The Law School at Mid-Century

This year, 1952-53, marks the Fiftieth Anniversary of the founding of The University of Chicago Law School. The original concept of the School, as made known in its first Announcement of June 2, 1902, included scientific research, training for the profession "in any jurisdiction in which the common law prevails," and close associations within the University, with the Courts and Bar, and among the law students and faculty. The ideal of the founders was an institution which in itself would symbolize the living law.

In this Fiftieth Anniversary year numerous conferences and events will celebrate the accomplishments of the founders and will appraise the problems and status of justice at this mid-century. The friends of The Law School, including the Bar generally, the Alumni, and scholars in law and related disciplines are invited to join with us on these commemorative occasions.

The anniversary year is one of growth as well as commemoration. Mary Beecher Hall has become The Law School Residence. It provides living quarters, dining facilities, and a central meeting place for law students and faculty. It gives us as well an immediately accessible guest suite for distinguished visitors. The Law School Residence has already greatly enriched the life of the students. As the founders wrote: "The constant and intimate association of the students with each other and with the faculty will lead to common work and stimulate interest in it, and will, it is hoped, furnish inspiration to students and teachers alike." Of immediate importance to our students also is the enlargement of our teaching fellowship program. The adaptation of the tutorial system to the needs of the American law school was first attempted in 1937 through the aid of a grant from the Carnegie Corporation to The University of Chicago Law School. The fact that many other law schools have now adopted such a program confirms us in our judgment as to the value of the experiment.

The conversion of Beecher Hall into The Law School Residence and the appointment of an additional teaching fellow would not have been possible without the generous gift which resulted from the Alumni drive.

Roscoe Pound has written of James Parker Hall in the Journal of Legal Education: "He devoted himself to building up a great law school, a school of highest standards rigorously maintained and brought the institution to a leading place among American law schools." The Law School gains strength from this tradition of leadership. It is aware also of the continuing responsibilities which its history imposes upon it.

The Law Faculty has been augmented by the appoint-
ments of Roscoe Steffen, formerly Professor of Law at the Yale Law School; Karl Llewellyn, formerly Betts Professor of Jurisprudence at Columbia University; Soia Mentschikoff (Mrs. Karl Llewellyn), the first woman law professor at Harvard; and Allison Dunham, formerly Associate Professor of Law at Columbia. Professor John Jewkes of Oxford University will come to us for the academic year 1953-54 as Visiting Professor of Industrial Organization. These additions to our faculty are in the best traditions of the School.

This is not the place to write in detail of the work of individual members of the faculty, but perhaps it is allowable to make an exception and announce the forthcoming publication by the University of Chicago Press of Professor William Crosskey's Polity and the Constitution: A History of the Government of the United States. As Professor Crosskey's students will attest, this is no ordinary book; it is a monumental contribution to law and history.

From its beginning the Law School has been a national institution. The student body has always reflected wide geographic distribution. This continues to be the case. During the last year our students have also been helped by the National Honor Scholarships established by the University with the cooperation of selected liberal arts colleges throughout the country. These scholarships make it possible for young men and women who have shown qualities of leadership and ability to study law at Chicago. When in full operation the plan will provide for ninety students in residence at the School.

Additional important scholarship aid has been made available by the establishment of the Class of 1915 Scholarship and the James B. Blake Scholarship Fund, both of which are in operation for the first time. The Leo F. Wormser Scholarships have been extended through additional grants from the donors. Our student loan funds have also been greatly aided by the establishment of the Bernhardt Frank Loan Fund.

Alumni gifts have laid the foundation for the development at the School of a center for legal research. The Ford Foundation has made a grant of $400,000 to the School for research in the area of law and the behavioral sciences to be conducted over a two- to three-year period. Under the terms of this grant three projects will be selected for intensive study from these areas: (1) law observance and infringement; (2) social institutions; (3) individual rights; and (4) the administration of justice. A preliminary selection of two of the projects already has been made, a study of the jury system as one project and an examination of arbitration as a quasi-legal system as the other. It is probable that the third project will be in the field of criminology. In addition to the work on the three selected projects, the Law Faculty will work with an advisory group to be appointed by it to plan a more detailed set of studies which might be undertaken in the future.

The Ford Foundation grant is undoubtedly one of the most significant events in legal education. The choice of the University of Chicago Law School as the recipient of the grant is assuredly due in part to the close relationships which have developed over the years between the Law School and those departments in the University whose work lies in the behavioral sciences.

The responsibilities and burdens of the Law School are increased enormously by the acceptance of the grant. At the same time its opportunities are vastly widened. In the conduct of this research the Law School will stand as the representative of law schools generally and of those segments of the Bar which have long advocated the necessity of bringing to the law techniques properly analogous to those which are successfully employed in the biological and physical sciences.

The alumni of the School will be greatly interested in the decision of the American Bar Association to build its new headquarters on the Midway. This should make possible further collaboration with its committees.

The School has continued its close collaboration with the profession. The Commissioners on Uniform State Laws have concluded an arrangement for collaboration through seminars at the School on the preliminary drafting of legislation and the exploration of drafting problems. A somewhat similar joint program, although drafting is not its major focus, is now in operation between the Law School and the Council on State Governments. The research activities of the School in the area of trade regulations, taxation and labor law have been greatly aided by grants received from national corporations.

Thus the unified program of the School during the last year has resulted in additions to the faculty, increased scholarship aid to a student body drawn from all parts of the nation, the further development of student life within the Law School, and the creation of a research center. Most of these developments would not have taken place save for the extraordinary efforts of Glen A. Lloyd, President of the Alumni Association, and his associates, the members of the Alumni Board and of the Visiting Committee and the other many friends of the School among the Profession. It is a source of the greatest satisfaction that this Fiftieth Anniversary year finds the Law School in close cooperation with its alumni and with the Bar.

The ideal of the School continues to be that of an institution which in itself symbolizes the living law, through its dedication to teaching and research and through the creation of a community broadly conceived to include students, scholars, alumni, and the Bar generally. It is an ideal which dwarfs particular events, overcomes deficiencies, and unites those who celebrate this Fiftieth Year.

S. J. C. WITTMAN