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New York Law School: A Heritage (1978)

New York Law School

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NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL A HERITAGE

BY JOHN V. THORNTON
Chairman, Board of Trustees
New York Law School

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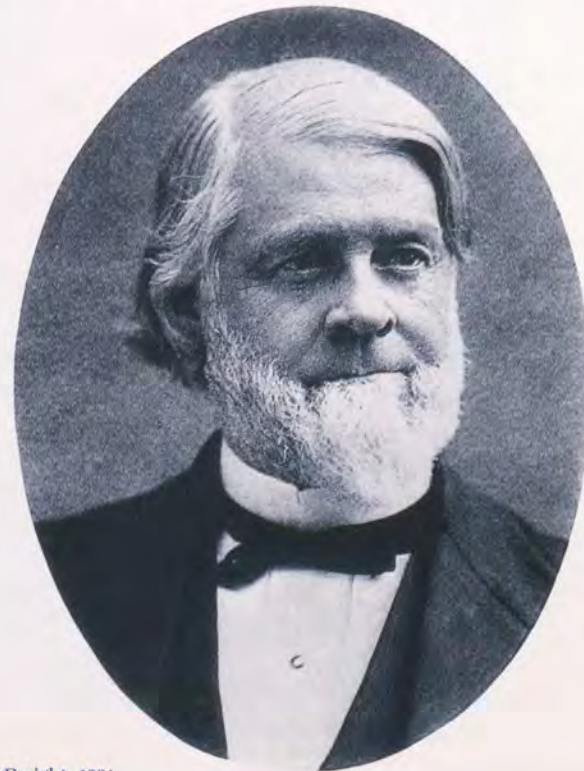


Downtown Financial District
Wall and Broad Streets, 1903

NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1891 AS A PROTEST BY THE FACULTY, STUDENTS AND ALUMNI OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE LAW SCHOOL AGAINST INTERFERENCE IN LEGAL EDUCATION BY THE COLLEGE'S TRUSTEES. THE CENTRAL FIGURE IN THIS UNIQUE REVOLT WAS THEODORE DWIGHT.

Dwight was a person of broad culture and a Socratic turn of mind. After graduating from Hamilton College, he studied physics, taught classics, and delved into law for a year at Yale, an institution for which there was a strong family affinity (one Yale President, Timothy Dwight, was his grandfather, and two later ones, Theodore Dwight Woolsey and the second Timothy Dwight, were his cousins.) At age 24, Dwight was appointed Maynard professor of law, history, civil polity, and political economy at Hamilton, and in 1855, when he was in his early 30's, he established a law school there. In 1858 Dwight moved to Columbia, where he not only founded the Law School and became its first Warden, or Dean, but taught at the School for many years. His academic duties did not, however, inhibit extracurricular activities ranging from prison reform to the defense of five Andover professors accused of heresy.

He was a founder and first vice president of the Association of the Bar of The City of New York, a member of the Committee of Seventy formed to combat the Tweed Ring, and a scholar and author of impressive attainments who, while Dean of Columbia, taught also at Amherst and Cornell. He served on the Commission of Appeals formed to help the New York Court of Appeals catch up on its docket and wrote some 70 opinions of that Court.



