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## Dedication to Hiram H. Lesar

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# WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW QUARTERLY

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## DEDICATION TO HIRAM H. LESAR

After serving as Dean of the Washington University School of Law for thirteen years, Professor Hiram H. Lesar announced last July that he was leaving to become the first dean of the law school at Southern Illinois University, which will begin operation in the fall of 1973.

Obviously, the faculty members of long tenure can best assess Professor Lesar's term as dean, but those of us on the Editorial Board of the *Law Quarterly* who are third year students are well aware of the quiet effectiveness of this educator and administrator. While Dean Lesar's appearance is unassuming, he is receptive to students and their ideas. During his tenure as dean he has achieved results which are noted for their progressiveness, breadth and success. Indeed, the present high quality of legal education at the Washington University School of Law is a monument to the success of his efforts.

More than any other group, the students have been the beneficiaries of Professor Lesar's successful years at Washington University. Therefore, the Editorial Board appreciatively dedicates this issue to Dean Hiram H. Lesar. As the following resolution indicates, the faculty of the School of Law is also very much aware of the Dean's achievements:

### RESOLUTION

Dean Hiram H. Lesar is leaving to build a new law school at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois. The faculty of Washington University School of Law regrets his decision to leave, wishes him well in his new position, and thanks him for the strength and integrity he has imparted to legal education here.

Hiram Lesar joined the faculty of Washington University School of Law in 1957 as Professor of Law. He received the J.S.D. degree from Yale Law School in 1938, and began his teaching career at the University of Kansas. After war-years service with the Board of Legal Examiners of the Civil Service Commission and the United States Navy, he returned to law teaching at the University of Missouri. When he joined the Washington University faculty, to teach Federal Taxation, Servitudes, and Trusts and Estates, Professor Lesar was already a distinguished scholar. His most important scholarly contributions are his *Landlord and Tenant*, which remains today the standard treatise in the field, and his section of the *American Law of Property*.

In the spring of 1960, Hiram Lesar was the unanimous choice of the faculty to serve as Dean of the School of Law. The measure of his stewardship as Dean is in the progress the school has made during his tenure.

The enrollment of the law school the year before Dean Lesar's term of office was 184. Ninety-six of that number were graduates of our own university, and 148 came from colleges in Missouri and Illinois. All together, students came from a total of forty colleges and universities. The entering class had an average score on the Law School Aptitude Test of 470, and an average Grade Point Average of 1.55 on a 3.00 scale.

The law school enrollment for the 1971-72 academic year was 467. Ninety-one of these students came from colleges and universities in Missouri and Illinois, including sixty-three from Washington University. All together, students had graduated from a total of 161 colleges and universities in thirty-nine states and three foreign countries. The entering class of 184 in the fall of 1972 are graduates of 105 colleges and universities in thirty-one states; eighteen are graduates of Washington University, and forty-nine are from Missouri. The median score of the Fall 1972 entering class on the Law School Aptitude Test is 603, and the median Grade Point Average is 2.24.

The year before Hiram Lesar became Dean, there were twelve full-time faculty members, and fourteen distinguished practicing attorneys who taught part-time. Eleven of the full-time faculty members had engaged in graduate study beyond the first degree in law and ten had earned the Doctor of Juridical Science degree. Full-time faculty members had law degrees from the Universities of Chicago, Columbia, Harvard, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, New York University, Western Reserve,

Wisconsin, and Yale. Many basic courses were taught by members of the part-time faculty.

Dean Lesar leaves a faculty consisting of twenty-three full-time members and ten part-time members. Distinguished attorneys presently teach courses in the graduate tax program, and conduct the legal drafting course for candidates for the first law degree. No basic courses for undergraduate law students are taught by part-time faculty members. Many of the full-time faculty members have had practice experience instead of graduate law study. Universities from which full-time faculty members have received their degrees include Chicago, Columbia, Cornell, California (Berkeley), California (Los Angeles), Harvard, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, London (England), Michigan, North Carolina, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin, and Yale. Practice experience has been with law firms, corporations, and government agencies in Chicago, Cleveland, Columbus (Ohio), Dallas, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, St. Louis, and Washington, D.C.

When Hiram Lesar became Dean in 1960, Washington University School of Law was offering a curriculum that compared favorably with those of many law schools which had substantially larger full-time faculties. The number and diversity of courses added to the curriculum in the succeeding twelve years are remarkable. Part of the growth is due to the introduction of graduate degree programs in taxation and urban law. Courses added include: Advanced Research in Taxation, Advanced Tax Accounting, Comparative Law, Consumer Protection, Corporate Tax Planning, Criminal Justice Administration, Environmental Control, Estate Planning II, Estate Planning (Advanced Tax Problems), Federal Taxation of Business Associations, Federal Tax Procedure, Jurisprudence II, Land Finance, Law of Communist Nations, Legal History, Legal Process, Legal Writing, Natural Resources, Problems of the Mentally Ill, Regulated Industries, Securities Regulation, Social Legislation, State and Local Taxation, Uniform Commercial Code II, Urban Legal Studies, Urban Legal Techniques. Some of the above are conducted in the style of seminars, but a special designation of "seminar" has been used for a group of offerings designed to assure that every graduate of the law school has the opportunity to engage in intensive legal research and writing. These offerings, also added during Dean Lesar's tenure, include: Administrative Law Seminar, Civil Rights Seminar, Commercial Law Seminar, Corrections Seminar, Housing and Land Development Seminar, International Commercial Transactions

Seminar, Law and Science Seminar, Taxation Seminar, and Torts Seminar. In all, thirty-five offerings have been added to the curriculum. Combined programs were established with the Schools of Social Work and Business, and interdisciplinary work was begun on a broad front and always encouraged.

Such substantial growth in student body, faculty, and curriculum could not have occurred without more space. Planning began in 1963 for a new building. Each faculty member was asked to anticipate the changes that would occur in legal education in the next twenty years in his teaching fields. The replies were correlated and translated into required library space, teaching space, public activities space, and informal meeting space. In 1964 the resulting specifications were stated in a proposal for an international architectural competition. The winning design, for which a \$25,000 prize was awarded, was selected by a panel consisting of the Chancellor and two architects of national reputation.

The new Mudd Law Building with the Eugene A. and Adlyne Freund Library was first occupied in October, 1971. The old building provided 29,000 square feet of space for law school activities. Mudd Hall has 66,000 square feet of finished space, with an additional 9,500 square feet of expansion space already provided for within the piling. It was completed at a cost of 3.7 million dollars at a time when, except for Washington University, no new law school buildings were being built in the Middle West.

These developments could not have happened without effective decanal leadership. Hiram Lesar is a quiet man, and many may not have known how effective he is. The faculty knows that his effectiveness flows from a high sense of professional responsibility, sound academic planning, quiet perseverance, absolute fairness and total integrity.

This Resolution is to be entered in the Minutes and presented to Hiram Henry Lesar as a Memorial of the appreciation and affection of

THE FACULTY OF  
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF LAW

15 November 1972