

FOREWORD

THE DEAN'S CENTENNIAL MESSAGE

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Stetson University College of Law celebrates its 100th year in 2000–2001. We enter this great celebratory year with justifiable pride in past accomplishments and great cause for optimism about the future. Never before has the Stetson law school community enjoyed so many advantages and so much favorable recognition. The College of Law is ranked among the top half of all law schools nationally,¹ and the College of Law's trial advocacy program has achieved unparalleled success.²

The trial advocacy program is complemented by a strong program in moot court and appellate advocacy and by programs in alternative dispute resolution that give students training in negotiation, mediation, and arbitration. Widely recognized as a "lawyer's law school," Stetson offers its students a rich variety of clinical and internship experiences that give them practical training with real cases.

Curricular offerings have expanded dramatically in recent years; a rich variety of electives enhances a solid required curriculum of fundamental courses. A "concentration program" was initiated in Spring 2000 to allow students to gain recognition for specialized training in selected areas of the law during their J.D. studies. Students also may enroll in the joint J.D./M.B.A. program, and the new LL.M. program in International Law and Business draws lawyers to the campus from throughout the United States

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1. *Best Graduate Schools*, 128 U.S. News & World Rpt. 56 (Apr. 10, 2000).

2. *America's Best Graduate Schools*, 122 U.S. News & World Rpt. 67 (Mar. 10, 1997); *America's Best Graduate Schools*, 120 U.S. News & World Rpt. 82 (Mar. 18, 1996); *America's Best Graduate Schools*, 118 U.S. News & World Rpt. 84 (Mar. 20, 1995); *Best Graduate Schools*, *supra* n. 1, at 56; *Best Graduate Schools*, 126 U.S. News & World Rpt. 95 (Mar. 29, 1999); *Best Graduate Schools*, 124 U.S. News & World Rpt. 77 (Mar. 2, 1998).

and from many foreign countries. Extensive international exchange programs have been developed with a wide variety of countries, including China, Spain, and Brazil. Stetson's Scandinavian-Baltic Institute on Emerging Markets and Transitional Democracies, now in its third year, offers students and attorneys the opportunity for concentrated study during the summer.

"Centers of Excellence," such as the Center for Law and Aging, the Center for Dispute Resolution, and the Litigation Ethics Institute, address important contemporary social and legal developments. Through a unique private-public partnership between Stetson University College of Law and the University of South Florida College of Medicine, a Consortium on Health Law & Policy was established in early 2000.

The rich diversity of student life is enhanced by the Calvin A. Kuenzel Student Bar Association, which was recognized for its achievement when it was presented the American Bar Association Law Student Division's "Student Bar Association of the Year Award" for 1999–2000. The *Stetson Law Review* further enhanced student life when it hosted the National Conference of Law Reviews along with the College of Law in Spring 2000.

These programs, and the many others already in effect or being planned, place Stetson in a very competitive position as we enter the twenty-first century. This record of achievement could not have been possible without the dedication of many generations of Stetson supporters. This issue of the *Stetson Law Review* contains articles that explore some of the most significant developments in the College of Law's history, in each case authored by participants in those events. Although the history of the law school has been chronicled in more detail elsewhere,³ a brief summary of the law school's first century will place these articles in perspective.

Founded in 1900 on the Stetson University campus in DeLand, Florida, it was the first law school in the State.⁴ Originally housed in makeshift quarters in Elizabeth Hall, it was moved several years later to the top floor of Flagler Hall, where it remained until the mid-1940s.⁵ Albert J. Farrah was chosen as the original dean and the school's only full-time professor. Three part-time professors assisted, one of whom was a woman (Annie M. MacLean). Only one

3. Gilbert L. Lycan, *Stetson University: The First 100 Years* (Centennial ed., Stetson U. Press 1983); W. Gary Vause, *Foundations for Excellence — The History of Stetson University College of Law*, 16 *Stetson L. Rev.* 295 (1987).

4. Vause, *supra* n. 3, at 302, 303.

5. *Id.* at 303, 305.

professor had a law degree.⁶ Although the law school did not have a library, the five young men who comprised the entering class had use of the University library.⁷ Dean Farrah's annual salary was \$1,200,⁸ a modest figure even for the time, and the annual student fees for "tuition, room, heat, lights, and laundry" totaled only \$222.⁹ Tuition alone was only \$66.¹⁰

The early years were difficult for the law school, because it was chronically underfunded and neglected by the University. James E. Tribble's fascinating account of the life of his father, Dean Lewis H. Tribble, who served as professor of law from 1922–1929 and dean of the law school from 1930–1938, offers insight into the challenges the struggling new law school faced in DeLand.¹¹

Paul E. Raymond, who served as the law school's dean from 1938–1941, provided the *Law Review* with his personal recollections of the law school during the Great Depression.¹² Dean Raymond was ninety-five years old when he manually typed the commentary that is published in this issue. It is a self-described "labor of love." His article is a poignant final contribution to his many years of loyal support of Stetson; he passed away a short time after submitting it in October 1999.

The College of Law closed for a brief period during World War II and reopened in Fall 1946 under the supervision of Lemuel Allen Haslup, a retired marine officer.¹³ Enrollment soared as veterans returned to the College in great numbers with funding provided by the "G.I. Bill of Rights."¹⁴ Because there was very little space available on the DeLand campus after World War II, the College of Law moved to barracks buildings at the former military airbase located just north of DeLand and remained there until 1954.¹⁵ Facing the American Bar Association's threat to revoke the College of Law's accreditation because of its inadequate facilities, Stetson

6. *Id.* at 303.

