

“A LABOR OF LOVE”: A FINAL INTERVIEW WITH DEAN PAUL E. RAYMOND

Paul E. Raymond*

EDITORS' NOTE

In preparing for its Centennial Celebration Symposium, the *Stetson Law Review* contacted Paul E. Raymond in Fall 1999 and asked him to submit an essay about his years as dean.¹ Dean Raymond agreed to provide pertinent information and requested that the *Stetson Law Review* editors convert the information he provided into an essay.

Dean Raymond died on December 3, 1999,² just a few weeks after the *Review* received his answers to the initial questions. To honor and remember him, the *Review* decided to publish the questions and answers with only minor modifications. We believe that the answers give a truer sense of Dean Raymond and his years of service than we could convey in an essay. We have added some footnotes to provide pertinent information and to put some of Dean Raymond's comments into historical context.

Q1: When were you appointed dean?

A: I was offered the deanship in May 1938, when I was thirty-four years old. I was very hesitant about accepting, knowing the condition of the law school.³ Moreover, Dean Lewis H. Tribble⁴ was a good friend. The situation was not his fault, and he deserved credit for keeping the law school open during the depression years. He did this by retaining teachers beyond normal retirement who were willing to serve

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1. Dean Raymond served as dean of Stetson University College of Law from 1938–1941. Gilbert L. Lycan, *Stetson University: The First 100 Years* 302 (Centennial ed., Stetson U. Press 1983).

2. *Funeral Notices*, 91 Palm Beach Post 6B (Dec. 6, 1999).

3. Dean Tribble served as dean during the Great Depression. Lycan, *supra* n. 1, at 252. Many members of the faculty were inefficient, there was inadequate funding for the library and faculty salaries, and relations with the rest of the University were strained. *Id.* at 245; James E. Tribble, *The Life and Times of Dean Lewis H. Tribble*, 30 *Stetson L. Rev.* 19, 37–38 (2000).

4. Dean Tribble served as dean of Stetson University College of Law from 1930–1938. Tribble, *supra* n. 3, at 37, 40.

on low salaries and by skimping on the library and other matters. President Lincoln Hulley,⁵ who died in 1934, followed the same policy in keeping the University open.

When President William Sims Allen⁶ asked me to accept the deanship, he was no doubt motivated by a recent, highly critical report from the American Bar Association Inspection Committee. He was determined either to improve the school or to let it die. I discussed it with my wife and with Dean Tribble. President Allen agreed to allow me to replace most of the faculty and to upgrade the library. Dean Tribble urged me to accept, and I wanted him to remain on the faculty, which he planned to do until some of his friends poisoned his mind and induced him to believe that I had undermined him and sought the deanship, which was, of course, untrue. I deeply regretted this, but he became counsel to the State comptroller, and we soon became good friends again.

Q2: Who was president of the University at the time?

A: The president was William Sims Allen, who had been dean at Baylor University.

Q3: Describe the law school's facilities in DeLand.

A: The law school quarters were on the third floor of Flagler Hall, an old building across the street from Elizabeth Hall, the main building. The dean's office was on the second floor. The building, which suffered from long neglect, also housed the chemistry department, the physics department, the manual training department, and the University press.

Q4: What were the relations between the University and the law school? Did you have problems with the president or the University?

A: The president was very supportive of the law school. The relations with the remainder of the University faculty were good, although occasionally someone commented that the law school was favored over the rest of the institution.

5. President Hulley served as president of Stetson University from 1904–1934. Lycan, *supra* n. 1, at 108, 258.

6. President Allen served as president of Stetson University from 1934–1947. *Id.* at 270.

Q5: Did you receive help from law firms in DeLand?

A: Most of the lawyers in DeLand were graduates of the school and were supportive. They sometimes lectured on request and helped oversee the third-year students who participated in legal aid work that I initiated.

Q6: How large was the faculty? How many full-time and how many part-time professors?

A: The faculty consisted of five full-time and two part-time professors. There was also a law librarian.

Q7: Who were your faculty members?

A: The full-time professors were Paul E. Raymond, S.J.D., Harvard University, 1932; Claude Hilding Brown, J.S.D., Yale University, 1929; James Lenoir, Ph.D., University of Illinois, 1934, LL.M., Columbia University, 1937; James Robert Wilson, J.S.D., Columbia University, 1934; Henry J. Fox, LL.M., Harvard University, 1938, S.J.D., University of Wisconsin, 1937. The part-time professors were Leonard J. Curtis, J.D., University of Chicago, 1911, and Neill S. Jackson, LL.B., John B. Stetson University, 1921 (lecturer). Oveda Cheatham served as law librarian.⁷

Q8: Did you have a staff, such as a secretary?

