



CSU
College of Law Library

Cleveland State Law Review

Volume 36 | Issue 1

Article

1988

Robert L. Bogomolny: A Colleague and Friend

Hyman Cohen

Follow this and additional works at: <https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/clevstlrev>

How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!

Recommended Citation

Hyman Cohen, *Robert L. Bogomolny: A Colleague and Friend*, 36 Clev. St. L. Rev. 7 (1988)
available at <https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/clevstlrev/vol36/iss1/6>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at EngagedScholarship@CSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Cleveland State Law Review by an authorized editor of EngagedScholarship@CSU. For more information, please contact library.es@csuohio.edu.

ROBERT L. BOGOMOLNY:
A COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND

*Hyman Cohen**

I had spent ten years at the Law College before Bob became Dean in 1977. When I joined the faculty in 1967 the law school had ended its nominal affiliation with Baldwin Wallace College. The full time faculty consisted of twelve positions. Moreover, the law school occupied a building in downtown Cleveland which was across the street from the Court of Common Pleas and a short walk to City Hall. Although it was still primarily an evening law school the first full time class was enrolled in 1967. When a new state university was established in Cleveland, merger of the law school with the university was inevitable. In 1969, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law of Cleveland State University came into existence. The following year, the College became a full member of the Association of American Law Schools. In that same year the first full time class graduated. With the merger, there followed a series of interim moves for the College until its new home was completed at the western-most edge of the University.

Like most of the law schools during that exhilarating era in legal education, Cleveland-Marshall underwent rapid change and extraordinary growth, during the first half of the 1970's. There were dramatic changes in the curriculum. The composition of the student body changed, due primarily to the increase of female, minority and "second career" students. We experienced a surge of applicants, a burgeoning library collection, an increase of the faculty and a multi-million dollar budget. These changes masked serious issues concerning the direction of the law school which were hotly debated by the faculty, students and alumni.

Many of the changes took place under the dynamic, hard driving and creative leadership and management of Craig W. Christensen, who after a national search, was appointed Dean in 1971. He left in 1975 to accept the decanal position at Syracuse Law School. What followed was a two year hiatus with this writer occupying the position of Interim Dean.

By 1977, the consequences caused by the rapid changes and expansion of the school were still being felt. We needed a person as Dean who would

* Professor of Law, former Interim Dean 1975-77, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law; B.A., City College of City University of New York; J.D., LL.M., New York University.

stabilize and unify the faculty, consolidate the hard fought gains and meet the challenges ahead. In this connection Bob was the right person, at the right time for the job.

When Bob became Dean, he was very much aware that "there is little raw power in academe, and one must work *with* his or her fellows if anything is to be accomplished."¹ The faculty took immediately to Bob; he was self confident but also sensitive to the concerns of faculty members. He was a good listener, patient, modest about his past success and achievements and quick to give credit to others. He was not a person of small or narrow interests. Nor did he burden himself with the muck and trivia, which only too often finds its way to the desk of the Dean. Bob was always receptive to the personal concerns of the faculty and when it was needed, generous allowances were made to accommodate those concerns. Bob's decency was apparent in the manner in which he requested faculty members to take on just one more committee assignment or chore. The knack that he had was in the asking which generally caused us to overcome our initial impulse to say "no", and to respond affirmatively (almost with enthusiasm).

Behind a rather placid and calm exterior, Bob was a person who did not settle for second best. [Indeed, I can vouch for this, having run many 10K races with him.] No one could doubt his resolve on an issue which he considered vital to the law school.

Bob was extremely well liked by the faculty, and we took great pride that he was Dean. Whether he was meeting with the administration at the University, with alumni, law firms from the downtown community or at ABA and AALS meetings, we knew that we were well represented. Morale and collegiality among the faculty was extremely high. If any proof was needed about the way we felt about Bob, he was Dean for ten years, when the average tenure of law school deans is about four years.²

The harmony and spirit of cooperation that prevailed at the law school during Bob's tenure created an atmosphere in which there was an extraordinary increase in faculty productivity. Numerous articles, papers, monographs, books and innovative materials were produced by faculty to reflect the school's commitment to research, scholarship, learning and excellence.

Under his leadership, the faculty acted on a number of issues affecting just about every aspect of the academic program. The faculty was constantly engaged in revamping, expanding and creating programs and courses. He was the catalyst responsible for two faculty self study reports which were prepared in 1980 and 1985.

¹ Cribbett, *Preface To The Five Roles of the Law School Dean: Leader, Manager, Energizer, Envoy, Intellectual*, 29 EMORY L.J. 602, 603 (1985).

² Abramson & Moss, *Law School Deans: A Self Portrait*, 29 J. OF LEGAL EDUC. 6 n. 3 (1977).

Among his many responsibilities as Dean, Bob did not ignore the public or external duties of the office. He seemed to revel in his meetings with the alumni, lawyers from the downtown firms and the leaders of industry. His patient cultivation of these constituencies eventually materialized in the establishment of annual gifts to the school. Bob also orchestrated an \$850,000 Law Library Fund Drive to expand the library's collection.

Bob's record as Dean was marked by outstanding achievements. Our law school is a better school for having had him with us during those past ten years. We on the faculty shall miss his guidance, wisdom and his civilized presence.

On a personal note, Bob was more than a respected colleague with whom I had a close working relationship. Although he has left the law school and Cleveland for an exciting opportunity in private industry, I take great comfort in knowing that he still continues to be a close friend of mine.

