Cleveland Law School Merges With Baldwin-Wallace College

By BUD WEIDENTHAL

Baldwin-Wallace College and Cleveland-Marshall Law School today were merged into a single college.

Documents signed today bring the professors of both colleges into a single unit and conclude negotiations which have been going on for nearly three years.

It makes downtown classrooms available to the Berea college and paves the way for the possible establishment of BW as a university.

BW President Alfred B. Bonds will be executive head of the new institution. Court of Appeals Judge Lee E. Skeel, president of Cleveland-Marshall, becomes vice president of Baldwin-Wallace.

THE LAW SCHOOL will retain its endowment and officers and will operate as a unit of Baldwin-Wallace. Degrees to graduates of the law school will now be granted by BW.

President Bonds hailed the agreement as "a kind of homecoming." He noted that BW and the old Cleveland Law School had been affiliated from 1897 until 1926.

Judge Skeel, who earned his law degree in 1912, holds his degree from Baldwin-Wallace and was honored as an outstanding BW alumnus two years ago.

BONDS SAID the affiliation will open up many opportunities for students of both schools who under certain circumstances may take courses at either institution. BW has 1800 students, the law school has 500.

The Cleveland-Marshall Law School itself is a consolidation. It stems from the Cleveland Law School founded in 1897 and the John Marshall School of Law established in 1916. The two merged in 1946 and moved into its quarters at 1240 Ontario St.

The night law school and its predecessors have produced many of the city's distinguished lawyers, judges and politicians.

A NUMBER of its graduates have finished first in the Ohio State Bar examination and on the average the record of its graduates in bar exams compares favorably with some of the nation's top law schools.

Baldwin-Wallace, founded in 1845, is one of the Midwest's oldest liberal arts colleges. Its campus in Berea has grown rapidly under the direction of President Bonds.

"THAT'S THE LAW" says Appelate Judge Lee E. Skeel, second from right, to Baldwin-Wallace president A. B. Bonds Jr., left, following signing of an agreement merging Cleveland Marshall Law School and Baldwin-Wallace. With them is Law School Dean Wilson Stapleton, right, and Carl S. Bechberger, president of the BW trustees.