A: I had a secretary, Oveda Cheatham, who was a very smart and capable person. At the time, the law librarian was a kindly old gentleman who knew nothing about a library except how to prevent the books from walking off. I asked Ms. Cheatham if she would like to take a short course in library science and become law librarian, and I assured her that the faculty and I would assist her. She agreed to do this and became a good librarian. She assessed the texts and reference works, obtained Library of Congress cards, and created a card index. She had the books cleaned and treated to prevent further insect damage. The faculty helped her select and order needed books.

7. *College of Law: Announcements for 1940–1941*, 40 John B. Stetson U. Bull. 1, 2 (July 1940).

Q9: Who was in charge of admissions?

A: Registration and admission were handled by the University registrar, although the standards for admission were set by the dean and faculty of the law school with the approval of the president and trustees. On registration day, I had a table where I counseled both law students and pre-law students. University policies governed the law school. The students and faculty attended chapel. Discipline of law students was very rare and handled by the University administration. I sat in to assure that due process was recognized.

Q10: Did you foresee the law school's 1954 move to Gulfport?

A: I foresaw only that the law school did not belong in DeLand, but in a larger city with better facilities. I had a strong opinion about this and made my views known to the alumni and president. Among our alumni were several prominent lawyers in Jacksonville who understood President Allen's and my efforts to produce an excellent law school. In 1940 I was approached by Warren L. Jones, Esquire, president of the Jacksonville Bar Association and later judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, about the possibility of moving the law school to Jacksonville. After I acquainted him with our need for a building, funding for the library and salaries, and assistance of the lawyers for lectures and clinical work, he presented an offer,⁸ which I recommended to the president. President Allen strongly approved the plan and presented it to the trustees. The local newspaper stirred up a local fight opposing the move, and the trustees, a majority of whom were local residents, rejected the offer. This was a major disappointment to the law faculty and to me. Perhaps that was providential, because the move to Gulfport in 1954 enabled the law school to become the superb institution that it is now.

8. The Jacksonville offer consisted of a promise to construct a building to house the College of Law and "to relieve the University of all further expenses, whatever, in connection with it." Lycan, *supra* n. 1, at 303.

Q11: How did the decline of student enrollment in law schools around the country affect Stetson University College of Law during your deanship?⁹

A: Since tuition covered only a portion of the cost of the law school, we proceeded with our efforts to strengthen the school academically, as desired by the president. However, financial need was always a factor to be considered.

Q12: What steps did you take as dean to maintain the law school and successfully emerge from the depression years?

A: As explained in my answer to question one, credit for this is due Dean Tribble, who brought the school through the worst of the depression.

Q13: Did the College of Law have problems with accreditation?

A: When I recommended the replacement of three faculty members, President Allen felt that due to the tight budget and other circumstances, separation pay could not be offered to them although he approved their replacement. They appealed to the American Association of University Professors, which sent an investigating committee that was unable to persuade President Allen to change his decision. Although not disputing the need for the replacements, it recommended the payment of a year's salary to each of the teachers. The American Bar Association approved the finding and suspended the law school's accreditation until such payment was made. The trustees soon authorized the payment, and accreditation was immediately restored.¹⁰

Q14: How did you raise academic standards for Stetson students during your deanship?

A: We employed younger, better educated, and more energetic professors. The library was updated. The curriculum was enriched. Class assignments were more rigid. Examinations and grading were more rigorous. Every week the faculty met

9. Law school enrollment decreased throughout the nation during the Great Depression. W. Gary Vause, *Foundations for Excellence — The History of Stetson University College of Law*, 16 *Stetson L. Rev.* 295, 314 (1987).

10. Tribble, *supra* n. 3, at 41.

for lunch and discussed and decided on ways to improve the law school and its product. The students were soon impressed with the fact that registration in the law school was no longer an easy ticket to a license to practice via the diploma privilege.¹¹ Neither funding nor faculty capacity were available for a law review. Every year a “law day” was held early in May when three lawyers or judges were invited to present papers on assigned subjects of current legal interest. The events were staged in Stover Theater and were well attended. The “law day” concluded with a banquet. The papers were printed in pamphlet form and widely distributed.

Q15: What were the requirements for admission?

A: For admission to the law school, the student must have had a bachelor degree or have completed three years of required courses so that upon successfully completing one year of law school, he or she would be awarded a bachelor degree.¹²

Q16: Was law school a three year course of study?

A: Three years were required, as were several courses. Eighty-five semester hours with a 1.0 quality point average (including failed courses) were required. A 2.5 quality point average gave a *cum laude* honor and a 2.8 quality point average a *magna cum laude* honor. Upon graduating, the student was awarded a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) degree.¹³

Q17: How large was the student body?

