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In Tribute to the Outgoing Editors

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In Tribute to the Outgoing Editors

The Association of American Law Schools is very fortunate that Jonathan Entin and Erik Jensen, two talented and dedicated professors at Case Western Reserve University School of Law, have been the principal editors of the *Journal of Legal Education* since 1992. Working with Jon and Erik has been a personal and professional pleasure for me and for their colleagues on the AALS Executive Committee and the *Journal's* Editorial Board.

All associations that are members of the American Council of Learned Societies, including the AALS, have at least one peer-reviewed journal for their discipline. For legal educators that journal is the *Journal of Legal Education*. Serving as editor requires the sacrifice of time for individual scholarship to advance the scholarship of others. Jon and Erik have unselfishly given of their time to do that and have consequently made a significant contribution to legal education and the legal profession.

One need only examine the table of contents of the issues of the *Journal* published under Jon and Erik's leadership to appreciate the scholarly content and the wide diversity of views represented in the *Journal*. Countless legal educators and colleagues in other disciplinary societies have commented on the importance and overall quality of articles in the *Journal of Legal Education*. Jon and Erik have thus not only helped those of us in legal education to become better scholars and teachers, but have also advanced the interdisciplinary understanding of law faculty and faculty in other disciplines.

A resolution adopted by the AALS Executive Committee at its January 1999 meeting expresses the appreciation of all of us in legal education for what Erik and Jon have done, and I close this tribute with that resolution.

"Whereas Erik Jensen and Jonathan Entin have edited the Journal of Legal Education with distinction for the past seven years;

"Whereas their service has been characterized by good judgment, integrity, and intelligence;

"Whereas the Journal under their leadership has been highly regarded and widely read, and has made consistently useful contributions to the teaching and scholarly missions of legal educators;

"Wherefore the AALS expresses its appreciation and gratitude to both of them on behalf of the entire legal education community."

Carl C. Monk

Executive Vice President and Executive Director
Association of American Law Schools



It is easy to take the *Journal of Legal Education* for granted. We don't pay for it. It comes anyway, whether we want it or not. Often we have too many more urgent fires to extinguish, and it is unread and discarded. Those of us who write for it from time to time must reckon on seeing their work in their colleagues' trash basket, often sooner rather than later. Partly for that reason, the competition to publish in the *Journal* has never been intense.

On the other hand, it is a unique asset for our profession. For those of us who seek to avoid "the unexamined life," and who believe they profit from reflections on our professional mission, it has long provided a forum for discourse. On occasion, it has published masterful scholarly work, such as Brainerd Currie's dissertation on "The Materials of Law Study." It has brought us a rich mix of autobiographical accounts of law teaching in diverse circumstances and of diverse efforts to innovate. It has linked the study of law teaching to the larger context of the legal profession. And it has served to record the annals of our professional association and provide a forum for the debate of issues internal to its politics. There is, I believe, no other periodical performing comparable service.

The editorship of this *Journal* is for these reasons an important service to the profession that is chronically underappreciated by colleagues. I am therefore grateful to the present editors, Kent Syverud and Don Welch, for affording me this opportunity to express gratitude, as an author and as a reader, to those who have been performing this worthy enterprise. In particular, I salute the work of Melvin Shimm, Roger Cramton, David Vernon, and the most recent editors, Jonathan Entin and Erik Jensen. Theirs has been a labor of love, and it should not go without note. Some of us should say—and I do say—thank you, thank you. You have enriched us all.

Paul D. Carrington

Harry R. Chadwick Sr. Professor
Duke University School of Law



It is my privilege to recognize the extraordinary work of Jonathan Entin and Erik Jensen as editors of the *Journal of Legal Education* over the past six and one-half years.

Jon and Erik, with the support of Peter Gerhart (who was then dean of Case Western Reserve University School of Law), led the effort to bring the *Journal* to CWRU in 1992. Karen Nelson Moore (then of the CWRU law faculty, now judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit) and Bill Marshall of the faculty participated in the *Journal* as well in the early years of its tenure at our law school, and their contribution is gratefully acknowledged. Kerstin Trawick has served as associate editor of the *Journal*, bringing great experience and accomplishments as a professional editor. Her skills were an important part of the high quality of the *Journal* during its time at CWRU.

During Erik and Jon's editorial tenure, the *Journal* put out twenty-six issues. By choice, they did not seek a particular focus for the *Journal*. Rather, they sought to solicit and publish first-rate pieces covering the wide array of issues confronting legal education. They were eminently successful in this endeavor. They published excellent articles on important topics, providing a forum for established scholars and emerging creative thinkers. The editing was skillful. And publication was on schedule—no simple feat, as we all know!

The September 1998 issue of the *Journal* is just one illustration of Erik's and Jon's great work, presenting articles of depth that use different methodologies and express diverse views. Among other articles, this issue includes a historical piece on American legal education, an empirical study about law deans, a legal theory piece on inductive inference in the law, and two pieces bringing insight on classroom teaching. Additionally, reflecting the editors' keen sense of humor, there are two "On the Lighter Side" amusements. A book review of an important new work rounds out the issue. This eclectic combination of excellent pieces from diverse perspectives and approaches is representative of the high-quality work published by the *Journal* under the leadership of Erik and Jon.

On behalf of the Case Western Reserve University School of Law and the entire community of scholars in American and international legal education, I congratulate Jon Entin and Erik Jensen on their magnificent editorship of the *Journal of Legal Education* over the last six and one-half years. I thank them for the great service they rendered to our profession and the larger community. We congratulate Don Welch and Kent Syverud of Vanderbilt University Law School as they begin editorship of the *Journal*, and wish them success in this important endeavor.

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