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DEAN ROBERT L. BOGOMOLNY: A FEW WORDS ABOUT A COLLEAGUE AND A FRIEND

Robert S. Catz*

The position of the law school dean is both a difficult and thankless job. A recent study revealed the current average tenure of a dean is just under three years.¹ Remarkably, Dean Robert L. Bogomolny served the College of Law ten years, leaving a lasting mark on the institution. In large measure because of his vision and creativity, the school has reached a point where it is universally recognized as a quality institution.

By any objective standard, Bob's tenure as Dean was an enormous success. The growth in the size and quality of the faculty, the proliferation of faculty scholarship, the expansion of the library, and the development of important community relationships, particularly with the bench, bar, and alumni, can be justly credited to his leadership. The quality of the student body has improved. The number of women and minority students has increased dramatically. Our graduates have experienced enhanced placement opportunities. Curricula expansion with a variety of different clinical offerings along with specialized seminars and interdisciplinary courses developed under his leadership. Audio-visual and computer technology for teaching and research are in place. And a new scholarly journal, the *Journal of Law and Health* was born. Few can question the accomplishments of the law school over these past ten years. Indeed, Bob served his constituents well.

Important as these tangible accomplishments have been, Bob's principal strength as Dean was, in my opinion, his ability to inspire and motivate those around him toward the pursuit of excellence. He accomplished this by forging positive relationships with faculty and students, thereby promoting their intellectual creativity and productivity. While a dean, of course, has the power to say "no," it was a response Bob never invoked arbitrarily. Bob was always willing to find a way of saying "yes"

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¹ White, *Rapid Changes of Dean's Not Good for Legal Education*, 37 A.B.A. Section on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar 1, 2 (1976). See also, O'Connell & O'Connell, *The Five Roles of the Law School Dean: Leader, Manager, Energizer, Envoy, Intellectual*, 29 EMORY L.J. 605 (1980).

when presented with a meritorious proposal that would enhance the development of the institution. Thus, with Bob's support, both in terms of resources and encouragement, a wide variety of scholarly work produced by faculty enhanced the reputation of the institution. However, he went further than supporting scholarship; he also facilitated a wide range of public service activities of faculty members.²

Bob's tenure resulted in a period of warm, harmonious, and cordial relationships in the law school. His presence here made a positive difference in many of our lives. As Dean, he will be remembered with respect and admiration by all of us who share pride in the accomplishments of this institution for these past ten years. As a man, Bob will be remembered as a person of uncommon decency and humanity. One of the many qualities of Bob's that I greatly appreciated and admired was his humility. Bob never took himself too seriously nor had an inflated view of his own importance. Yet he strongly believed that the law and legal education were worthy enterprises. I will long remember Bob fondly as a sincere, warm, generous, and humane colleague—and foremost as a friend. He will be greatly missed. I especially will miss him.

² For example, in 1982 two members of our faculty successfully argued major cases in the Supreme Court: *Brown v. Socialist Workers '74 Campaign Committee*, 459 U.S. 87 (1982); *City of Akron v. Akron Center for Reproductive Health*, 462 U.S. 416 (1983).