A: The student body varied between 100 and 200 students. Even before the declaration of war, the National Draft Act caused a significant decline.¹⁴ The students formed the

11. *Infra* n. 18.

12. Stetson University College of Law's standards for admission were considered quite arduous. In fact, Stetson's heightened admission requirements preceded similar American Bar Association requirements by thirteen years. Vause, *supra* n. 9, at 314.

13. *College of Law: Announcements for 1940–1941*, *supra* n. 7, at 13. Currently, a student who earns a cumulative average of 3.0 graduates *cum laude*, a student who earns a cumulative average of 3.5 graduates *magna cum laude*, and a student who earns a cumulative average of 3.75 graduates *summa cum laude*. Stetson U. College of L., *Student Handbook* C-38 (1999). Stetson University College of Law now issues Juris Doctor degrees.

14. The National Draft Act required all United States males from the ages of eighteen to sixty-five to register for the military and all United States males ages twenty to forty-four to be available for active duty. Pub. L. No. 783, ch. 720, 54 Stat. 885 (1941).

Stetson Bar Association and elected officers. Thomas T. Cobb,¹⁵ now a prominent Daytona Beach lawyer, was its first president. They were very helpful to the faculty.

Q18: Were there any female students?

A: There were usually four or five female students.

Q19: What courses were required?

A: The required courses were as follows:

First year: Business Units I — Agency, Contracts, Criminal Law and Procedure, Development of Law, Equity I, Legal Bibliography, Property I — Personal Property, Property II — Real Property, and Torts.

Second year: Bills and Notes, Common Law Pleading and Civil Procedure, Equity Pleading, Evidence, Legal Ethics, Property III — Titles to Real Property, Sales, and Trusts.

Third year: Business Units II, Conflict of Laws, Constitutional Law, Creditors' Rights, Legal Aid Clinic, Practice Court, and Security.¹⁶

Q20: What other courses were offered?

A: The second and third-year electives (including courses offered during summer school) were Administration of Estates, Administrative Law, Admiralty — Maritime Jurisdiction, Co-operatives, Corporation Reorganization and Finance, Damages, Examination of Titles, Federal Procedure, Insurance, International Law, Labor Law, Legislation, Municipal Corporations, Persons — Domestic Relations, Probate Practice, Public Utilities, Equity II — Restitution and Quasi-Contracts, Taxation, Technique of Legal Research and Writing (Seminar), and Trade Regulation.¹⁷

15. Thomas T. Cobb received his LL.B. from Stetson University College of Law in 1939. *Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory* vol. 6, FL151B (1999 ed., Martindale-Hubbell 1999).

16. *College of Law: Announcements for 1940–1941*, *supra* n. 7, at 21–26.

17. *Id.* at 26–30.

Q21: What were the requirements of admission to practice?

A: Graduates of out-of-state schools were required to pass a Bar examination administered by the Board of Law Examiners. Graduates of Florida law schools were admitted on a dean's certificate of graduation — the “diploma privilege.”¹⁸ In my opinion and that of the law faculty, the diploma privilege hindered the quality of legal education. It eliminated the incentive for the student to do top notch work to face a bar examination. With the diploma privilege, he or she had only to earn a passing grade for graduation. Dean Richmond A. Rasco of the University of Miami Law School shared the same view.¹⁹ Together, we persuaded The Florida Bar Committee on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar to present a resolution recommending repeal of the diploma privilege to the State Bar convention in 1940. It was adopted overwhelmingly. It was opposed at that time by the dean of the University of Florida Law School,²⁰ who bussed several loads of students to the convention, hoping that they could vote against the resolution. However, they were not qualified nor permitted to vote.

Q22: What was the effect of World War II on Stetson University College of Law?

A: As I recall, the law school was closed for part of the war years.²¹ It reopened after the war in a temporary building at the DeLand airport erected by the United States Army.²²

18. The “diploma privilege” allowed Florida law school graduates to be admitted to practice without taking the State bar examination. Vause, *supra* n. 9, at 318–319. This privilege was abolished in 1951. *Id.* at 319.

19. Dean Rasco served as dean of Stetson University College of Law from 1916–1921. Lycan, *supra* n. 1, at 242–243.

20. Dean Harry R. Trusler served as dean of the University of Florida College of Law from 1915–1947. U. of Fla., *The University of Florida Levin College of Law, George A. Smathers Libraries, University Archives* <<http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/spec/archome/Series41a.htm>> (last updated Oct. 4, 1999).

