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New York Law School Law Review 30th Anniversary

Roger J. Miner '56

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Roger J. Miner
U.S. District Judge
Northern District of New York

New York Law School Law Review
Annual Dinner
April 24, 1985
Coho Restaurant
New York City

In his Foreword to Volume I, No. 1, our beloved Charles W. Froessel wrote the following:

With this publication, the Trustees of New York Law School are pleased to announce the beginning of a new legal publication --the New York Law Forum-- designed not only to serve as an aid in the education and training of law students, but also as an aid to the members of the legal profession in the State of New York and in the nation. The Forum will review significant legal developments, with emphasis on New York and Federal law. We are hopeful that this publication will lead to new and worthwhile research in the law, which will be helpful to the bench and bar.

In the thirty years that have passed since that Foreword was written, the expectations of Judge Froessel have been fulfilled and surpassed. During the last three decades, our Journal not only has reviewed significant legal developments; it has originated new ideas and concepts. Not only has it been helpful to the bench and bar; it has become an essential tool of the profession. And not only has it served the legal community of

the state and nation; it has served the international legal community as well.

Our beginnings were modest indeed. The small basement office at 244 William Street, where Issue No. 1 was born, was much different from the spacious office I visited last week. And Volume I, which I was happy to see standing on a shelf in that office, is different from Volume XXX in many ways. Certainly, the format was different. The Notes and Comments were much shorter, there were separate sections for the review of decisions and legislation, and all student contributions were unsigned. Substantively, the student pieces did not display anywhere near the critical approach to subject matter or the personal viewpoints found in our modern law review.

But there are more similarities than differences between Volume I and Volume XXX. The problems faced by the Editors, I am sure, are the same. I well remember my first editing job. The item involved a discussion of a 1954 Illinois decision holding that the artificial insemination of a wife through a man other than her husband constituted adultery. It began: "Artificial insemination has only lately come into the public eye." I was, of course, constrained to re-write that opening line. The lead Article in Issue 1 was written by that great lion of American jurisprudence, Dean Roscoe Pound, and was entitled: "The Judicial Process in Action." Our Editors struggled with the

organization and footnoting of that Article just as today's Editors contend with the Articles of the great modern scholars. Incidentally, Issue No. 1 included a book review of the 1955 edition of "Newman on Trusts" by a young Associate Professor named Milton Silverman. I hope that he has since acquired a more current edition.

To me, however, the most striking similarity between the first and thirtieth volumes lies in the identity of the general topics addressed. There have been, without doubt, momentous changes in the law, the legal system and the profession during the past thirty years. But a browse through Volume I brings the startling revelation that many of the topics covered are still timely enough, interesting enough, and important enough to be worthy of current examination.

Over the years, many outstanding people have held responsibility for the production of our Journal. The development and success of the Law Review are attributable to shared experiences. The contributions of all who have served have led to the creation of a prestigious publication reflecting great credit upon alma mater. Indeed, the reputation of the law school and the reputation of the law review have moved upward on a parallel path. During three decades, the editors of the New York Law School Law Review have demonstrated a persistent commitment to the highest standards of scholarship and to the

establishment of a forum for the presentation of divergent views. I salute you, my law review colleagues, for your vision and your labors and for the success of our enterprise. I congratulate each and every one of you for the part you have played in reaching this important milestone in our history.

On behalf of the Law Review Alumni, I say this to the present Editors: You have our love, respect, devotion, encouragement, support and maybe an article from time to time. But always remember that you bear the heavy burden of tradition and that we are all present in spirit, looking over your shoulders, as you carry forward the work we have passed to your hands. Remember, too, that our publication has been dedicated since its inception to those who have served our School -- the great teachers and loyal alumni, the latter exemplified by John Marshall Harlan, appointed to the Supreme Court just before the appearance of our first issue. And lastly, be aware that, in the final analysis, the pursuit of excellence is our only real legacy to you and your only unbreakable promise to us.

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