Theodore Dwight, 1891

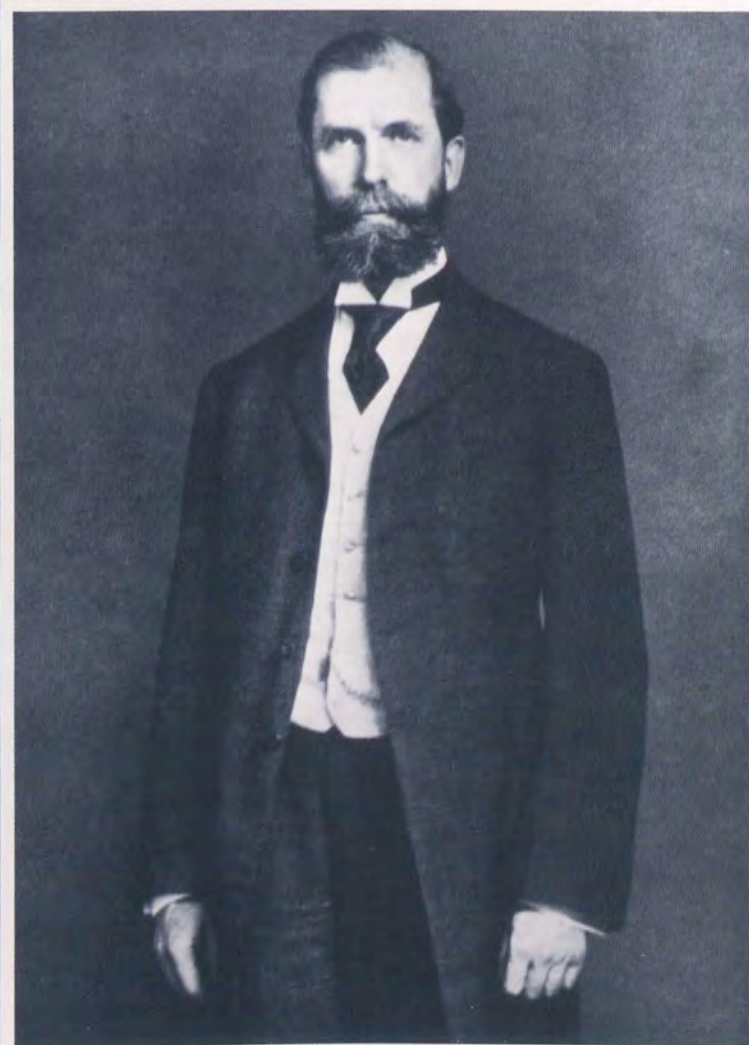


DWIGHT'S TEACHING METHOD

Chase on Blackstone
and other early texts

Dwight's teaching method was often called the "lecture" system to distinguish it from the "case" system which was developed later by Dean Langdell at Harvard, and which emphasized study of judicial opinions. The Dwight system required preparation of textbook assignments by the student, recitation on the assignment, and exposition by the professor. However, as his student, Charles Evans Hughes, pointed out:

"... it must not be supposed that Professor Dwight ignored the leading cases. On the contrary, he was profuse in citations, and if the student followed the classroom expositions with thorough work in the library, he could master the precedents and follow their evolution."



Charles Evans Hughes

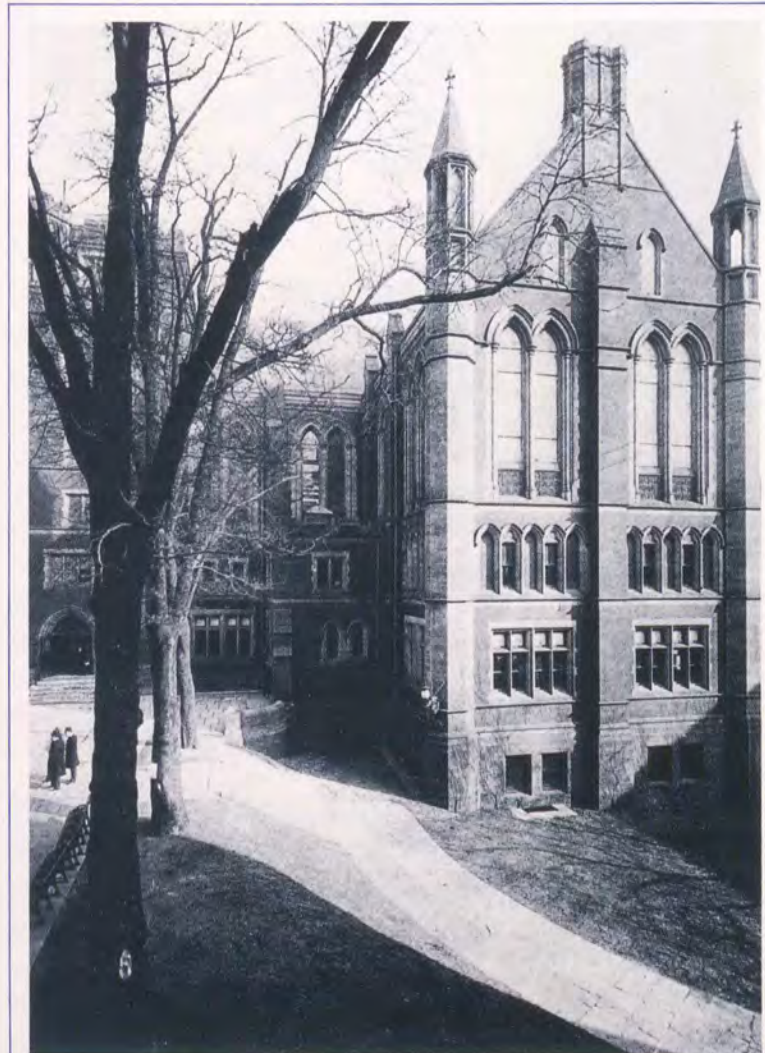


THE COLUMBIA PROFESSORS AND THE 1891 REVOLT

Professor
Robert Petty

For 16 years after he came to Columbia, Dwight was the only full-time law professor there. Later recruits were George Chase, Judge John Dillon (briefly), Benjamin Lee, and Robert Petty. In 1890 two more full-time teachers were engaged, the youthful Alfred Reeves, and William Keener, the well-known Story Professor at Harvard.

Keener was a stranger to the Dwight method and an exponent of the case system, and it became evident that Columbia's Board of Trustees, and its President, Seth Low, were looking to him to shape the Law School in a new image. Early in 1891 President Low advised Dwight that he had asked Keener to prepare numerous changes in the curriculum. After consulting with Chase and Petty, Dwight submitted a detailed critique of the changes, but, aware that he had no chance of altering Low's course, simultaneously requested retirement. Soon afterward Chase, Petty, Reeves and Lee resigned, leaving Columbia with Keener as its only full professor.



