extremely high.

Charles has always believed that scholarly research and writing is essential to the professional development of the teacher and important in enhancing the reputation of the school as a center of learning that will attract students with the best minds. He has sought to encourage productive scholarship by setting a personal example. Despite heavy administrative duties, teaching a course each semester, and carrying on his professional and pro bono publico activities, during the period from 1968 to 1978 he has written some thirty articles and papers on a wide variety of subjects including: progressive income tax, substantive tax reform, tax sheltered investments, wills and trusts, and drug abuse legislation. In addition, he has compiled and kept up to date his teaching materials on property security.

It is said that if you need a job done find the busiest man to do it. Charles is a good illustration of this adage. With all his other responsibilities he has always found time to devote to good causes, which has reflected credit upon the Law School and the University. It would take too much space to list here all his memberships in academic, professional, civic, and church associations or to describe all of his pro bono publico activities. I shall name only a few: On the local level he served for two years as president of the Dallas County Community Action Committee (War on Poverty). He has also been a member of the Board of Trustees of KERA (Public Television Station). On the national level he has served on the Advisory Staff of two Commissioners of Internal Revenue, as a consultant to the United States Treasury, and as a member (by Presidential appointment) of the National Commission on Marihuana and Drug Abuse. In the professional area he has chaired several important committees of the American Bar Association, including the Special Committee on Tax Reform, the Committee on Legal Research, and the Committee on Exempt Organizations. He has been a member of the Executive Committee of the Association of American Law Schools, the Committee on Continuing Legal Education, and the Committee on Accreditation. In the church related area he served for a time as president and is now a member of the Executive Committee of the Catholic Foundation. In 1966 he received the Intellectual Leadership Award from the National Council of Catholic Men. Presently, he is a member of the National Council of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

With the indulgence of the editors I will close these remarks on a more personal note. Charles Galvin has been my friend and colleague for some twenty-six years, and we have shared many experiences. I have never known a more sincere and unpretentious man. He would be the first to protest that the above assessment of his contributions is the testimony of a biased witness. But I am confident that the views expressed are shared by my colleagues and by thousands of the alumni. The life of a dean is indeed a trying and frustrating one. But the road is easier and the journey happier when he has an understanding helpmate. Charles is abundantly blessed in this respect. At his side through all the years of unremitting

labor has been his beloved wife, Peggy. She has shared his interests in the cultural and intellectual pursuits as distinguished from material rewards, and has protected him from innumerable distractions that waste the time and sap the energies of the most gifted. Charles would be the first to credit her with a large share of the honors that have come to him through the years. As he returns to the slower paced life of the teacher-scholar and they have more time together, I wish them Godspeed in the wonderful years ahead.