21. Dean Raymond resigned in 1941 and accepted the position of assistant attorney general in Tallahassee. Lycan, *supra* n. 1, at 302. Most of the faculty resigned in 1942 to serve during the war. Vause, *supra* n. 9, at 315. Roy Francis Howes succeeded Dean Raymond, but he had no law school to run because of the war. *Id.*

22. It was actually a deactivated naval air base. Vause, *supra* n. 9, at 316.

Q23: What were your feelings about having to resign as dean to enter the armed forces for the duration of the war?

A: I did not resign because of the war. Late in Spring 1941, the newly elected Florida Attorney General J. Tom Watson²³ came to visit me. He wanted me to be his assistant to implement the newly adopted parole law of which I was the principal draftsman and which was based on a book on parole that I had written for the United States Attorney General's Survey of Release Procedures.²⁴ He made me a very attractive offer. I discussed this with President Allen, who agreed to release me, and with my wife, who thought that it would be a wise move. I resigned at the close of the 1940–1941 academic year. I then carried out my assignment in the attorney general's office and enlisted in the navy in 1942.

Q24: Did you go into practice in Daytona Beach following the war?

A: I was separated from the navy in November 1945 and immediately opened my practice in Daytona Beach in a building that I had purchased from my friend, Francis P. Whitehair,²⁵ who was also in the navy. Soon I was joined by James R. Wilson, who had been on the law faculty with me, and we were partners for over forty years. Our law firm, which now consists of younger lawyers, still carries our names in the firm name.²⁶

23. J. Tom Watson served as Florida attorney general from 1941–1949. *Florida Attorney General* <http://legal.firn.edu/agoffice/past_ag.html> (accessed Aug. 14, 2000).

24. As a special assistant United States attorney, Dean Raymond reviewed parole procedures and drafted a new law, which led to the first parole system in the State. *Funeral Notices*, *supra* n. 2, at 6B.

25. The Honorable Francis P. Whitehair was appointed a member of the Board of Overseers of Stetson University in 1957. Vause, *supra* n. 9, at 328–329. Judge Whitehair was also the first president of the “Alumni Association of John B. Stetson University,” which was established in 1934. Lycan, *supra* n. 1, at 289–290.

26. The firm's current name is Raymond, Wilson, Conway, Barr, Hahl & Jenkins, P.A.

Q25: Did you give any thought to returning to Stetson following the war? If not, why not?

A: I did not care to return to teaching as much as I enjoyed it and reacting to the young, supple, anxious students' minds. I wanted the independence of being a practicing lawyer.

Q26: Tell us about your wife and family during your deanship.

A: My wife, Frances, was completely supportive. We had two little boys who were the centerpiece of our lives, and every decision that we made included them, their health, their security, their education, and their future.²⁷ While I was dean, my wife had an excellent relationship with the law school and University faculties and their husbands and wives. We made many friends among the townspeople and the business community. She was president of the local woman's club; I was a charter member and president of the Kiwanis Club and lieutenant governor of that division of Kiwanis during my last year at Stetson. I was vice president of the DeLand Chamber of Commerce, which held a luncheon for us and presented us with a gift on our departure for Tallahassee.

Q27: What was the greatest problem you faced during your deanship?

A: My greatest problem was trying to build an excellent law school, yet having regard for President Allen's major problem in funding the University and the law school. This was an ever-present dilemma.

Q28: What is your fondest recollection of your deanship?

A: My fondest recollection is the association with so many fine people that it afforded me, especially President Allen and his wife, the faculty and their families, and the many alumni lawyers who gave so freely of their support to the law school and me.

27. Dean Raymond's sons, Thomas and David, are both medical doctors. *Funeral Notices*, *supra* n. 2, at 68.

Nota Bene

Typographical and composition errors must be blamed on my ninety-five-year-old hands, as I worked without a secretary. This has been a labor of love as it brought back memories of some of the most interesting but hectic years in my and my wife's lives. Although my career was in the private practice of law, my affection for the University and the law school has never dimmed. During Pope A. Duncan's presidency,²⁸ I contributed my services as general counsel for the University and enjoyed working with him, the trustees, and other officers. Beginning with Dean Harold L. Sebring,²⁹ when the law school moved to Gulfport, the law school has been blessed with a series of excellent deans who have made it one of the best in the Nation. I have witnessed this with great pride and satisfaction. They have accomplished what I envisioned, but was unable to do.

Paul E. Raymond, October 10, 1999

28. President Duncan served as president of Stetson University from 1977–1986. Lycan, *supra* n. 1, at 480.

29. Dean Sebring served as dean of Stetson University College of Law from 1955–1968. Bruce R. Jacob, *Remembering a Great Dean: Harold L. "Tom" Sebring*, 30 *Stetson L. Rev.* 71, 137, 158 (2000).