Columbia College Law School
at 49th Street, 1891



THE FOUNDING OF NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL

John Bigelow
First President,
Board of Trustees as
Minister to France
during the Civil War

Most of the Columbia students and alumni at once repudiated the trustees' action. The dissident alumni formed the Dwight Alumni Association and promptly arranged for the establishment of New York Law School "to secure the perpetuation . . . of the [Dwight] method." The petition for the new school's charter was signed by several hundred lawyers, most of them Columbia alumni, and was granted by the Board of Regents in June 1891. George Chase became the first Dean, and the celebrated John Bigelow headed a distinguished Board of Trustees.

Dwight, who was by then nearly 70 years old (he died the following year) did not do any teaching at New York Law School. However, he was until his death listed on the masthead of the School's Law Review as one of its contributors and in the Review's December 1891 issue he wrote an article addressed to the senior class on "What Shall We Do When We Leave The Law School?" His close ties with the new School are evident also from the fact that he permitted the Dwight Alumni

Association to use his name and, until prevented by ill health from so doing, was scheduled to be the principal speaker at that Association's first annual meeting. Moreover, Dwight wrote letters recommending Chase and his other former colleagues who were associated with the new school. These letters appeared in the School's first catalog. Finally, one of the early members of the New York Law School faculty was Dwight's favorite nephew, Edward Dwight. The Dwight Association existed until 1928 when it was dissolved and its remaining assets were turned over to New York Law School.



120 Broadway
172-74 Fulton St.
Early sites of the Law
School. 120 Broadway
was the centerpiece of
the downtown legal
community; it housed
the library of the New
York Law Institute and
the Lawyer's Club.

Columbia Law School was originally situated in downtown Manhattan. Despite Dwight's objection that an uptown location was too far from the courts and law offices, the Columbia trustees in 1883 moved the school to 49th Street. As Dean of New York Law School, Chase followed Dwight's view; and the School was from its inception located downtown, first in the old Equitable Building at 120 Broadway and later in other nearby locations, including the Cooper Union.



Woodrow Wilson
Lecturer, 1891 – 1898

THE INITIAL FACULTY

New York Law School's initial full-time faculty consisted of the Columbia defectors, Chase, Petty, and Reeves. In addition, Lee became a part-time lecturer and Judge Dillon became a contributor to the new school's Law Review.

Dean Chase followed Dwight's practice of using distinguished part-time lecturers. In 1891 Woodrow Wilson, then Professor of Jurisprudence at Princeton, was engaged to lecture on constitutional law. Wilson found his first lecture at New York Law School—

"hard work, very hard work: a room full of critical fellows, members of the faculty included, and your poor boy very keenly embarrassed."

Wilson continued to teach constitutional law at the School through 1898 and his interest in legal education remained after he left as shown by the fact that his first report as President of Princeton in 1902 envisaged the establishment of a School of Jurisprudence at Princeton. Wilson's regard for New York Law School is evidenced by a letter he wrote to a Princeton graduate

who inquired whether to study law at Wilson's alma mater, the University of Virginia, or at Harvard. Replied Wilson:

"The question you put to me is a peculiarly difficult one to answer. The drill given at the Univ. of Va. is exceptionally good. I should be inclined to say, on the whole, though with a good deal of diffidence, that two years at the Univ. of Va. would be of more service to you than an incomplete course at Harvard; and that (here I go beyond your question) the complete two years course at the N.Y. Law School would be better than either."

In 1893 Charles Evans Hughes, who had been a student of Dwight, Chase and Lee at Columbia, was engaged as a part-time lecturer. Then a practicing lawyer, Hughes later became Governor of New York, a great Chief Justice, and an unsuccessful candidate for the Presidency against his New York Law School colleague, Wilson. Hughes taught insolvency law and bankruptcy law until the early 1900s.

Hughes also brought several of his partners from what is now known as the Hughes, Hubbard & Reed firm into part-time teaching. They included Edward Dwight, Dean Dwight's nephew, and the noted lawyers Frederic Kellogg and George Schurman. Other early full-time teachers were George Smith and Alfred Hinrichs, who joined the faculty in 1893 and later served briefly as deans of the School; Israel Washburne, who taught from 1899 to 1934; and Herman Lehlback, who was a faculty member from 1908 through 1934 though not active in the later years.



THE STUDENT BODY IN THE EARLY YEARS

Bainbridge Colby '92
Secretary of State
1920 – 21

New York Law School immediately attained a formidable reputation. The Columbia history notes:

"...A large part of the (Columbia Law School) class of 1892 refused to return to the School... Chase, Petty and Reeves had carried with them 'what may not inappropriately be described as the good will of the business'... Many of the students who had entered the Columbia Law School in the fall of 1890 transferred their allegiance to the new school and to it went many other young men who in the normal course of events would have entered Columbia..."

One of the students who transferred was James Gerard, who later served as Ambassador to Germany during World War I and as a trustee of New York Law School. Columbia foregave Gerard's defection and in 1927 it granted him an honorary doctor of laws degree, the same degree it had awarded his father in 1890 and

his grandfather in 1863. Another transferring student was Bainbridge Colby. Colby became Secretary of State under President Wilson and the latter's law partner. He also served as a trustee of New York Law School.