7. *Id.* at 305.

8. *Id.* at 303.

9. *Id.*

10. *Id.* at 303–304.

11. James E. Tribble, *The Life and Times of Dean Lewis H. Tribble*, 30 *Stetson L. Rev.* 19 (2000).

12. Paul E. Raymond, "A Labor of Love": A Final Interview with Dean Paul E. Raymond, 30 *Stetson L. Rev.* 57 (2000).

13. Vause, *supra* n. 3, at 315.

14. *Id.*

15. *Id.* at 316, 320.

President J. Ollie Edmunds and the trustees decided to relocate the College of Law.¹⁶

In 1954 the College of Law was moved to its present location in Gulfport on the site of the old Rolyat Hotel.¹⁷ The Rolyat was opened by flamboyant developer Jack Taylor in 1926 during the Florida real estate boom period,¹⁸ and it remained a hotel until 1929 when the Florida economy collapsed.¹⁹ The Florida Military Academy moved from northeast Florida and took over the former hotel in 1932, transforming it into a military school that operated until 1951.²⁰ Within a few years after the military academy closed, Stetson bought the property and moved the College of Law to its new Gulfport campus in 1954.²¹ The entire College was so small that all of the furnishings and library books were moved to Gulfport in one van.²² Charles J. Hilkey, who was appointed dean in 1953 upon the death of Dean Haslup, presided over the move.²³

It was only after relocating to its present site that the law school began to experience significant growth. The article by Professor and Dean Emeritus Bruce R. Jacob (dean from 1981–1994) provides an eyewitness account of a watershed period in the College of Law’s history, the deanship of Harold L. “Tom” Sebring, former chief justice of the Florida Supreme Court.²⁴ Justice Sebring served as dean of the law school from 1955 until his death in 1968.²⁵ Dean Jacob was one of Dean Sebring’s students in the late 1950s, and his account of the period reflects both historical acumen and great affection for his mentor.²⁶

Paul Barnard, who taught during Dean Sebring’s tenure, describes in his article the challenges Barnard overcame in the early 1960s in his efforts to convince the Florida Supreme Court to adopt a student practice rule.²⁷ This Rule resulted in the introduction of

16. *Id.* at 319.

17. *Id.* at 320–321.

18. *Id.*

19. *Id.* at 321.

20. *Id.*

21. *Id.* at 321, 322.

22. *Id.*

23. *Id.* at 322.

24. Bruce R. Jacob, *Remembering a Great Dean: Harold L. “Tom” Sebring*, 30 *Stetson L. Rev.* 71 (2000).

25. Vause, *supra* n. 3, at 322, 323.

26. Jacob, *supra* n. 24, at 71.

27. Paul Barnard, *Milestones and Memories: Stetson’s Public Defender Clinic Faces the Florida Supreme Court*, 30 *Stetson L. Rev.* 177 (2000).

clinical legal education in Florida.²⁸ A companion article by Robert E. Jagger, who served as public defender of the Sixth Judicial Circuit in Pinellas County, Florida from 1961–1996, offers a tribute to Professor Barnard and describes his critical role in obtaining the court's adoption of The Law Student Practice Rule.²⁹

Distinguished Professor of Law Emeritus William Eleazer, who retired from full-time teaching in 1999, was instrumental in developing Stetson's outstanding trial advocacy program. His article reviews Stetson's long tradition of practical training and examines the unprecedented record of successes our student trial competition teams have enjoyed since NITA-style³⁰ trial advocacy training was instituted at Stetson in 1979.³¹

Stetson also has made significant progress on the scholarly and academic front. Professor Robert Batey and recent graduate, Scott William Fitzpatrick, trace the development of the *Stetson Law Review* from its humble origins as an intramural publication.³²

The focal point of scholarly activity on campus is the Law Library and Information Center, which opened in Fall 1998. It is a state-of-the-art facility with the latest in computerized research capabilities. In his essay celebrating the College of Law's centennial, former Florida Supreme Court Justice Ben F. Overton comments on Stetson's legacy as "a progressive leader in legal education" and notes that Stetson's high-tech law library will benefit the entire legal community in the coming years.³³

Members of the Stetson University College of Law community can take great pride in the growth of this institution over its first 100 years as we look forward to the challenge of preparing lawyers for the twenty-first century.

28. *Id.*

29. Robert E. Jagger, *Stetson: The First Public Defender Clinic*, 30 *Stetson L. Rev.* 189 (2000).

30. The National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA), founded in 1970, developed a "learning-by-doing" methodology for teaching trial advocacy skills and training lawyers throughout the United States. William Eleazer, *Trial Advocacy at Stetson: The First 100 Years*, 30 *Stetson L. Rev.* 243, 247 (2000).

31. *Id.*

32. Robert Batey & Scott William Fitzpatrick, *The Early Years of the Stetson Law Review*, 30 *Stetson L. Rev.* 213 (2000).

33. Honorable Ben F. Overton, *Celebrating the Centennial*, 30 *Stetson L. Rev.* 11, 11, 14–15 (2000).