New Appointment

The School is pleased to announce the appointment of Nicholas deBelleville Katzenbach as Professor of Law, effective July 1. Mr. Katzenbach is currently a member of the faculty of Yale Law School.

Professor Katzenbach, who was born in 1922, received his B.A. degree from Princeton University in 1945. He was graduated from Yale Law School in 1947 and then spent the period 1947–49 as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University. He practiced with Katzenbach, Gildea and Rudner in Trenton, New Jersey, during 1950, during which period he was also lecturer in law at the Rutgers University Law School.

From 1950 to 1952 Professor Katzenbach was counsel to the Department of the Air Force; he served that agency in a consulting capacity during 1952–54. In 1952 he became associate professor of law at Yale University and has been a member of the Yale Law Faculty since that time. He has worked in Contracts, Conflicts, and Equity, but his major field of interest is International Law, with special emphasis on International Trade and Investment.

The Compleat Attorney

Among the early legal treatises housed in the Law Library are several offering advice to the layman and student. The Complete English Lawyer, by a student of the Inner Temple, is subtitled Every Man His Own Lawyer, which gives some idea of the intended scope of the work. In the Preface the author writes: “Though it be not necessary for every man to be a Lawyer, yet it is surely incumbent upon every one, that he should possess some knowledge of the Laws under which he lives, especially those who have any claims to a polite or liberal education.”

The unidentified author of The Practick Part of the Law Shewing the Office of a Compleat Attorney, published in 1654, also apparently intended that his reading audience should extend beyond the legal profession. He sets out briefly the name of each action, the type of injury which can be remedied by the action, and the fees of the court wherein such action would be filed. For instance, in describing the uses for actions upon the case, we are told:

These Actions are very numerous, and grounded upon several occasions, as for scandalous words, for promises not performed, for special nuisances, etc. The Process upon them are: first an Originall, and then by way of capias; if you can arrest upon the first Process, if not, then you may proceed to the Outlawry, as before in Debt, only the charge will be more in respect of the length of your process, and for return of those Writs, you must return (that the Defendant hath nothing within my Bayliwick thereby he may be attached) this for the Originall; and for the Capias and other process (that the Defendant is not found within my Bayliwick).

For the information of the layman and the encouragement or otherwise of students, Sir John Dodderidge set forth the qualities of mind necessary to the successful practice of law and the methods by which law ought to be studied. Sir John, a justice in the Court of King’s Bench, in his English Lawyer (published 1631) sets forth the requirements thus: “sharpness and dexterity of wit,” “soundness of memory,” and “prompt and ready delivery by way of speech.” These three are gifts of nature, to be contrasted with “those qualities which are acquired by industry.” It will come as no surprise to law students to find that Dodderidge considers knowledge of the law as a quality acquired by industry. He also favors a good general education as background, wherein the lawyer-to-be can acquire among others a knowledge of Latin and logic.

Between the lawyer and the student stages came traditionally the clerkship. A handy guide for this stage was The Young Clerk’s Tutor, so handy in fact that it went through at least thirteen editions. The Law Library edition was published in London in 1693 and begins with four pages of plates demonstrating the difference between court and chancery calligraphy. The young clerk is further advised on the formalities of drafting contracts,