The adverse impact of the new school upon Columbia was enormous. In the year before New York Law School opened, Columbia had over 600 students and was the country's largest law school. A year later its enrollment was cut in half. When it opened New York Law School had about 350 students and was exceeded in enrollment only by Michigan and Harvard. By 1898 the School had nearly 800 students compared to fewer than half that number at Columbia. By 1904 New York Law School was the largest in the country, and, by 1906, it had over 1,000 students, the largest enrollment attained by any law school before World War I.

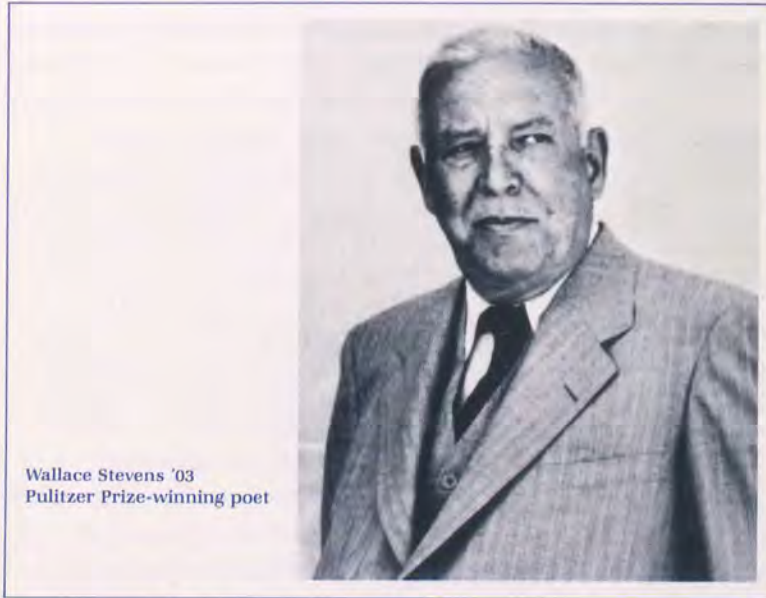
Moreover, New York Law School's student body was of high quality. College attendance was not a prerequisite for law school in those days. Nonetheless, 40 percent of New York Law School's students at the turn of the century were college graduates, and more than half of these were from the Ivy League and the Little Three. Yale was most heavily represented, followed by Princeton, Harvard and Columbia. Of the Class of 1900 one out of every six was a Yale graduate.

The heavy representation of leading institutions among the college graduates at New York Law School continued into the World War I period, even though overall enrollment declined. By the first year of World War I, enrollment stood at about 625 students, but of the college graduates, over 40 percent were still from

the Ivy League and the Little Three, with Princeton now the most heavily represented.

This is not to suggest that New York Law School was an elitist institution. From the beginning the School opened its doors to the poor as well as the wealthy. In 1894 an evening session was established, a tradition which the School has continued. By the turn of the century, City College, which provided a means of upward mobility for the less affluent, was well represented at New York Law School. The number of its graduates attending in the early years of the century was exceeded only by the Yale and Princeton men.

It was rare for blacks to attend law school in those days, but New York Law School was from the outset hospitable to all races. The School's dedication to equal opportunity, a tradition to which it remains steadfastly committed, was presumably the product of its first Board President, John Bigelow, a close associate of Abraham Lincoln. At a time when bigotry often masqueraded as responsibility, Bigelow had a life-long commitment to equal rights for minorities and women, and, as early as 1850, after studying the emancipation of slaves on the island of Jamaica, he wrote a book disputing the then prevalent notion that former slaves could never make a significant contribution to society. Among the black graduates of the pre-World War I era the most prominent was probably James S. Watson, who was afterwards to become a power in the New York black community and a distinguished judge. A cultivated and literary man, Watson was a close associate of another New York Law School man, the playwright



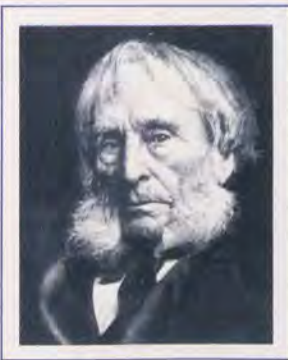
Wallace Stevens '03
Pulitzer Prize-winning poet

Elmer Rice. The Judge's daughter, Barbara Watson, also attended New York Law School; as the first woman to attain the rank of Assistant Secretary of State of the United States, she is one of the School's most prominent alumnae.

Many of those who attended New York Law School in the years before World War I became founders or name partners of leading firms including George Betts of Hill, Betts & Nash; Edwin Sunderland of Davis, Polk, Wardwell, Sunderland & Kiendl; Thomas Debevoise of Debevoise, Plimpton, Lyon & Gates; Albert Milbank and Walter Hope of Milbank, Tweed, Hope & Hadley; Richard Dwight of Dwight, Royall, Harris, Koegel & Casky; Charles Guggenheimer and Albert Untermeyer of

Guggenheimer & Untermeyer; Albert Kerr of Sage, Kerr & Gray; William Parke of Chadbourne, Parke, Whiteside & Wolff; Reid Carr of Kelley, Drye, Warren, Clark, Carr & Ellis; Alfred Mudge of Mudge, Rose, Guthrie & Alexander; Charles Capron of Mitchell, Capron, Marsh, Angulo & Cooney; Alfred Rose of Proskauer, Rose, Goetz & Mendelsohn; Jacob Scholer of Kaye, Scholer, Fierman, Hays & Handler; Morris Ernst of Greenbaum, Wolff & Ernst; and Randolph E. Paul and John F. Wharton of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison.

