

Like many of you, I was struck by the recent passing of Lloyd Garrison, one of my predecessors as Dean of the Law School. His death, recorded in the pages of the WASHINGTON POST, NEW YORK TIMES, the FINANCIAL TIMES and TIME Magazine, among others, was testimony to the remarkable life that Dean Garrison had. I will not dwell on his many accom-



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plishments as a scholar, practitioner, and public servant—the aforementioned publications have done that for me—but because this Law School owes such an enormous debt to Lloyd Garrison, I wanted to note his passing in this space. In fact, it is questionable whether the University of Wisconsin would boast such a high caliber law school without the

decade of leadership provided by Mr. Garrison. He will not soon be forgotten in these halls

In reflecting on his magnificent career, I was impressed with how the deanship has changed since Garrison's time (1932-42). The Law School was a much smaller place in those days—just 17 faculty and less than 350 students in 1935-36; compared with 50 full-time faculty and 950 students now. I would suppose that Dean Garrison, like my other predecessors, had his fights getting adequate support from the University administration and the Legislature—I can't imagine that has changed over the years. However, in the past, the battles that were waged were by and large over funding that went beyond the basics of a legal education. Historically, the state has covered the baseline needs of the School. Today the battles we face are to limit detrimental erosion into our basic support. The so-called “amenities,” those things allowed by funding beyond the minimum, are not even in the equation when the state budget is considered. Hence, a major challenge I face—and one that will await my successors—will be an ever increasing need to take our case for “margin of excellence” funding outside the campus, to those in the private sector. Privatization of this once publicly-supported institution—rendering it more of a “publicly-assisted” School—is the modern reality of the deanship. Perhaps it is the reason why I heard of Dean Garrison's passing while I was traveling in Los Angeles on a fund raising mission.

However, I do not see this trend as wholly a bad thing. Wisconsin remains proud of its great University—and well it should be. But the changing nature of how the UW and the Law School are funded has forced us to re-examine the way we do business. (That last phrase in and of itself might be a reflection of the evolving attitude.)

One of the greatest resources we have as a Law School is our alumni. For many years, one graduated and that was basically the end of one's connection

with the School. With the increasing privatization of the UW, the Law School has started to reach out to its alumni, working to keep you attuned, connected and involved in a manner similar to what private schools have done for years. And why not? As one scans the US NEWS listing of the best law schools it becomes apparent that the private schools are our peers. It is these schools that we are competing with for students, faculty and national reputation.

So, like those institutions, we turn to our alumni to provide the “extras” which will keep the Law School not only on the list of top schools, but hopefully, moving up the rankings. That is why I spend at least half of my time on the road, visiting with alumni, recruiting students and engaged in professional activities that I hope will in some manner bolster what we do at the Law School.

We are fortunate to have a tremendous alumni group at the Law School. I have found our graduates to have a high degree of continuing interest in the School. I have been impressed with the number of alumni who have asked what they could do to help give something back for the education they received. It has been very gratifying to find that some of that concern has translated into significant support for the School’s continuing needs. Moreover, I have been very pleased to visit with alumni who are anxious to help by networking on behalf of the School, volunteering to teach the General Practice Course or serve on the Board of Visitors, encouraging their firms or companies to include the Law School on their recruiting trips, hosting alumni receptions or other gatherings, or

simply giving their opinions on how the Law School could do a better job in preparing the next generation of lawyers. We are better off for all of these things brought by our commitment to outreach.

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So how would Dean Garrison deal with all of these changes? I can’t say for sure—unfortunately, I never had the honor of meeting him. However, it is my guess that he would join me in lamenting the state’s shrinking role in legal education. But, in light of the ever increasing demands on the state’s resources, I am sure he would come to the same conclusion: He would call his travel agent and take to the road on behalf of the Law School.