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*This is the fifteenth of a series of articles on Catholic Law Schools in America.*

# THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO SCHOOL OF LAW

RICHARD A. VACHON, S.J.\*

**I**N 1906, Saint Ignatius College, with the city it had served so well for fifty-one years, was destroyed by fire and earthquake. Six years later that College had risen again with the city, more slowly perhaps, but enough to change its name to the University of Saint Ignatius. In that year the School of Law was established offering a four-year evening division course. In 1930 the title of the University was changed to the University of San Francisco and in the following year the Day Division of the School of Law was begun, with enrollment restricted to graduates of approved colleges.

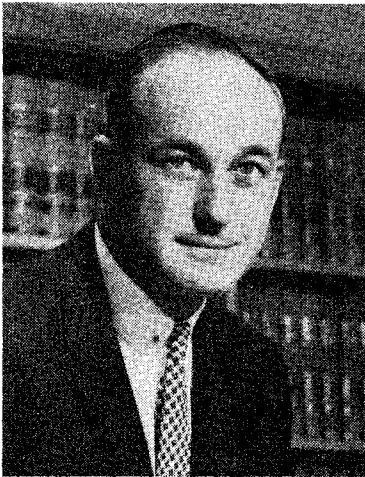
As the School of Law approaches its golden jubilee, it is still not large. Its influence, however, in the communities of California and Nevada, has far outstripped the number of men and women who have prepared for their profession in its halls. In San Francisco alone one of every four attorneys is a graduate of the University of San Francisco School of Law. Twenty-seven of its graduates are members of the bench.

The relations of the faculty with the community of San Francisco are close and its contributions and service to the Bar Associations of San Francisco and California and other legal associations are traditional. The St. Thomas More Society of San Francisco owes its very existence to the generous and faithful efforts of the many faculty members and alumni who have served in various capacities to further the influence of that Catholic Lawyers' Guild since its inception. The program of the continuing education of the Bar and allied projects of the State Bar of California have drawn heartily for lecturers and committeemen from among the faculty and alumni. An active placement program energetically supervised by the Dean of the School of Law has proved its success in aiding graduates and Bar alike.

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The student body of the University of San Francisco School of Law, carefully screened before entrance and rigorously trained in the arts of the profession, is encouraged to exercise initiative, respon-



*Dean Francis R. Walsh*

sibility and freedom in co-curricular programs. The McAuliffe Honor Society sponsors an orientation week to introduce incoming students to the methods and formalities of legal study. The intra-mural moot court competition, obligatory for all second year students, is administered, under the supervision of Professor William J. Riegger, by a Student Moot Court Board appointed by the faculty on the basis of scholarship and success in moot court work. The School participates in the moot court competition sponsored by the State Bar of California as well as the national moot court competition sponsored by the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. The Student Bar arranges, in addition to various social functions throughout the year, a semi-annual Communion Breakfast and an annual closed retreat. The legal fraternities, Phi Alpha Delta and Phi Delta

Phi, contribute to the full educational program by sponsoring both live and cinematic lectures. In the fall the McAuliffe Honor Society, with the cooperation of the alumni members of the Society, will initiate a program of "Conversations" with experts in fields allied to law, *viz.*, psychology, medicine, sociology, and other fields to discuss the ethical implications of various socio-legal problems.

During its golden jubilee year ground will be broken for a new building to house the School of Law. During the past year several discussions have laid the groundwork in planning this structure so that it will be an efficient aid to legal research by professor and student alike. Due to the projected population increase for the state during the next decade, the building shall accommodate 500 students. The classrooms and moot court room shall be designed to continue the intimate interpersonal dialogue between professor and student. The library will house over 100,000 volumes and continue the policy of small study areas throughout for some 200 students for more quiet and undistracted work. A room for those who type while they study will serve approximately fifty in surroundings which are seldom seen in an ordinary typing room. The building itself will, as do all the buildings on campus, command a peripheral view of this extraordinary city.

The School of Law of the University of San Francisco is dedicated to the proposition that the law, with all its impact upon the lives of men and with its directive action in forwarding the common weal in every societal relation, has a sacred purpose. Thus, the School strives valiantly to foster in the law's advocate a spirited and conscientious awareness of the lawyer's responsibility to bring the force of his love for man and the prudence which is his profes-

sional virtue to bear upon the community in which he lives. It is partially for this reason that the course in Jurisprudence is a seminar demanding the active participation of each member of the class in the exhausting work of analyzing the "just" in a going legal system. This course, offered in the final year of school, is preceded by a thorough preparation in the basic law courses, in each of which the professor has worried and stirred his students by indicating points of cross-reference between legal theory and philosophical, theological and ethical problem areas. The hope of the School is that this method of integrating legal problems and the substantive and procedural rules of law with the problems of life will instill in the student the real and active knowledge that his shall never be a segmentalized life.

The School adheres to the Christian prin-

ciple that the truth shall make men free and to the equally valid principle that not always is truth, immersed as it is in the material, knowable now. It is thus the paramount role of the lawyer, through his design for the just order and with the peculiar skills of legal art and the virtue of prudence, to find and perfect a workable system by which society can progressively move towards its goal.

Amid the sober realities of the age it is ever more clear that the lawyer must resume his leadership not merely of the Bar, but of society itself. This is the purpose of teaching in the grand manner. This is the purpose of the University of San Francisco School of Law voiced in its Credo:

"We believe that liberty is a sacred thing, but that law, which regulates liberty, is a sacred obligation."



*The Richard A. Gleeson Library*