Other early graduates became associate judges of the highest courts of New York, Samuel Seabury, John O'Brien and Charles W. Froessel, and New Mexico, Edward Wright, and another became Chief Justice of New Jersey, Clarence Case. Two became United States Senators, Frederick Mulkey of Oregon and Robert F. Wagner of New York; four became governors or acting governors, Clarence Case and William Runyon of New Jersey, Francis Harrison of the Philippine Islands, and Charles Harwood of the Virgin Islands; and three became mayors of New York City, John Purroy Mitchel, John Hylan, and Jimmy Walker. Others excelled in education including Francis Garvan who became dean of Fordham Law School, Richard Currier who founded New Jersey Law School, later part of Rutgers University, Edwin Borchard, professor of law at Yale, and Frederick Dunn, professor of international law at Yale and Princeton. Wallace Stevens combined a career as executive of an insurance company and Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, and Frederick Detwiller exhibited his art all over the world.



THE FIRST BOARD OF TRUSTEES

John Bigelow
1817 – 1911
as he looked
in later years

New York Law School's first Board of Trustees consisted of three prominent lawyers who were Columbia graduates, Albert Boardman, Edward Earle, and Thomas Ormiston; the lawyer-statesman, John Bigelow, who became the first President of the Board; and Bigelow's close associate, the noted physician, Thomas Dillingham.

Bigelow's long life (1817-1911) spanned much of the nation's history. Co-editor with William Cullen Bryant of the *New York Evening Post* and an ardent opponent of slavery, he concluded, as early as the Mexican War, that "any compromise of differences between the South and the North . . . was not much longer possible." During the Civil War he was consul general at Paris and later Minister to France. Bigelow was the prime factor in dissuading France from aiding the Confederacy, and "In the American diplomacy of the Civil War his work ranks second in importance only to that of Charles Francis Adams in London."

Among other capacities Bigelow also served as executor and trustee of the estate of Samuel Tilden. He engineered the consolidation of the Tilden, Astor and Lenox Foundations which made possible the New York Public Library. He was simultaneously first President of New York Law School and first President of the Library and "was a familiar character to New Yorkers who called him their 'First Citizen.'"



Central Park at the turn of the century

Bigelow was an early supporter of women's rights. While President of the Law School and a delegate to the 1894 State Constitutional Convention, he delivered a well-publicized reply to Elihu Root, one of the principal anti-suffrage leaders. He was also an active environmentalist. He supported Frederick Law Olmsted in the building of Central Park, and one of his last public utterances was a letter, in connection with the Henry Hudson-Robert Fulton Celebration of 1909, urging that the only appropriate way to honor these men was to protect the Hudson River from pollution.



CHASE AND HIS DEANSHIP

George Chase
New York Law School Dean
1891 – 1924

A brilliant scholar, Dean Chase had been valedictorian of his class at Yale College, and at Columbia Law School had taken first place in the prize examinations. He devoted his life entirely to legal scholarship and never practiced law. He was noted for his great powers of analysis and exposition, and particularly insisted upon exactness of statement in his students. Chase edited *The American Student's Blackstone*, an abridgement of the original commentaries. He was also for a time Editor of the *New York Law Journal* and edited casebooks on torts and wills and editions of various statutes.

New York Law School prospered under Dean Chase until his death in 1924. In 1907 the School

acquired property at 172-174 Fulton Street in downtown Manhattan and erected a combination office and School building. This site was sold when the School suspended operations for a year upon American entry into World War I. After the war, the School entered into a lease with the Young Men's Christian Association providing for space in the McBurney Building on 23rd Street.

During the post-World War I period three professors were added to the faculty who were to serve for many years: Stewart Chaplin, a graduate of Brown and Columbia, who taught until World War II; Louis Wolf, a graduate of Columbia College and Law School, who taught until 1952; and Max Reich, a graduate of New York University and New York Law School, who taught until 1970. Other new faculty members during the 1920s included Kenneth Beatty, a graduate of Harvard and New York Law School, who commenced teaching in 1924, and Frank Longnecker, a graduate of Cornell and New York Law, who started in 1929; both remained on the faculty until World War II. Also added in 1929 was Aaron Frank, a graduate of New York University and New York Law School, who taught at the School until 1954.

During Chase's long deanship the high quality of the School's Board of Trustees continued. Boardman, one of the original trustees, was succeeded in 1904 by James Townsend, a graduate of Yale and Columbia, and general counsel to the DuPont Company. Townsend was in turn succeeded by Frank Platt, also a Yale and Columbia graduate, the son of Senator Thomas Collier

Post World War I
site of School
McBurney YMCA
on 23rd Street



Platt, and counsel for leading Eastern railroads. Platt was for several years President of the Yale Club of New York City. In 1920 Platt was succeeded by Herbert Smyth, a New York Law School graduate and a trial attorney prominent in anti-trust and other cases.

Two other original trustees, Bigelow and Dillingham, were succeeded in 1907 by Alfred Kimball and Adrian Joline, leaving only one original trustee still on the Board, Ormiston, who remained a trustee until his death in 1933. Kimball, an investment banker, was Treasurer of the Federal Council of Churches and a trustee of Mount Holyoke and Skidmore Colleges, and Presbyterian Hospital. Kimball served until his death in 1929. Joline, a graduate of Princeton and Columbia, was the senior member of Joline, Larkin & Rathbone and President of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad Company.

Joline died in 1912 and was replaced by Charles Mathewson, a graduate of Dartmouth and Columbia. Mathewson, a member of Root & Strong and its successors, was counsel for Consolidated Gas Company. Also a trustee of Dartmouth, Mathewson served New York Law School until Jabish Holmes, a graduate of Harvard College and Columbia, succeeded him in 1916. Holmes became President of the Law School in 1920 and served as such for 14 years. A football star at Harvard, Holmes was an enthusiastic alumnus of that institution. The night before his death at age ninety, he attended the annual dinner of his Harvard Class and on the day he died he was planning to attend the Harvard commencement exercises.

THE PETTY DEANSHIP

After Dean Chase died in 1924 Robert Petty became Dean. That was the year of graduation of one of the School's most famous alumni, John Marshall Harlan. Harlan, the grandson of a Justice of the United States Supreme Court, a graduate of Princeton and Oxford, and a Rhodes Scholar, was to become a noted Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Petty graduated from Princeton and received his law degree from Columbia cum laude. He was active in practice during portions of his teaching career, and, while Dean, argued several cases before the United States Supreme Court.

A Columbia Historian has written:

"Petty was rough and blunt in manner, with a ready wit and a love for argument and contention, but he was always courteous and considerate toward people in humbler walks of life. His rugged aspect and his aggressive honesty were reminiscent of Abraham Lincoln. He had a remarkable memory for faces, names and personalities; on meeting a former student after many years of separation he would instantly recall the latter's name and some circumstances of their previous acquaintance. He used to amaze his students by citing cases to the volume and page from memory."



John M. Harlan '24
Justice of the
United States
Supreme Court

When New York Law School resumed operations in 1919 after the one-year hiatus caused by the war, enrollment gradually increased. During each of Petty's first three years in office the School had well over 1,000 students, reaching a maximum of about 1,150 in 1925-'26. Thereafter enrollment declined, which may have been the reason the School in 1928 negotiated with City College on a merger arrangement. The merger never materialized, and, with the onset of the depression, enrollment dropped further, reaching 315 students in 1931. In the following year the crowning blow came when Dean Petty died.



THE DIFFICULT 1930s

Archibald Watson
President of the Board
1934 – 1957

With the original leadership now gone and the nation in the depths of the depression, the School faced a crisis. As a stopgap measure the venerable George Smith was appointed Dean. A graduate of Yale and of New York Law School's first class, Smith had been on the faculty for nearly forty years.

By 1933 New York Law School had barely a hundred students. At this point Archibald Watson appeared on the scene. Watson's law degree was from the University of Virginia. He had been Corporation Counsel under Mayor Gaynor and was the editor of the New York Law Journal and other publications.

In 1934 Watson replaced Holmes as President of the Board and added a number of prominent trustees, including Bainbridge Colby, '92, former Secretary of State of the United States, James Gerard, '92, former Ambassador to Germany, and Francis Martin, '03,



Depression scene, New York City



Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department. Watson also established an Advisory Council of well-known lawyers and judges. Alfred Hinrichs, a graduate of New York Law School's first class and a faculty member since 1893, was appointed Dean.

Watson moved the School's quarters to 253 Broadway and later 63 Park Row. In his first year as President the School had only some 125 students and ran a substantial deficit. Enrollment increased slowly until it reached 300 by 1938 when Edmund Caddy, a graduate of Columbia and New York Law School, became Acting Dean and then Dean. However, World War II broke out in 1939, and the inauguration of the draft in 1940 dealt the School a crushing blow. In 1941 the Board of Trustees decided that the School would have to be closed.

Among the leading graduates of the era of the 1930s were Chester Carlson, Class of 1939, the lawyer-physicist who invented the Xerox process, and Cameron MacRae, Class of 1937, who was to become the dean of the public utility bar.

Troops go off to World War II



POST-WAR REOPENING AND DEAN REPPY

Alison Reppy
New York Law School Dean
1950 – 1958

Following World War II New York Law School recommenced operations in 1947. The Board of Trustees had by then been substantially reduced by deaths and retirements, and it was enlarged by several new members, including, most notably, the scholar-jurist Judge Jerome Frank of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

The School reopened at 244 William Street, afterwards known as the Dwight Building, and it took a big step forward in 1950 when Alison Reppy became Dean. Reppy was a University of Chicago graduate, a professor at New York University Law School, and a scholar of national reputation. He succeeded Acting Dean F. Campbell Jeffery, a New York Law School graduate, who had replaced Dean Caddy in 1949.

During Reppy's tenure the School made significant strides. It re-established a law review, raised admissions standards, and improved its faculty and curriculum. Several professors recruited by Reppy are

today among the School's senior full-time faculty: John Dugan, Joseph Koffler and Milton Silverman. One of the graduates from the Reppy years who has attained high judicial office is Francis Murphy of the Class of 1952, now the Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division of the New York State Supreme Court, First Department.

In 1954 the advances made under Dean Reppy were recognized when the School obtained provisional approval from the American Bar Association. Dean Reppy died in 1958 before he could complete reorganization of the School. It then had an enrollment of about 550 undergraduate students and 50 graduate students.



Dwight Building, 244 William Street
The Law School's home 1947 – 1962



Sylvester Smith '18
President of the Board
1963 – 1976



Hunter Delatour
President of the Board
1960 – 1963

Dwight Building
library, 1950s



THE FROESSEL YEARS

Judge Charles W. Froessel
Chairman of the Board
1958 - 1972

Archibald Watson died in 1957 after having served as Board President for nearly a quarter of a century. Judge Charles Froessel of the New York Court of Appeals, a New York Law School graduate of the Class of 1913 who had served as Librarian under Dean Chase, was elected to the newly created post of Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Surrogate Joseph Cox was elected to the Presidency.

Judge Cox also took over temporarily as Acting Dean following the death of Dean Reppy, until in 1959 Daniel Gutman, former counsel to Governor Harriman, was appointed Dean. Dean Gutman extended Dean Reppy's reforms and kept the School on an even keel during the difficult years of the 1960s when enrollment fell and many schools experienced serious problems. One of the School's best known woman graduates studied under Dean Gutman, Sylvia Garland, Class of 1960, recently elected the President of the School's

Alumni Association, the first woman to head any law school's alumni association.

Board Chairman Froessel greatly strengthened the School's financial position with the assistance of trustee Nathaniel Goldstein, Class of 1918, New York State Attorney General under Governor Dewey. A long-time Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Board, General Goldstein also headed the Semi-Centenary Celebration in 1947. Judge Froessel brought one of the School's most prominent alumni to the Board, Sylvester Smith of the Class of 1918, a former President of the American Bar Association. Mr. Smith became President of the Board in 1963, succeeding Hunter Delatour, a former President of the New York State Bar Association. Mr. Smith is currently President Emeritus of the School.

The School obtained permanent accreditation by the American Bar Association in 1964. It had in the meantime moved from 244 William Street to 57 Worth Street, its present home. The newly renovated building was dedicated at a ceremony at which alumnus John Harlan of the United States Supreme Court was honored. In 1965 a second building at 47 Worth Street was acquired.

Dean Gutman resigned in 1968 to take on an assignment as Dean of the newly formed Academy of the Judiciary. Board Chairman Froessel assumed the added duties of Acting Dean until Walter Rafalko was appointed Dean in 1969. Dean Rafalko served from 1969- '73, a difficult period for all law schools because of student unrest over the Vietnam War.



RECENT TIMES

New York Law School's
present Main Building
57 Worth Street

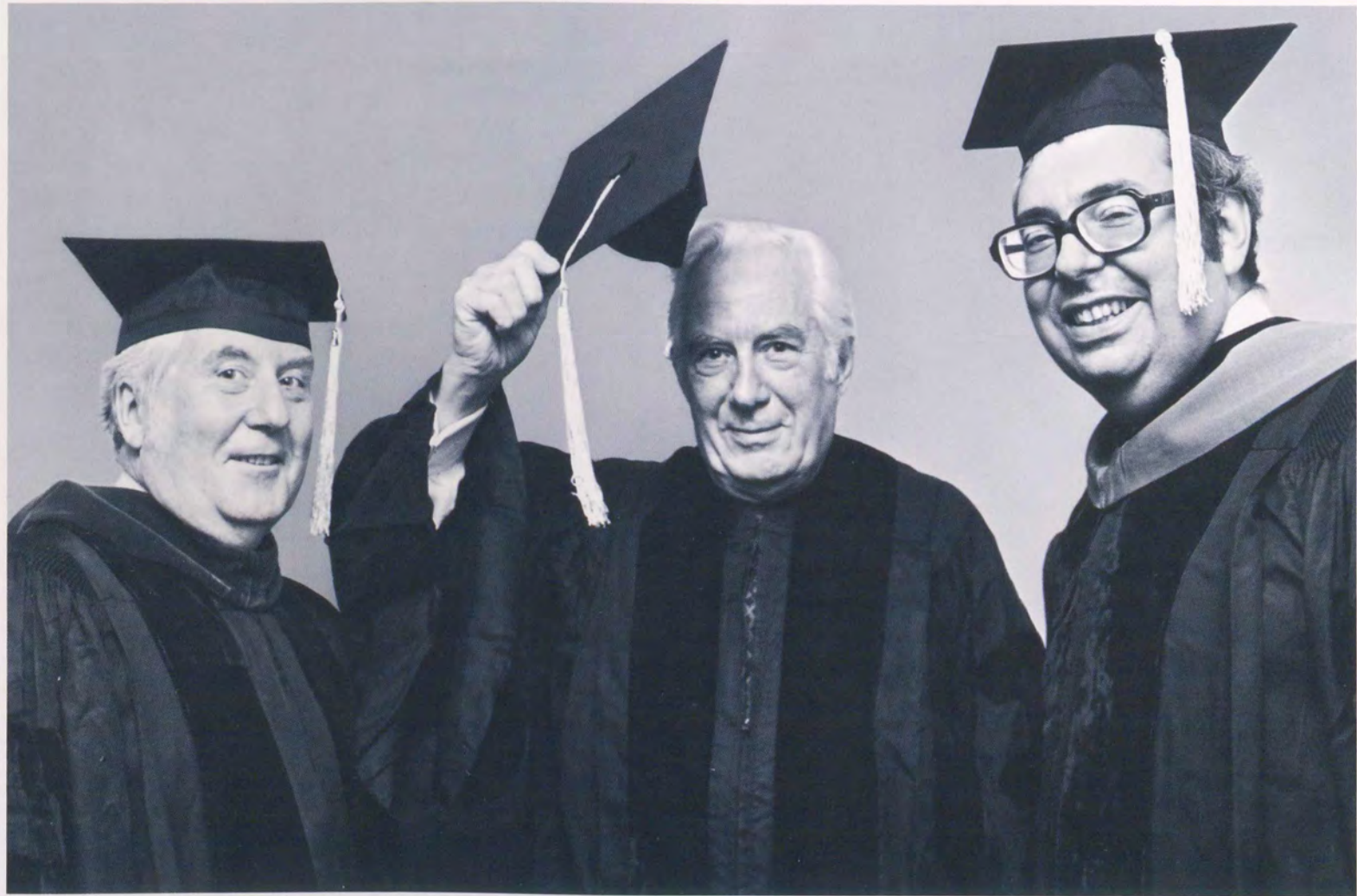
In 1972 Judge Froessel, upon reaching his 80th year, became Honorary Chairman of the Board and was succeeded as Chairman by John Thornton. Mr. Thornton, a Yale graduate, had been a member of a leading New York City law firm and a faculty member at Yale, Columbia and New York University. E. Donald Shapiro, a Harvard graduate and a former Associate Dean at the University of Michigan, was engaged as Dean in 1973. Margaret Bearn, a graduate of Yale Law School, became Associate Dean.

Under Dean Shapiro's leadership the faculty was strengthened, the curriculum modernized, and admissions requirements raised while at the same time enrollment increased to approximately 1,200 students. The main building at 57 Worth Street was again renovated and 47 Worth Street was put into school use.

The School established the Solomon Professorship, honoring Joseph Solomon, a member of the Class of 1927; the Jeffords Lectureship and the Jeffords Legal Writing Award, both founded by trustee Walter Jeffords in honor respectively of Honorary Board Chairman Froessel and President Emeritus Smith; The Martin Distinguished Visiting Professorship, founded by the Martin Foundation; the Gross Scholar Program founded by trustee Alfred Gross; and the Dean Reppy Scholarship, founded by an alumnus who wishes to remain anonymous. It also, through the generosity of Shepard Broad of the Class of 1927, substantially increased the Broad Scholarship Fund.

Since 1976 the School has had as a visiting professor Myres McDougal, Sterling Professor Emeritus at Yale and former President of the Association of American Law Schools. In 1977-'78 it had as a second visitor Robert Foster, former Dean of the University of South Carolina Law School. Also in that year the noted English scholar Ronald Maudsley, formerly of Oxford and the University of London, joined the School's permanent faculty. At present, plans are being made for an enlarged law center on the School's present site or at an alternate downtown location.

At the School's 1976 commencement the Honorable Warren Burger, Chief Justice of the United States, was principal speaker. At the 1977 commencement the principal speaker was Professor Albert Sacks, Dean of the Harvard Law School, and one of the honorary degree recipients was Elizabeth Hughes Gossett, President of the Supreme Court Historical



Chief Justice Warren Burger after 1976 Commencement
with Chairman of the Board Thornton and Dean Shapiro



Law students and faculty today

Society and daughter of the School's famous early faculty member Charles Evans Hughes. At the 1978 Commencement the School is honoring Attorney General Griffin Bell and former Solicitor General Erwin Griswold.

In recognition of its many recent achievements New York Law School was in 1974 admitted to membership in the Association of American Law Schools. It has also in recent years developed a number of unique educational programs including a joint A.B.—J.D. program for certain exceptionally qualified students at City College and another such program with Manhattanville College. As it approaches the academic year 1978-'79, the School believes that it has established a tradition of excellence and has built upon a unique heritage to become one of the pre-eminent law schools of the country.





New York Law School's building at 47 Worth Street

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL

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Former State Superintendent of
Insurance and Secretary of the
Board of the Law School

A. H. BRAWNER, JR.
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WILLIAM BRUCE
Vice Dean
Harvard Law School

DAVID FINKELSTEIN
Chairman of the Executive Committee
Bates Manufacturing Company
Vice Chairman of the Board
of the Law School

JERRY FINKELSTEIN
Publisher of the New York Law Journal

CHARLES W. FROESSEL
Retired Judge of the New York
Court of Appeals
Honorary Chairman of the Board
of the Law School
Trustee Emeritus

MAURICE GREENBERG
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ALFRED GROSS
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Board of the Horace Mann School
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